SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO PROJECT, INC.

Southern New Mexico Project, INC. is a people centered multi-service non-profit organization whose mission is to be an agent of change in the quality of life for low-income residents in the area of Sunland Park NM. Southern New Mexico Project touched over 500 Sunland Park residents in its first year through educational, health, and community awareness issues.

Southern New Mexico Project has partnered with 17 different organizations and agencies to deliver what they believed was necessary to help the communities improve their quality of life.

The food pantry program serves approximately 1,040 adults and 743 children from 520 different households.

LAS CRUCES PALLIATIVE CARE COALITION

Las Cruces Palliative Care Coalition advocates for quality palliative care for patients with serious chronic illness, likely to die within a year or two, but premature for hospice care, or unwilling to forego life-prolonging or cure-directed therapy.

The individual member advocates include: a physician in Palliative Medicine private practice, a retired physician promoting high quality palliative care, and a lay person promoting patient choice, physicians, a clinical pharmacist, nurses, social workers, a spiritual counselor, and healthcare administrators are included in the membership.

Las Cruces Palliative Care Coalition plans to have in-person monthly or bimonthly public education programs. Within the organization, there have been approximately 900 volunteer hours donated to the coalition during its three-year existence, approximately two of which have been under Covid pandemic conditions.
BOLD FUTURES NM

Bold Futures leads policy change, research, place-based organizing, and culture shift by and for women and people of color in New Mexico. Bold Futures centers the lived experiences and expertise of those most impacted by an issue, engaging with people at the intersection of their identities.

They work to build communities where all have what we need to make real decisions about our own bodies and lives, and all have room to live with respect and dignity.

In New Mexico, Albuquerque and Santa Fe have traditionally been the epicenter of decision-making and political power. By moving their own leadership from the central part of the state to the southern and more rural borderland area, we are intentionally beginning to shift power dynamics within New Mexico’s policy landscape. This shift allows for a broader range of New Mexican experiences to be considered in systemic change.
The Children’s Reading Alliance (formerly under the name The Children’s Reading Foundation of Doña Ana County) focuses on advancing children’s literacy in Doña Ana County. Because it has been proven that reading daily with children and having books in the home leads to success in school, we promote the message “Read with a child every day” and support programs designed to place books in the hands of families.

The Children's Reading Alliance believes that all families should have equal access to books and learning experiences that prepare their children to reach their full potential for success in school and life. They are committed to programs that support family participation in their children’s education and enrich early learning experiences. They value our county’s multicultural population, they value collaboration with other organizations including public schools to improve childhood literacy in Doña Ana County.

New Mexico Child First Network has been tasked with a special mission, unlike any other organization in the state. They want to serve the most vulnerable children in the community. They believe each child deserves a safe, loving, and permanent home- and they achieve that. They offer services, resources, support and training for the people who have stepped up to serve within their organization.

- 125 foster families treated with hot meals and food boxes
- 70 families served through Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act "Family dinner project" Grant, and early intervention services
- 233 books gifted to children and families impacted by foster care
- 350 suitcases donated by volunteers and then gifted forward to foster families and children
- 200 baby bags delivered to CYFD early intervention and home visiting programs
Desert Hope is a permanent Supportive Housing project, developed by the MV Public Housing Authority, City of Las Cruces, and MV Community of Hope. MVCH staff will be onsite to help end homelessness for 40 people by offering supportive services for those residing at Desert Hope.

The grant was used outfit the units at Desert Hope Apartments, to assist homeless, Las Cruces community members in finding comfortable housing at Desert Hope Apartments.

Desert Hope housed 40 people between the months of August to October, ending homelessness for 40 people in Doña Ana County. All 40 residents remain housed.
The purpose that the Food Security Program is intended to accomplish is to provide a supplementary source of food to low income families to augment other food subsidies like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as “food stamps”) and food that families purchase themselves. It helps provide economic stability, by helping families avoid the painful choices between food and other necessities.

