



El Ranchito de los Niños

Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together

The Home with the

El Ranchito de los Niños is a public charity, nonprofit organization that provides children (focusing on sibling groups) with a permanent/long-term, non-denominational home in a rural family farm setting as an alternative to foster care.

www.elranchitonm.org

SUMMER 2016

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Amy, our Executive Director, had caught a cold. Nick was quite concerned and Amy explained to him that she lost her voice because of her cold. Nick said, "Oh, I think I have it in my backpack." Amy asked Nick if she could have it back. Moving on to the next toy, Nick explained to Amy, "I'll get it for you tomorrow."

With mostly women care givers, the toddlers have become very accustomed to referring to the adults as Ms. – Ms. Kathy, Ms. Amy. But, a middle school teacher joined the El Ranchito team to help during his summer break. The kids were very excited to have an energetic man around the house...the toddlers very politely call him Ms. Kenneth!

Amy had taken her shoes off while hanging out in the living room with some of the young kids. Nick quickly asked Amy where her shoes were. She told him that she took her shoes off to be more comfortable. Nick asked, "Are you allergic to them?"



Meet Our Volunteers of the Year: 58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Patrick Shea, Jose Figueroa, Lauren Pape, and Trevor McClellan, all members of the 58th USAF Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, a Special Forces Unit, are special people who have given their time, their effort, and their very lives to serving each and every one of us. Now, they have found another way to serve. When there are repairs to be done at the home or when there is labor needed for anything around the property, they are there. They have found yet another way to serve and the staff and children of El Ranchito are lucky to have them.

Meet Our Philanthropists of the Year: Victor and Mary Jury

Victor and Mary Jury have been contributing to the well-being of the community for many years. Victor co-founded Summit Electric Supply in 1977 and has served as president and CEO since 1990. Mary is the founder of Workspace Dynamics, Inc. a full service commercial furnishings company.

Both Victor and Mary believe that giving back to the community in which they live and work is an obligation and a privilege. They maintain a personal philosophy of philanthropy, and advocate that active participation in community organizations, both financially and through service, contributes to the quality of life in our communities, builds stronger relationship in the workplace, and offers balance to our lives. They believe success comes only when one helps others become successful.

Highlights of Our Year

- We welcomed three new girls this summer, age one and twin five year olds. They are adjusting to their new rooms and new family. Our hearts are filled with joy as we get to help three more children in need.
- We celebrated several graduations this past May. Our twin boys graduated from Kindergarten while our oldest graduated from high school. We look forward to visiting her in college!
- Two of our boys played baseball this year learning many new skills and gaining many new friends. The rest of the family enjoyed watching the games (as long as the weather cooperated).
- Our thirteen year old girl and eleven year old boy were cast in a production of The Children of Eden. They will be attending camp throughout the summer preparing for their theater debut.
- Our new oldest (since our senior has graduated high school and will be moving on to college) has stepped into the adult world of employment. She has acquired her first job as a receptionist at a salon.

The Greatest Gift – A Gift for a Better Future



From President of the Board - Kathy Mechenbier

Education is one of El Ranchito's utmost values and we hold it as one of our top three priorities, along with teaching our children about God and instilling self-worth. By giving our children the best education possible, we give them a foundation upon which to build their future. An education is a priceless gift that no one can take away.

It is our responsibility to find the academic strengths and weaknesses of each child and develop a plan for them. We focus on giving them individual attention and support to achieve their goals. With this support, we hope to motivate the child to higher academic performance.

We provide our children with an exceptional education at schools with a strong core of teachers who have a positive impact on the child and will enrich their lives. They attend school on a regular basis and are given the opportunity to build a relationship with these teachers and learn in a safe environment, something they have been deprived of in the past.

Children are some of the most vulnerable members of society. All children face some sort of challenge or barrier, but some face unimaginable challenges, such as the loss of a parent, grandparents' health decline or parents that struggle with drugs or alcohol which can often lead to abuse and neglect. This abuse damages a child's sense of self and they can carry these emotional scars for life and can create obstacles for children to go to school and receive the education they deserve. This generational cycle of abuse, neglect, and

lack of accessibility to quality education, are passed down from parent to child.

Our promise is to break the cycle. Our goal is to expand opportunities and encourage the full potential in all of our children. We at El Ranchito feel that education is the foundation in strengthening children and providing them with the opportunities to build a better future.

The Numbers Say It All

- The schools we choose have some of the lowest teacher to student ratios in our area. On average 11:1.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics :

- **Graduation Rate:**
92% private school vs. 89% public school
- **Apply to college:**
88% private school vs. 57% public school
- **Attend a 4-year college:**
64 % private school vs. 40% public school



But, the best education for each of these children does not come cheap and it doesn't end when the bell rings at the end of the day. Providing these children with all that they need to succeed goes beyond just a private education- they need tutoring, school supplies and other resources, so we continue to need and ask for your support.



