



# Los Ojos de la Familia

Volume 1, Issue 3

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November 24, 2010



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

## La Vista Newsletter

**Upcoming Events/Activities** (see back cover)

**Annual Christmas Basket Give-Away 12/18/10**



(above photo by Freddy Olsen)

### 2010 Kids Fall Carnival

The Kid's Fall Carnival was great for friends and families of our community. People from around the Albuquerque area came together to make the carnival a fun filled event! There was plenty of food, games, prizes, raffles and entertainment for everyone. Congratulations to the winners of the jersey raffle: Rita, Concha, Teresa, Nick, Shane & Vinnie.

Now that the holiday season is quickly approaching, we are proud to announce that Los Ojos de la Familia has stepped in to help families in New Mexico. With compassionate members, LODLF has listened to peoples' stories and made a difference. These stories bring the reality of what is happening around us.

We are excited that LODLF has been able to help many families. The charity believes that when we come together to help people, the community as a whole is impacted in a positive way.

**2010 Christmas Raffle Winners—Movie Tickets**—Debbie Vigil, **NM Gift Basket**—Shannon Mariscal-Montoya, **iPod**—Benny Montoya, **Painting**—Harry Martinez, **\$500**—Benny Montoya, who promptly gave his winnings right back to Los Ojos de la Familia.

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

**Delilah Gallegos** THANK YOU Letter—November 12, 2010  
*My name is Delilah Gallegos. I am 32 years old and a single mom of two, Noah James and Leah Diana. My son is 7 years old, and my daughter is 2 years old and 3 months. I have been having a hard time physically with my health and taking care of my two beautiful children. I was out of work on FMLA for 12 weeks, from 7/29/10—10/11/10 on leave-without-pay and benefits to pay back to Bernalillo County when I returned. I am thankful FMLA protected me to save my job for my return. I am currently renting and my landlord had service of PNM and NM Gas disconnected on Wednesday. All my fridge and freezer items went bad. I am truly thankful to the counselor Mary Luenas for giving my family's name to Los Ojos de la Familia. They have gone above and beyond to help me and my family when no one else would. I set my pride aside to ask for assistance was belittled beyond belief in front of my kids to be told "You should be thankful to have a full time job." I said, "I've been out of work 12 weeks and now I need help." I was given a food box. Then, when my PNM was disconnected, all the food went bad. I would like to let you know how thankful I am for this LODLF organization to help me and my kids in our time of need. From the bottom of my heart, thank you and God bless. One day when I am on my feet, I would like to be part of giving to LODLF. When I can put one foot in front of the other, I will be able to give to this organization and not be the one receiving, God willing - Sincerely, Delilah Gallegos.*

**Roberta Farmer** is now a single mother of 2 young children. Her husband passed away 2 weeks ago. She was in remission with Cancer, but recently found out the cancer has returned. We heard about this family going through such hardship. We were able to provide them with a gift card to help them get through a difficult time in their life.

**Heather Romero****Scholarship Recipients**

Heather is a single mother, studying to be a Registered Nurse at Central New Mexico Community College, where she is getting excellent grades. She strives first and foremost to be a good mother, and secondly to be excellent in school. She wants to be a pediatric nurse and travel the world to help others. She received a \$500 Scholarship, which she plans to use for school expenses.

**Rachel Kindall** Rachel is a student at UNM in her second year. She became a homeless student at the age of 15, was emancipated at the age of 16, when she began supporting herself, which she has done ever since, managing to complete high school and attain her dream of attending college at UNM. She regularly gives of her time and effort to community organizations such as Duke City Civitans, APS Title 1 (a program to assist homeless school children with books, food and supplies) for which she organized last year's drop out summit and this year's scholarship seminars for homeless students. We gave her a \$500 scholarship, which she intends to use for books and supplies.

