

Love (agape) the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself.
Luke 10:27 NIV

Agape

NM CHRISTIAN LEGAL AID
WINTER NEWSLETTER &
YEAR END REPORT 2007

New Mexico Christian Legal Aid
300 Central SW, Suite 1500-West
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

WELCOME!

NEW CLA COORDINATOR

We are excited to introduce Roberta Marquez, the new Christian Legal Aid Coordinator. The Board selected Roberta with great enthusiasm following a six month search. We asked God to guide us and believe Roberta is the answer to that prayer.



Roberta and her two sons.

A 1995 graduate of the UNM School of Law, Roberta comes to us with 5 years of previous experience with the US Attorney's Office, where she served as a law clerk and contractor. During law school, she served as a research assistant, and after graduation participated on a team of Adjunct Faculty teaching federal and tribal water rights classes at UNM law school.

On the administrative side, Roberta served as Asst. Director of the Bernalillo County Juvenile Detention Ctr and Admin. Manager of the Bernalillo County Fire and Rescue Dept. Most recently she has spent her time being a mother and wife and part time fitness instructor.

Roberta's received a Bachelor of University Studies degree with a concentration in bilingual education in 1991. She is fluent in Spanish - speaking, reading, writing and translating. A committed Christian, she brings vital interest and experience serving the poor and homeless.

Special thanks to Denise Trujillo. Denise resigned to devote more time to her family. During our candidate search, she graciously assisted in preparing the newsletter and revising the Desk Reference Manual. Thanks for all the hard work, Denise.

1000 HOMELESS RECEIVE PREVENTATIVE LAW TRAINING

As of October 31, 2007, 1025 homeless persons at Noon Day Ministry, Albuquerque Rescue Mission, and Joy Junction received the Preventative Law "course." 568 of these persons also participated in the community education seminar. These numbers exceed the total number of persons served in 2006. We are well on our way to exceeding our goal of serving 1500 persons by the end of April, 2008!



Preventive Seminar at Joy Junction

Called the "People's Law School" (a phrase first utilized by the CLA program in Mendenhall, Mississippi), this training helps the homeless learn how to avoid trouble with the law, avoid legal problems involving family members, and instructs families on obtaining and preventing loss of public benefits.



Preventative Law Seminar at Noon Day Ministry

In addition to receiving PLACE training, 34 homeless persons received personal assistance from volunteer



Individual consultation

lawyers who conducted interviews immediately following the PLACE presentations.

Two PLACE training courses offered both prospective and existing volunteers six hours of nationally approved curriculum this year. Training to prospective volunteers included: Tom Allison, Leah Quesada, Suann Hendren, Rosalie Fragoso, Mike Gallegos, Zina Benally and Katie Lockamy.

"WAVE OF THE FUTURE" TRAINING

This training focused on teaching volunteers to assist clients in the areas of preventive law and community education. Nick Black, a prospective volunteer, and current volunteers Victor Lopez, John Nilan, Suann Hendren, Paul Yarbrough, Rosalie Fragoso, George Stevens, Katie Lockamy, Sherri Trescott, Mike Carrico, Jenica Jacobi, Whitney Johnson and Denise Trujillo attended the training.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Welcome Rosalie (Rose) Fragoso and Katie Lockamy! Rosalie's practice and experience include personal injury and workers compensation. Rosalie contributes four hours a month to CLA clients. Married and a mother of two, Rose says she has a passion for helping the poor. A devoted soccer mom, Rose also enjoys knitting.

Katie Lockamy's expertise lies in the areas of business law, estate planning, real estate and commercial law. Katie contributes 4 hours a month to CLA clients. She attends Hoffmantown Church and her hobbies are running and snowboarding.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Fellowship luncheons were held on June 15th, August 17th, and November 9, 2007. In June, John Robb updated the group on the June 1st Preventive Law and Community Education sessions and presented a Nambe clock award to Victor Lopez.

The June 15th luncheon speaker was Rachelle Klump, Asst General Counsel of the NM Human Services Dept. Rachelle discussed the Fresh Start Amnesty program. The program provides partial relief of over-due child support payments if parents have made good faith efforts to submit even small payments to reduce their obligation. The program ended on June 30th, but many HSD staff continue providing resources and information on restructuring child support debt.

Rachelle also discussed another HSD program that helps participants reinstate suspended driver's licenses. The program is designed for those who are attempting to get back on their feet, but are prevented from having access to jobs and other opportunities for lack of a driver's license.



Joe Wertz, Katy Lockamy and Rich Neely attend fellowship luncheon.

On Nov. 9th, our Fellowship Luncheon introduced Roberta and her two sons to the volunteers. These luncheons are a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with other Christians in the legal community. Thanks to all who attend.

YEAR END REPORT AND THANK YOU

As we near the year's end, we thank God for guiding another successful year. It is through Him that we serve and bring hope to the unfortunate, poor, and homeless in Albuquerque.

This was a year marked by excellence, fellowship, and milestones. We excelled in providing high quality one-on-one services to the poor and homeless at Noon Day Ministry, Albuquerque Rescue Mission and Joy Junction. We held bi-monthly fellowship meetings, provided comprehensive training sessions for new and existing volunteers, revised the desk reference manual, and selected a new program coordinator.

Other significant milestones included a record number of volunteer lawyers and their spouses/guests attending the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at Sadie's Mexican Restaurant and receiving an inspirational message by Pastor John Hill, Abq. Rescue Mission Director.



Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

We are also very proud of a successful fundraising project that allowed us to open another service site, add 11 new volunteers, conduct upgrades to the existing program, and plan future development of a web site.

Though we postponed a few projects while we selected a new coordinator, this year's growth was phenomenal. With your help, we realized the largest expansion and largest budget allocations in the history of NMCLA!

YEAR END GIFTS

We encourage you to include NMCLA as you consider your year end gifts. Your contributions enhance and secure the future of services to the city's poor and homeless. Thanks again to all who give their time, talents, and treasure to this valuable program.



Next year is a year of celebration! NMCLA celebrates its 10th Anniversary. We look forward to sharing special events with you and continuing our service to the physically and spiritually needy. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you and your family a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord.

The angel of the Lord said to them, "To-day in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11