



Dear Friends,

Last month I celebrated my fourth anniversary of leading Esperanza Shelter! I continue to be grateful and honored to represent this beloved community organization. This year, we are proudly celebrating our 45<sup>th</sup> year of serving domestic violence survivors in Santa Fe County, the Eight Northern Pueblos and Three Southern Pueblos.

As I reflect on my first day, I remember the many challenges we faced: staffing needs, the need for increased financial support and investment in our programs, and the need to cultivate more donors and supporters.

Today we celebrate overcoming those challenges with outstanding success. In the last four years, we have accomplished so much, including:

- Growing our programs
- Adopting a trauma-informed model
- Reorganizing key staff roles
- Board development
- Increasing braided funding
- Elevating the heart and soul of Esperanza—our shelter property and people—

by doubling our staff and investing in technology, safety and security.

Over the past 19 months, we have faced significant challenges, as domestic violence victims suffered greatly during the pandemic. At the beginning of the pandemic, our agency moved our emergency shelter to transitional housing in offsite locations, invested heavily in technology, suspended hiring additional staff, and raised an extra \$30k per month to pay for this unbudgeted monthly burden.

We are extremely grateful that you—our supporters, partners, and community members—generously increased your financial gifts. Thank you for helping us continue to provide these critical services without interruption.

Although we hope this pandemic will end soon, we continue to evaluate how we can safely bring clients and staff back to our emergency shelter with the complexities that remain with the delta variant.

*Esperanza simply can't survive without the support of our community. We hope you will continue to support our mission of sheltering those threatened by domestic violence and supporting healthy relationships.*

Next month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and I encourage and invite you to attend our virtual annual meeting on October 7 at 5:30 pm, where I can engage with you more. We will continue celebrating our anniversary through the remainder of the year and look forward to sharing stories of hope, our annual fundraiser, and so much more.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in person very soon, but until then, please continue to remain safe and healthy as we continue to overcome the pandemic.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of Esperanza.

Much Warmth,



Anji Estrellas, M.A.  
Executive Director

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***About Esperanza Shelter Inc.***

For forty-five years, Esperanza has been the only domestic violence shelter in Santa Fe County. Esperanza's trauma informed services include safe emergency shelter, advocacy, counseling, substance abuse counseling, adult and child therapy, child life skills groups, parenting classes, community navigation, court advocacy, outreach/education and psychoeducational groups for both survivors and offenders.

Support Center – 505.474.5536

**24/7 Crisis Hotline – 800.473.5220 or 505.473.5200**

**Esperanza Shelter's Mission is to shelter those threatened by domestic violence and to support healthy relationships.**

[www.esperanzashelter.org](http://www.esperanzashelter.org)

For media requests, please contact:  
Marcos Zubia, Director of Development  
505.309.1657  
[marcos@esperanzashelter.org](mailto:marcos@esperanzashelter.org)