**Hortensia Hernandez**

Hortensia has three grandchildren she supports with her job at the Hyatt, cleaning rooms. The youngest, Juvenal, has cancer and has been unable to attend school because of his compromised immune system. She is unable to work enough hours because of the care he requires. We gave them a \$250 gift card to Walmart. (see Juvenal to left)

**Antonia Bernal** Antonia and Brianna are 8 and 10-year-old little girls living with their unemployed, disabled parents. They are in need of school supplies and books. We were pleased to give them a \$250 gift card to Walmart. (see right)

**Ivan Perez** Ivan is dedicated to helping his community. He participates in MESA (the bilingual president for his school, DECA, Student Senate, National Honor Society, and Upward Bound. He volunteers at senior centers, homeless shelters, charity walk events, and LODIF events. He received \$300 to West Mesa DECA.

**Anita Hernandez** Anita is the single mother of 13-year old Santiago Vigil, a young man with muscular dystrophy, whose physical independence relies upon his electric wheelchair. They need a new van capable of transporting this wheelchair to numerous doctors' appointments, therapy sessions and surgery. Anita is back in school full-time to become a pediatric nurse, and barely supports her family through financial-aid and student loans. She received \$500 toward the new van.



**Jesus Jeronimo** Jesus and Maria are a couple with two children. Jesus recently lost his job, and they are both looking for work, while they live with friends. They would love to come volunteer for LODFL. We gave them a \$250 Walmart card. (see Maria & family to left)

**Carmela Rael** Carmela and her husband adopted two children through NM CYFD, one of which has severe health issues, for which she would like to purchase an effective therapy system. Her other daughter has medical needs also, and Carmela had to quit her job to be able to care for her family. We gave her a \$250 gift card to Walmart.

**Cynthia Gerardo** Cynthia is single mother, currently unemployed, receiving survival social security for family. She needs help with tires, school clothes and her electric bill. We gave her a \$250 card to Walmart.

**Josephine Rodriguez** Josephine is a mother supporting her husband and son, and sometimes her daughter and grandchildren. Her husband lost his business and has been unable to find work. We gave them a \$250 Walmart card. (see photo to right)

**Darleen Mendoza** Darleen is a single mother, attending school and caring for her child through financial aid. She cleans houses for extra income. She recently lost her financial aid due to her son's sickness and needs \$301 by end of month to stay in school, and thus keep her housing assistance. We gave her a check to CNM for \$301.00 for her tuition.

**Karin Cordova** Karin is a mother with four children, who husband was laid off, and they have not had income since September. They are behind on utility bills, car registration, and they need dental and medical attention. They will soon have income but are afraid they will be shut off before it arrives. We gave the family a \$250 gift card to Walmart.



**Maria Ibarra** Maria is a mother with two sons, Bryan and Adal. Bryan was badly burned 2 years ago and still suffers from the trauma and a good deal of pain. It is affecting his sleep, his grades and his brother. They need help with tutoring and medical assistance. We gave them a \$250 Walmart card. (see left)

**Marie Duran** Marie is a widow and an educational assistant at Carlos Rey. Her car broke down, and she has been forced to depend on friends to get her to/from school. She also needs dental work. We gave her a \$250 Walmart gift card. (see right)

**Yesika Rodriguez** Yesika is a student involved in DECA, whose parents do not currently have stable income. She wants to go to the Washington DECA trip, but her parents cannot afford it. We gave her \$300 paid to West Mesa DECA.

**General Assistance Recipients**



*Right* Thanks to Randy and the Calderon family for providing the ponies and overseeing pony rides that

*Left* The cake walk was a great time for all. Many delicious cakes, cupcakes and other goodies were given out .

*Below* There was a special guest appearance by none other than Michael Jackson, who "thrilled" us with several songs and dance.



*Below* A 20-foot rock-climbing wall was generously provided by Michael Montoya. Children (and adults) of all ages tested their skill, strength and endurance time after time on this challenge.

*Below* There were several piñatas filled with candy. Children of all ages were lines up to take a whack at these, and, as is usually the case, scrambled like mad men to gather up



*Below* There were three jumping "castles", one provided by Mo Vigil, and the other 2, one of which was actually a firetruck with slide, provided by Michael Montoya. These were not empty at any time during the festival.

*Right* There were several carnival games in which to participate, and everyone was a winner of at least something every time.



