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Los Ojos de la Familia
LA VISTA Newsletter
October 27, 2017



3rd Quarter General Assistance



Thank you so much for being a part of this loving organization, in our mission to make a real difference in the New Mexico community. We were able to help ten more families last quarter, and it is all because of the time, effort and contribution of all of you. Take a look.

Beverly Marquez & David Haro are the parents of two teenagers, their oldest daughter is having numerous seizures daily. An EEG determined that they could be environmentally or emotionally provoked. The resulting cognitive and dialectical behavioral therapy has put an added strain on the finances of the family. We helped the family by helping to pay off their phone bill.

Vita Evola is an older member of our community, who was admitted to the hospital this summer when her neighbor found her down in her apartment. Vita has no family or any power of attorney documents in place which allow access to her finances. Her long time friend has been trying to help her keep her apartment and take care of the place while Vita is in recovery. We gave her a Walmart Gift card, which her friend is using to help restock essentials in Vita's home. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Landon Garcia is a sophomore at Sandia High, where he is an honors student and a baseball player. His commitment to excellence, earned him an invitation to attend the Western Region DECA Leadership Conference next month. His mother is a widow who is the single financial support for her family: three children, her mother and her niece and nephew. Landon asked for help with trip expenses. We wrote a check to

Sandia High School DECA to help him in his journey to success.

Tina Torrez is a loving wife and a mother of two daughters. Her husband recently suffered a heart attack, which has kept him from working for several months. She is working full time, but they have fallen behind on a few bills. Also, she recently had surgery on her ankle, making things even more difficult on the family. We helped them with utility bills and a gift card for some groceries.

Ivan Watchman is a father of four, who was recently laid off for lack of work, and his wife is a new mother who has been staying home to take care of the baby full time. They have been suffering from an insect infestation, and asked for help in hiring a professional to get rid of the problem. We gave them a gift card to help free up some funds to pay for pest control.

Ramona Delarosa was diagnosed with thyroid cancer; her thyroid was recently removed and she has undergone several weeks of chemotherapy. After that was completed, they discovered she also has breast cancer. She will soon be undergoing a mastectomy, but she has been working as she is able. The family has been under great emotional and financial strain, and there is still more treatment to come. We gave them a gift card to help with household essentials.

Calvin Smith is a man who came clean from illicit drugs several months ago. He was living with his brother at the time, but when he made the decision to quit, his brother kicked him out of the house they were sharing. He was living off disability benefits due to the dialysis he requires, and he found a motel within walking distance of the clinic he attends. Friends and social workers helped find him an affordable apartment, and we wrote a check to help with the costs of moving in.

Crystal Gallegos is a mother-to-be who has had to miss work from extra prenatal appointments due to complications in her pregnancy. The loss of needed hours have caused her to fall behind on some bills. We wrote a check to help with part of her rent this month. Congratulations and best wishes for your family.

Brittney Castillo is the mother of four children between 4 and 13; school shopping just a couple months ago really took a chunk out of her finances, then a few weeks later, the transmission on her car went out. The unexpected expense set her back even further. We helped with a check to help pay her utility bills.

Vanessa Cervantes is the mother of two teenagers, who recently went through a bout with Hand, Foot and Mouth, causing her to miss a week of work. The missed hours really put her behind on bills, and she has struggled to catch up. We wrote a check to help her catch up on rent.

Athletic Youth Development Group

The main goal of this program is to help children excel and succeed through sports, to become healthy, productive members of society. We have partnered with local athletic organizations, reaching out to children in lower income neighborhoods, to give them a healthy and safe outlet. For more information on this initiative, please visit our website www.losojosdelafamilia.org.



Here are just a few letters from some of the kids at Warrior Boxing's **Cutting Edge Youth Empowerment** program, one of our AYDG partners.

I just want to thank you for everything you have done; boxing has helped me become a better and stronger person. It has helped me stay fit and lose weight, and it has kept me out of trouble, Thank you.

- Kristen M.

Boxing has helped me with staying out of trouble, and it has taught me self discipline. I'm just thankful for boxing, and how it has helped me in life.

- Omar M

I joined boxing because I wanted to stay in shape, not be lazy, getting all fat just playing on my tablet and doing nothing. I also wanted to defend myself and not get bullied, and also defend my family and my friends. Now I have something to focus on every day; I was bored before, now I have something to do. I have somewhere to go instead of being on the streets with other kids. Being in boxing for one year, I learned that hard work pays off; even when it's hard, I push it and get a reward. I learned how to be a good sport after sparring. I learned not to give up, even when it's hard. I learned to control my anger when I'm in class. I want to learn to be a leader.

- Sheldon W

In elementary I was getting bullied by other fifth-graders, so I joined boxing and learned self defense. Being bullied in middle school, I needed to learn courage; not only did I learn courage, I got inspired by boxing to work out. Also, before boxing, I was bored, and I wanted to have good friends to work out with, instead of hanging out with street kids. I have learned to never give up, work hard every day to build my confidence.

Exercise is tough, but sticking to a basic daily routine, I lost 20 lbs and it wasn't so hard. While building my muscles, I've learned to defend myself. All of this will help me to become a champion.

- Ivan W

Whenever I hear "boxing" I right away think "relief." The work relief pops into my head because when you're hitting the bags or working out, you are letting out a lot of anger or anything held in. Boxing helps me because I used to fight a lot; but now, with me being in boxing, it is teaching me to control myself. Relief is big when it comes to me. The feeling of hitting the bags instead of a person feels good. I'm not hurting myself or anyone else. Being in the gym constantly practicing and working out gives me so much relief because I know I will not get into trouble for what I'm doing. I have so much anger built up inside of me, I need to let it out. If I compete, I am just there to try and win, and not hurt someone. I am ready to dedicate myself to boxing; I will do my best and try my hardest. I am willing to push myself harder when I feel like giving up and will come to as many practices as I can, even with school and working. Thank you for helping me train and get back into shape.

- Selena G