From Our Executive Director - Amy Kindrick

Education is not all about putting your nose in a book and getting good grades. It is really a way to discover new things, spark a new passion and increase our knowledge. Many of my friends and colleagues attribute some of their success to a specific teacher or class/subject in school that planted a seed that kept them going or launched them into a new direction.

skills, problem solving skills and social skills. Education also provides a stepping stone to the real world, offering many different courses on proper financial techniques, life planning and personal development.

All of these reasons contribute to our emphasis at El Ranchito to provide the best education possible for the children in our care. Providing one on one attention, tutoring and private-school education to our kids ensures that they are performing at grade level or above, experiencing success in a learning environment and gaining knowledge and experiences that they can take with them wherever life takes them.

Whether it's our recent high school graduate who is heading off to NMSU to study Agriculture because of her time at El Ranchito or our 17 year old who is working in a hair salon this summer because of her interest in Cosmetology, we do our best to help guide our kids, support them in their endeavors and provide the best education possible to set them up for success in the future.

But, we also know that it's not just about what school they attend, but the support they receive at home. By allowing our children to live at El Ranchito past the age of 18 and helping them transition after high school, we overcome some of the worst statistics that plague the foster care system:

- One in four will be incarcerated within the first two years after leaving the system.
- Over 20% will become homeless at some time after age 18.
- Approximately 58% attained a high school degree at age 19, compared to 87% of a of non-foster youth.
- Of youth who aged out of foster care and are over the age of 25, less than 3% earned their college degrees, compared with 28% of the general population.

These seeds help people grow as individuals and open their mind to many things that they haven't been exposed to before. Education introduces you to different cultures, religions and thought processes that you may never be exposed to otherwise. It helps build creative thinking skills, decision making

Benjamin Franklin said "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." I couldn't agree more. It is the foremost responsibility of a society to care for its children and educate its citizens, we strive to do both at El Ranchito and your continued support helps make that possible.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

"He who opens a school door, closes a prison." - Victor Hugo

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." - B.B. King



**El Ranchito
de los Niños**

Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together

P.O. Box 2400 • Los Lunas, NM 87031
505.565.4470

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
PERMIT # 484

OUR NEW VAN!

In a house with so many children of varying ages, driving the children becomes a full time job. Shuttling to and from school, sporting events, social activities and family outings seems to be all that we do sometimes!

Last year you helped us raise almost \$22,000 for a new vehicle. And now, we finally got it, with the help of Brad Francis. It is because of your generosity that we are able to shuttle our kids in safe and reliable vehicles to provide our children with experiences outside of our home in which to grow and learn.

CHARITY CRUISE

Charity Cruise XV: America the Beautiful was dazzling as we celebrated this wonderful nation. We ventured to the great outdoors for an evening filled with awe and wonderment of America's National Parks. We deeply thank each of you who made Charity Cruise such a tremendous success. This year's event, and the generosity of so many, will help our children realize all their hopes and dreams as they grow up in America the Beautiful!

Mark your calendars now for *Charity Cruise XVI* as we roar back to the 1920s! We will see you in your flapper dresses and pin striped suits on March 25, 2017 at Isleta Resort & Casino.

CHARITY CRUISE XVI
THE **FLAPPING**
ROARING
20s



Cafe, Chef Saul Paniagua from Canvas Artistry, Chef Ernesto Duran from Café Bien and Chef Mike Perseo from the Standard Diner. With our new pastry competition this year we indulged in the desserts of Chef Cryl from Flying Star, Chef Kelly Gee from the Standard Diner and Chef Charity Teague from Hyatt Tamaya Resort. Winning this year's new award, the People Choice, it was Chef Mike Perseo with his brioche and Chef Charity with her caramel apple cheesecake that won the votes!

Join us this year to taste the chefs' creations and vote for yourself! Will Chef Christina keep her title as Top Chef for the third year in a row? Find out September 28th as the chefs return for battle, new chefs join the fight and you get to indulge in all the delectable creations and enjoy the excitement of live cooking in the kitchens of Builder Source Appliance Gallery.

DUKE IT OUT!

Another battle in the Duke City! And Chef Christina Martinez of the Artichoke Café took the title once again. This year, with a pastry chef challenge, Chef Charity Teague took top chef. We got to taste the creations of Chef Christina Martinez from Artichoke Café, Chef David Ruiz from Soul and Vine, Chef Mike Giese from the Pueblo Harvest

 **DUKE IT OUT!**
9 chefs | 2 courses | 1 reason 
Benefiting El Ranchito de los Niños

September 28, 2016
5:30 - 8:00pm

VIP Only: 5:00pm - 5:30pm
VIP & Premium Tickets: 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Builders Source Appliance Gallery
308 Menaul Blvd NE // Albuquerque