

February 21, 2020

LA VISTA Newsletter

First Responders & February Emergency Assistance



FIRST RESPONDERS



Our First Responders initiative is a beautiful way we like to give back to our hometown heroes, who put themselves in the line of fire, often quite literally, to protect and serve our community.

As with any of us, when tragedy or misfortune hit, our first responders also sometimes struggle to put the pieces back together. Last year saw astronomical numbers of suicide and mental illness in first responders across the country, so when we were approached by Mary Baca with **Behind the Badge NM** to request help with a program to help them cope and heal, we were thrilled to get involved. Their program "Stress Resiliency in First Responders Using a Holistic Approach" focuses on reducing or eliminating anxiety, depression and PTSD, by providing weekly holistic services over the course of two months.

Currently they are halfway through the program and have already seen powerful results; one firefighter even expressed that he believed the program saved his life. We enthusiastically made a donation to help cover holistics services as well as training to help first responders help themselves and their brothers and sisters.

Thank you to Mary and everyone at Behind the Badge!

February 2020 Emergency Assistance

From time to time, we receive a nomination from one of our board members, for someone whose need is so urgent, it cannot wait for our quarterly distribution. The board votes on each of these to determine if and how we can help. Here is a brief summary of those we were able to assist this month.

The Gonzales-Salazar Family - This month, we received a tragic email from Rosa at the South Valley Academy, letting us know they had lost one of their students. She let us know that the family had already been struggling with bills, food and clothing, and asked if there was anything we could do to help, while they shoulder the

additional burden of their daughter's funeral services. We helped them catch up on a few of their utility bills. Our hearts grieve with you, and we pray for your strength in your sorrow.

Hellfighter Motorcycle Ministry - The Hellfighters Motorcycle Ministry is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, that provides support, encouragement, hope, food, clothing and necessities to the homeless in our community. They feed and clothe 250-550 people in need each week, including many veterans. We wrote a check to help buy supplies for their worthy efforts.

Robbi Martinez - Robbi is a young mother who is also several months into pregnancy of a baby girl with a congenital heart defect. When the baby is born, she will be delivered in a specilized unit at a hospital in Colorado, and she need a few surgeries to correct, starting just a few days later. Bobbi must relocate to Colorado at the time of delivery and so will not be able to work to care for her family. We gave her a gift card to help with some of those expenses. Our prayers are with you, Robbi.

Nancy Munoz - Nancy went to UNMH last month complaining of chest pain, only to find out she had a heart attack, and she underwent surgery to install a pacemaker. As a result, she is no longer able to work to supplement her SSI and provide for herself and the two grandchildren who live with her, whose mother passed away a few years ago. We gave her a gift card to help provide for the basic needs of her family while she makes adjustments and works to recover. Best wishes for recover, Nancy.

Ruth Lynch - Ruth and her family have been living in a shelter for the last several months, after losing their vehicle, which led to her husband losing his job, and they have gone through all their savings. She and her husband have been actively seeking employment, but their living status seems to be an obstacle. They are doing everything they can to find work and a new place to live, taking odd jobs and selling tamales to provide for their family. We gave them a gift card to help take care of the family's basic needs while they focus on getting back on their feet.

Danielle Riley - Danielle is a a mother of three, who was dealt a bad hand when she worked for several months at a job with no pay; she ran into financial problems and was unable to pay rent for her family's household. We wrote a check to help her toward her rent payment. Our best wishes for great opportunity, Danielle.

*A grassroots movement to make a difference in the New Mexico community by providing educational development and quality of life assistance.
This is a 501(c)(3) charity, and your donations may be tax-deductible.
Consult your tax advisor.*

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