**THANK YOU'S**

- |                       |   |                                      |                            |   |                        |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <b>Photo Booth</b>    | - | Nancy McRae & Shallen Montoya        | <b>Rock Wall</b>           | - | Michael & Jill Montoya |
| <b>Balloon Booth</b>  | - | Cynthia Baca & Maria Chavarria       | <b>Dart Throwing Booth</b> | - | Shane & Maria Fritts   |
| <b>Nerf Gun Booth</b> | - | Brian & Joslin Chavez                | <b>Cake Walk</b>           | - | Eric & Linda Strauss   |
| <b>Ring Toss</b>      | - | Roman & Alicia Martinez              | <b>Face-painting</b>       | - | CV & Janet Laswell     |
| <b>Jumpers</b>        | - | Michael & Jill Montoya, Debbie Vigil | <b>Goldfish</b>            | - | Steve Medina           |
| <b>Horse Rides</b>    | - | Randy Calderon & Family              | <b>Paint Ball</b>          | - | Onesimo & Rachel Vigil |
| <b>MC</b>             | - | Eric Strauss & John Chavez           | <b>Dunk Tank</b>           | - | David Romero & Family  |
| <b>Basketball</b>     | - | Derek & Alec Rael                    |                            |   |                        |

**Special thanks to** John Chavez—for the sport jersey fundraiser. He helped raise over \$600 for the charity.  
**Thank you to** Shannon Montoya-Mariscal for serving the food. Thank you to Michael & Jill Montoya for providing the food.  
**Thank you to** the West Mesa and Albuquerque High School students who pitched in their time and effort to help.  
**Special thanks to** Vinne & Dusty Dibenedetti, Andrew Gallegos and Carlos Gonzales for transporting guests to and from their car with the hay ride.

**Our most sincere gratitude goes out to all of you who helped make this event a successful, fun and memorable experience. We apologize if we've neglected to mention your specific contribution. Please let us know, so we can add our thanks to you in the next newsletter.**

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## December 18, 2010 - Christmas Basket Give-Away

Los Ojos de la Familia is holding its first annual Christmas dinner-basket on December 18, 2010, at which time we will be preparing and delivering gift baskets to **70 families in need**. We are in need of volunteers for the following teams:

**Assembly Crew, Decorating Crew, Delivery Crew.**

We are still looking for volunteers to help prepare baskets and deliver baskets, beginning at **8:00 a.m. the morning of the 18th**.

Call us to volunteer for one of these crews or if you know a family in need of assistance at this time.

### Christmas Basket List

#### Main Meal Essentials

Turkey and Ham

*(Thank you Mike Novak for donation of turkeys)*

5 lb bag of potatoes

canned green beans

canned corn

a jar of gravy

cranberry sauce

Rolls

tortillas (Grandma's)

Butter

salt/pepper

#### Dessert

pumpkin pie

whipped cream

Extra Items (Wal-Mart)

Detergent (Sun-29loads)

Laundry Baskets

Dish Soap (Ajax-16 fl oz)

Canned food (Great Value)

stuffing (stove top)

Bag of rice

Bag of beans

Loaf of bread

Flour

4-pack of tissue paper

Grand Total:

**\$60.00 per Basket**

*Special thanks to Mo Vigil for chairing this committee, and to all those contributing time & effort to this occasion.*

*Special thanks to Susan Johnson for chairing shopping crew and for all her hard work and time.*

**\*\*Please come and be a part of this wonderful event. We are off to a fantastic start and plan to do more every year.**



Los Ojos will be sponsoring the KOATs for Kids drive this fall. If you would like to donate and coats, we have collection bins around the city at various sites: Albuquerque High School, Universal Transmission, Eagle Ridge Gymnastics, Custom Grading, Intelli-Care, and Spotlight. We are asking for new or gently-used children's coats that will be given to the needy this winter. We can keep many kids warm this winter with a little help from everyone. If anyone would like to set up a collection bin, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Linda Strauss 459-7413 or Janet Laswell 515-9085.

### **Our Purpose**

A grassroots movement to make a difference in the New Mexico community by providing educational development and quality of life assistance.

### **Our #1 Goal**

100% of donated funds goes to helping people in our community. All of the time and effort required for the organization to function is donated by members of Los Ojos de la Familia, so that we may pass on the maximum amount of assistance to those in need.

### **Type of Charity**

This is a 501(c)(3) charity, so your donations are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor.