

## LA VISTA Newsletter

*Los Ojos de la Familia*

*April 28, 2016*

# 1st Quarter General Assistance

*Many of us have gone through financial difficulties, and so we know how much it means to receive a little help in the middle of those troubled times.*

*Take a moment to read about these deserving families and individuals to whom we've given a helping hand, and you will see how, with your participation, Los Ojos de la Familia is making a real and positive difference in our New Mexico community.*





**RAY SANTILLANES** is a father and husband with medical issues, resulting in mounting medical bills. He reached out to us this month, as those extra costs have caused him to fall behind on a few bills. We helped to pay his water bill and gave him a Walmart gift card to help with daily necessities. Best wishes for your good healthcare and speedy recovery, Ray.

**ABBIE SIMMONS** is a Marine Corps veteran who served in the Gulf War, where she lost most of her hearing from flying in helicopters. Her granddaughter was born prematurely, and the resulting hospital bills have put a severe strain on the family. We gave her a Walmart gift card to fill her house with food and supplies, to free up some of the needed finances. Thank you for your service, Abbie; it is our pleasure to be able to help!

**ARMAD JOHNLOUIS** is a single father who has recently had a medical scare, as he has experienced "heart attack" symptoms. The resulting medical bills from testing and treatment have been overwhelming, and he asked for help in covering some of those expenses. We wrote a check to Presbyterian Hospital to help offset his account balance. Best of luck and our good thoughts go with you, Armad.

**GARY GUTIERREZ** is a devoted special education teacher and coach at Albuquerque High School. who has spent 30 years of his life reaching out to at-risk and disadvantaged children. In recent, deeply tragic events, he lost his daughter to a drunk driver, and then, stunningly lost his son to an overdose. he has picked up the reins of caring for his 11 grandchildren, which has put a cruel burden on him financially. Not only has he suffered greatly from these two blows, but he also suffers personally from a rare eye condition which may cost him that eye. He has gone through his savings and is in need of help to purchase the required medication for his condition. We gladly wrote a check to Eye Associates to help cover a couple months of his prescription. Thank you for your generous heart, and your continued investment in the community. We sincerely wish for the best for you and your family, Gary.

**MYRA SALAZAR** is an integral member of Young Women United, an organization founded for and by women of color in Albuquerque; she joined them after she lost her daughter in a horrific way: one of those young women found in the West Mesa murders. She has been raising her teenage

grandchildren, but recently suffered a financial setback, when her apartment complex mandated that she have her apartment sprayed, and she will also need new beds for the children. We wrote a check to Aztec Village to cover a part of the cost to spray the apartment. We hope this alleviates some stress and strain, and helps to give your family a healthy and happy home.

### **REBECCA BETZEN - GARFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Rebecca approached us with a request to help with a spring student incentive event. This event is a barbecue and activity day in the park, offered to students who have 100% attendance and participation during spring testing. We were glad to contribute to be a part of supporting this encouraging event. Work hard, GMS students, and thank you for your caring involvement, Rebecca!

**RYAN BLEA** is a senior at Del Norte High School on the baseball team.

His mother sent us a request for help in covering his baseball costs. She said it has helped to keep her son focused on grades, as good grades are a requirement of participation on the team. She wants him to stay on track for his graduation this year. We wrote a check to DNHS to help cover his team dues. Good luck and congratulations, Ryan!

**ROBERTO & AMY RUIZ** are the parents of four children, the youngest of which, their daughter Angel Maria, has had to be taken out-of-state for medical treatment, and that has put a strain on their finances. Also, Roberto recently lost his job and was unemployed for a few months, setting them back even further on bills. We wrote a check to PNM to help them get caught up on utilities. Our most sincere prayers for your daughter, and your family's financial recovery, Roberto & Amy.



Los Ojos de la Familia is registered with United Way Northern New Mexico



and we encourage you to consider asking that your donations go toward this charity.

Ask your benefits administrator how you can designate LODLF as your charity of choice.

[United Way Contribution Form](#)

For a full calendar of assistance and scholarship deadlines, visit our website [www.losojosdelafamilia.org](http://www.losojosdelafamilia.org).

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Los Ojos de la Familia, 7916 Ranchitos Lp NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

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