



El Ranchito de los Niños

Keeping Brothers and Sisters Together

Everyone Leaves a Footprint

A non-profit children's home dedicated to keeping brothers and sisters together who would otherwise be separated in foster care. The home receives no state or federal funding and relies 100% on private donations, fundraisers and grants.

www.elranchitonm.org

SUMMER 2017



Kids Say The Darndest Things

During church one morning Nick was paying extra attention to the statue of Mary riding on a donkey. RaeCee noticed the puzzled look on Nick's face so she asked what was wrong. Nick simply stated, "We have a donkey" and continued to ponder. Then, he whispered, "That's our donkey, Sophie, carrying Mary. Sophie was with Jesus!" It was definitely an "aha" moment. As they were leaving church Nick asked if he could give Sophie some extra hay that night.

Kimberly, one of our Kindergarteners, so eager to learn, was having a rough day. She simply looked distressed. When we asked what was wrong she let out a long sigh and said "I just don't know the difference between an alligator and a crocodile."

It's because of your support that five year old Kimberly gets to worry about crocodiles and alligators instead of the whether or not she will have dinner tonight.



Highlights of Our Year

- We welcomed our college student home for many holiday breaks and weekend stays. All the children enjoyed spending time with their "big sister".
- We celebrated several graduations this May. Kindergarten and Preschool ceremonies were among the most precious. Our High School graduation was the most rewarding. Our four brothers were baptized this spring. We celebrated the beginning of their journey in faith.
- One of our young girls learned to ride a bike this spring, while our smallest boy taught himself this summer. An important milestone in every childhood, this memory will last forever.
- All of our kids have been busy throughout the year excelling in many extracurricular activities, including basketball, soccer, baseball, piano and 4-H welding.
- We have had new additions to the El Ranchito team; Henry Smith joined our Board of Directors, Rosenda Fregoso as Director of Programs and Laura Harris as Director of Advancement. In late fall, Thomas and Tiffany DiEmidio joined as House Parents.

Meet Our Volunteer of the Year: David W. Peterson

David Peterson, an attorney with the Law Firm of Keleher & McLeod, P.A., first became interested in El Ranchito when his extensive experience practicing law in various Tribal Courts exposed him to the critical need for the type of services provided. His expertise and willing heart was immediately invaluable to our children.

Meet Our Philanthropists of the Year: Mike & Sandy McAllister

Mike and Sandy McCallister, owners of Village Veterinary Hospital have shown great kindness and generosity to our home and animals. When you have a donkey, 3 goats, a flock of chickens, a guinea pig, a cat, a dog and a very old horse, the veterinarian is a very important part of your day to day life.

Creating a Childhood

The best gifts in the world are not in the material objects one can buy from the store, but in the memories we make with the people we love. - Amanda Boyarshinov



From the President of the Board, Kathy Mechenbier

Building the house was a huge undertaking. Designing it to look and function as a home was the main goal, building it to withstand numerous children and animals over a long period of time, was the difficulty. We needed to build a fort, but have the comfy feeling of a home.

I get asked, over and over, how many years has it been since the home was built, and how many children have lived at El Ranchito over the years. Looking back and remembering all the children that have called El Ranchito home, takes some time and brings back wonderful memories.

In 2000, our sturdy home was built. Thirty five children have passed through our doors; some have stayed less than a year, others more than 10. The carpet has seen formula and food, puppies, toys, and children playing. Vacuums were replaced yearly. Our new laminate flooring has a tough job to live up to.

If walls could talk, they would declare they have been bumped, kicked and stuck with many tacks to display beautiful art work. Many children covered the walls with their art and did not use a tack! For these reasons, they've needed to be patched and repainted frequently.

A special part of the home is its grassy yard, flowers, and shady trees. We strive to teach the children to be proud of their home, inside and out. Over the years, many children have learned to work with lawn mowers, trimmers, rakes and shovels. Watching them participate as a family in sprucing up the yard has been very rewarding. Over time, the lawn mower has been mastered by most kids, but only after the hose, sprinklers, toys, and shoes have been devoured by its blades.

Thank you for making it possible for us to maintain our home and programs that ensure that no matter the length of time we are blessed with our children, they have found love, happiness, and a place they are proud to call home.

God Bless,

Kathy



Honor your sibling with a gift to El Ranchito. Support our mission to keep brothers and sisters together to create happy childhood memories.



The moment may be temporary, but t

of Happy Memories!



From Our Executive Director, Amy Kindrick

To be a child. What a wonderful thought. For you, the memory of childhood is probably filled with the early school years, being pushed on a swing set, holiday traditions and the inevitable, embarrassing thing that you said or did that is permanently etched into your mind. You may remember fondly the pure joy of receiving the perfect toy as a gift, your first homerun, or finally talking to your crush.

