

Los Ojos de la Familia LA VISTA Newsletter January 22, 2024

2023 4th Quarter Distributions

General Assistance, First Responders & Athletic Youth Development Programs



General Assistance

Our general assistance program truly makes a positive impact in our community, giving a much-needed helping hand to dozens of people each quarter in many different ways. The last quarter of 2023 we were able to help about 80 families, with utilities, phone bills, storage fees, rental or mortgage assistance, vehicle payments, insurance bills, school trips, sports and club dues, and funeral expenses, as well as partnering with some of our local charities on various initiatives. Thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers, who respond to each request that is submitted, with compassion and attention.

First Responders

This last quarter we were contacted about three of our community's first responders: Adrian De La Garza with Las Cruces Police Department, Officer Chris Balkcom with NM Department of Corrections, and APD SWAT Officer Zach Herbst.

Officer De La Garza was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago, but has not been able to afford the much needed stem-cell treatment, and a GoFundMe was started to help him get the care he needs. We contributed to this fund, and Officer De La Garza is also in our thoughts and prayers for a swift recovery **Officer Chris Balkcom** was impaled in his eye when he fell during an attempt to apprehend a fugitive. He has lost his vision and may never return to active duty. We wrote a check to help with some of the medical and household expenses for him and his family.

Officer Zach Herbst has been in the hospital with intestinal bleeding but the medical team has been unable to diagnose the cause. He will be going to the Mayo Clinic for further treatment and hopefully a diagnosis. We wrote a check for the family to help with travel and household expenses for the family.

Athletic Youth Development

We are currently partnered with two organizations for our Athletic Youth Development program: **Team Tapia** and the **Albuquerque Dance Divas**. Both organizations encourage young people to stay active and learn to be part of a team that works together and builds each other up.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

to learn more about these and other programs, and to see how you can get involved with this amazing local organization.



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