The SNAP program provides important assistance to families, but it is far from enough. Recent data from the New Mexico Voices from Children found that 80% of SNAP benefits are used within the first two weeks of when they are received, and, 21% are used on the day that they are received. More than half of SNAP households experience food insecurity or hunger. The Food Security Program can provide, on average, 85-90 pounds of food to a family each month. As the USDA defines a “meal” as 1.2 pounds of food, this distribution can represent about 70-75 meals, or enough to feed a family of four for just under a week, which can help make up the slack between SNAP benefit grants.

Casa de Peregrinos served almost 30,000 unduplicated individuals during 2019, at 23 distinct locations, 33% of whom were children. Over 21,000 people were served at the Las Cruces Pantry alone. With Dona Ana County having a population of 213,000, Casa de Peregrinos served over 14% of the people in the county. One in every seven individuals living in Dona Ana County came for help. 3,804,286 pounds of food were distributed to families in need. In the end, Casa de Peregrinos distributed over $6.5 million in resources to the community.
Southern New Mexico Foster Adoption Ministry contacts and speaks to anyone and everyone who will listen about bettering our children and families. They speak at Informational Meetings, Churches, Community Events, even at the grocery stores.

They believe that the church and the communities around us are vital to the foster care crisis and therefore seek recruitment and retention of resource parents within this community.

They provide prayer and emotional support as well as mentor-ship to families as they navigate the foster care system.

They also have a Resource Family Support Group, and are in contact with the foster care partners and community.

They are also working to give foster children dignity and a sense of belonging by eliminating trash bags; which many come into care with. And they consult with other agencies to provide support, care and communication for the betterment of our families.
JARDIN DE LOS NIÑOS

Jardin de los Niños' Children's Therapeutic Services Program serves the most vulnerable population, infants and toddlers, within the zero to three program.

We monitor developmental milestones, provide individualized education programs for the children's developmental and social emotional delays to ensure that despite experiencing homelessness, the children will be ready to learn, and will reach the age-appropriate developmental stages and school readiness to transition to PreK and Kindergarten.

Some of the accomplished milestones within this program include: Dental, vision, hearing screenings; access to infant mental health services on-site within the pediatric clinic; Jardin is designated as a Trauma-Informed Care center by the New Mexico Association for Infant Mental Health—the first in the state of New Mexico.

Ongoing Social Emotional Learning was provided to each child; therapeutic services and referrals were put into place both in-person and via telehealth due to COVID-19 restrictions. Jardin focuses on increasing opportunities for children and parents to interact in a positive/supportive environment to impact the well-being of the family and minimize Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Through the Children’s Therapeutic Services Program, Jardin is able to:

- Advance the health, safety and well-being of homeless/near homeless and abused and neglected children.
- Strengthen and stabilize the family to quickly minimize ill effects of homelessness on children.
The Support for Scholars program provides direct assistance to Las Cruces homeless high school students. Specifically, the program seeks to meet the basic living needs of Las Cruces’ homeless students by providing: food, clothing, temporary shelter, footwear, outerwear, haircuts, personal hygiene products, and medical assistance including free counseling services. Since its establishment in 2019, Catholic Charities’ S4S program has provided over $100,000 in direct assistance to Las Cruces homeless students. As well as providing homeless seniors with free scholarships to Dona Ana Community College or New Mexico State University.

“This wonderful grant will help our community’s homeless high school students with immediate and great effect. Being able to provide the students with food, clothing, personal hygiene products, and temporary shelter at local hotels means so much to these young adults who unfortunately have suffered greatly in their young lives. It also lets them know that the Las Cruces community cares about them and their situation.”
- Chairperson; Norma Rivas
Girls Scouts of the Desert Southwest is a leadership experience that has helped the young girls and communities around the southwest region. The funds helped them continue their mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. The grant was used to offer girls free annual membership removing any barrier of access to the leadership program. Many girls used this opportunity to join and attend virtual programs and virtual troop meetings, as well as enjoy some in-person events that were held. Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest continued our focus on our four core pillars of STEM, Outdoors, Life Skills and Entrepreneurship.

GSDSW was able to provide 52 memberships with the funding in addition to the program supplies. 45 girls and 7 adults were served with the help of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico- Western Sky Community Care Micro-grant.