For the kids of El Ranchito, some of their earliest memories are painful and confusing. They have often suffered unimaginable abuse or neglect and may not want to reflect on those painful memories.

One of our goals is to slowly replace those painful memories with happy ones and in doing so, normalizing their lives as much as possible. Creating new memories happens every day at El Ranchito, we have experienced first steps, first dates and also the first time a child slept in an actual bed.

Recently, a former resident of El Ranchito stopped by for a visit. She was struck with how small everything seemed compared to her memories as a small child with us. She slowly strolled through the house as well as down memory lane recalling the relationships she still has with her El Ranchito siblings, how her roommate used to put on lip gloss and kiss the wall before she left or how difficult it was to sit still for an artist to paint the portrait she saw hanging in the hallway. The most striking part of her visit, though, was when she went out to see Jack and Sophie, our horse and donkey, who she couldn't believe were still with us. She confidently climbed over the fence into their pen and the usually skittish Sophie seemed to remember her, too. She hugged and loved on the animals prior to leaving mentioning how she missed life on a farm.

No matter how long a child is with us, they take with them the memories of dinners at the table, the crazy antics of their El Ranchito siblings, and hopefully, the knowledge that they were loved and cared for to the best of our abilities. They may get to experience a lot of new and exciting things, but we really hope it's the little things that they remember - the early school years, fights in the sandbox, new holiday traditions and the relationships they developed with staff, volunteers and their peers.

Ellen Hopkins wrote, "My happiest memories have no place in the past; they are those I have yet to create." Your support of El Ranchito de los Niños allows us to continue creating happy memories for the children we serve.



Kudos to our Volunteers

Making memories takes a toll on an aging house, so we were grateful to a grant from The Home Depot Foundation. Supplies and many hours were spent coordinating and prepping for interior paint and new flooring. During a five day period, we had 112 volunteers move out furniture, pull up carpet, patch walls, replace toilet seats, repair outlets, and many much needed repairs. Cutting Edge Painting rolled 55 gallons of paint and Home Depot Associates installed 5,500 sq ft of laminated flooring, and replaced 950 ft of baseboards! It was a long work week, but what a difference it has made in the safety and appearance of our 17 year old home. Whether you donated a dumpster, replaced a towel rack or cleaned a light fixture, we are so grateful to you and all the generosity shown throughout the week. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



A picture is worth a thousand words, but the memories are priceless. At the end of the day all that matters is love and memories so make sure you give it and make sure you make them. – Trent Shelton

the memory is forever. - Bud Meyer

2017 HOUSE RAFFLE



Tickets are only \$75 and benefit children in need of a home of their own.

Grand Prize: Abrazo Home or \$100,000 Cash
1st: \$7,500 • 2nd: \$5,000 • 3rd: \$2,500

Buy Tickets: 505-889-6040 or www.elranchitonm.org

Only 4,000 tickets will be sold. Drawing to be held November 18, 2017.
For complete rules: www.elranchitonm.org



4 Sisters, LLC



* Abrazo Homes is a prize-supplier only and not responsible for any matters relating to the conduct of this promotion.



**El Ranchito
de los Niños**

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of Central New Mexico

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CHARITY CRUISE XVII

SAVE THE DATE

March 24, 2018 at Isleta Resort & Casino



GOVERNORS BALL 2018

Rotary Del Sol Foundation has named El Ranchito a grant recipient for the Governor's Ball on April 7, 2018. If you'd like to sponsor a table or donate an auction item on behalf of El Ranchito, please contact us at 505-565-4470.

We are thankful for the following grants for fiscal 2016-17:

- The FHL Foundation
- General Mills Foundation
- The Home Depot Foundation
- Navajo United Way
- NM Blue Cross Blue Shield



We also tasted the creations of Chef Raul Maestas from Ohana Hut, Chef Carrie Eagle from Farm and Table, Chef Sean Staggs from Los Poblanos Historic Inn, Chef David Ruiz from Pueblo Harvest Café and Chef Carrie Mettling from Rebel Donuts.

Once again, this September - experience the excitement of live cooking in the designer kitchens of Builder Source Appliance Gallery while sampling each restaurant's signature dish, craft beer and wine. Event 21+. A limited number of tickets go on sale August 1.

Call 505-565-4470 to purchase.

DUKE IT OUT!

For the third year in a row, Chef Cristina Martinez of the Artichoke Café took the title for best Entrée Chef in the Duke City! Newcomer Chef Mayanelli Brown from The Shop took top Pastry Chef. For the People's Choice Award, honors went to Freight House's Chef Matthew Schnoberger and Chef Michael Fram from the Standard Diner.

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

September 27, 2017
5:30 - 8:00pm

VIP Entrance at 5:00pm

Builders Source Appliance Gallery
308 Menaul Blvd NE // Albuquerque