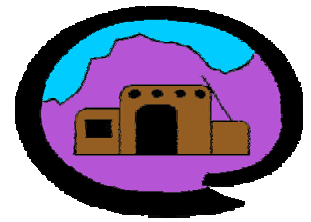


La Casa, Inc.



LA CASA: PROVIDING COUNSELING AND A SAFE PLACE TO STAY FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THEIR CHILDREN SINCE 1981.

Fall 2005

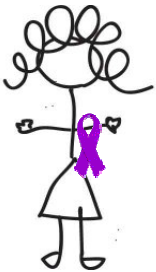
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month...

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time for communities to unite. To mourn those who have died and celebrate those who have survived domestic violence. We would like to encourage everyone to take steps to address these problems and support those who reach out for help, not just during the month of October, but all year through.

*It takes a community to end domestic violence.
It takes a community to save lives.*

*Because we all deserve to live in a community
free of domestic violence.*

Make a Statement! Wear a Purple Ribbon!



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and La Casa as well as other domestic violence service agencies throughout the country will be holding events to create awareness and encourage communities to take action to prevent domestic violence. Domestic violence awareness month grew out of a single day of remembrance in 1981. That day has evolved into a national, month long awareness effort throughout the country. The intent? To mourn those who have died of domestic violence and celebrate those who have survived as well as connect domestic violence advocates who are working to end domestic violence.

La Casa also recognizes the need to reduce domestic violence and invites everyone to share the vision of building a safe and peaceful community for our families. By encouraging awareness and increasing access to services available, we will assist these families to get the help that they need. Violence in our communities is often behavior spilling over from violence in our homes fueled by public tolerance towards violence and abuse. Domestic violence transcends all ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic boundaries. Violence among family members is frequently known but kept as a guarded secret and its perpetrators abuse their victims both physically and mentally. These effects are far-reaching – and weaken the very core of our community. Domestic violence is particularly devastating because it so often occurs in the privacy of the home, which is meant to be a place of shelter and security.

During the month of October, we should all

contemplate the scars that domestic violence leaves on our community and what each of us can do to prevent it.

For domestic violence advocates, awareness and education are year-round activities. But in October, we put a special emphasis on reaching to those who may not be aware of domestic violence and its effects and how to access services. This 31-day period also gives people additional opportunities to get involved at whatever level is comfortable for them – be it donating a cell phone, wearing a purple ribbon, supporting a fundraiser, attending domestic violence awareness events or inquiring about our volunteer program. It is a time to remind ourselves that domestic violence and its effects don't come to an end on November 1st. So let October be the beginning of your commitment to become involved in community efforts against domestic violence. You can also convey the powerful message that there's no place for domestic violence in the homes, neighborhoods, workplaces or schools by wearing your purple ribbon. Stop by La Casa for your ribbon today and show your support during October.

On behalf of La Casa, we wish to thank our community for taking a part in October Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



***A ribbon of safety
to support domestic
violence awareness.
It is your business!***



Introducing La Casa's Board President Adrian Edwards, MD



Thanks in large part to the continuing support of our community, La Casa continues to make great strides. Through a recent, generous donation, we will be able to upgrade and improve our physical plant in Anthony, New Mexico to provide improved security for our staff and to provide additional staff and programs to service our clients.

Our La Casa facility, with major support from the City of Las Cruces, will also be undergoing substantial physical improvement.

Our educational focus is being broadened by new initiatives in the public schools to make all members of our community aware of the continued presence of domestic violence and to make them more aware of the services available to deal with this issue. Programs dealing with the issue of domestic violence and its solutions will be advertised on billboards and public transportation buses.

In addition to these very serious programs, we continue to have fun. Each year our golf tournament draws more participants. Our Christmas activities for children continue to be a source of joy for both the recipients and the staff of La Casa.

Please continue to help us provide comprehensive services, including shelter, to victims of domestic violence in our ever enlarging community.

Adrian Edwards, MD
President-Board of Directors
La Casa, Inc.

A Letter From Our Executive Director Gina Orona-Ruiz

Hello! I hope this newsletter reaches everyone well!

I want to tell you about how important the work that we do is and how it reaches so many people. This last fiscal year, we reached close to 1,900 individuals through our provision of services and close to 3,000 children in our schools. We provided domestic violence education, counseling, advocacy, housing, meals, civil legal assistance, and domestic violence presentations.

All of this was done with your help. A crucial component

contributing to our ability to serve our community is collaboration. It is often hard to realize the positive impact your partnerships have had in the lives of others.

We are proud to continue to offer comprehensive services, in partnership with our community, to families experiencing domestic violence. La Casa is able to deliver critical and timely services by creating and maintaining partnerships with our legislators, public administrators, community-based organizations as well as community members. These partnerships produce volunteers,

donations, funding, as well as build bridges for the families we serve.

In celebrating the accomplishments of survivors of domestic violence, acknowledging the road that still needs to be traveled in creating change, and launching our commitment to public awareness in our community, we invite you to join us in attending the upcoming events listed in this issue of our newsletter.

This newsletter is dedicated to our partners. Thank you for helping us serve our community!

Gina Orona-Ruiz
Executive Director, La Casa, Inc.

Jackson Hewitt

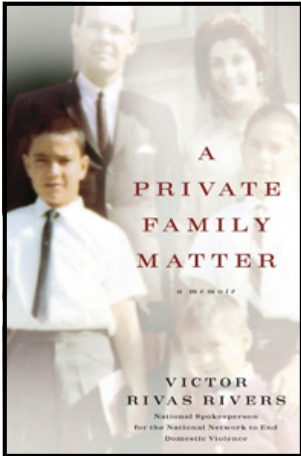
A special thank you to Bob Nickerson of Jackson Hewitt Tax Service for making a generous contribution every year at tax time. Mr. Nickerson challenges other tax preparers to donate a percentage of their earnings to local charities. On behalf of the individuals we serve, THANK YOU!



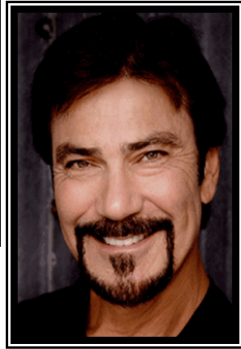
In every community there
is work to be done.
In every nation, there are
wounds to heal.
In every heart there is the
power to do it.

October Events!

La Casa Presents Victor Rivers...



Rivers is a former Miami Dolphin lineman, veteran star of more than two dozen films, including Zorro, "Blood In, Blood Out" and a recent guest on "Oprah". Victor Rivers is the Spokesperson for the National Network to End Domestic Violence and the author of *A Private Family Matter*.



He will be speaking at the candlelight vigil and luncheon about his ultimate survival and personal success conveying the importance of intervention by others who helped him break the cycle of violence.

There will be a book signing of *A Private Family Matter* prior to the vigil in the gazebo at Young Park.

The candle light vigil is a free event and everyone is welcome!

Thank You White Sands Missile Range Family Advocacy Program and Adventure Travel for Making Victor River's Trip Possible!

Candlelight Vigil

Wednesday, October 5th
Young Park

Book Signing 4:00 -6:00 pm Gazebo

Vigil 6:00 -9:00 pm Young Park

The candlelight vigil is held annually in memory of victims of domestic violence and their survivors. It demonstrates how our community works together to raise awareness in order to break the cycle of domestic violence.

White Sands

The White Sands Family Advocacy Programs, a sponsor of Rivers' visit, will host him on Thursday morning, October 6th, at the Missile Range.

Luncheon

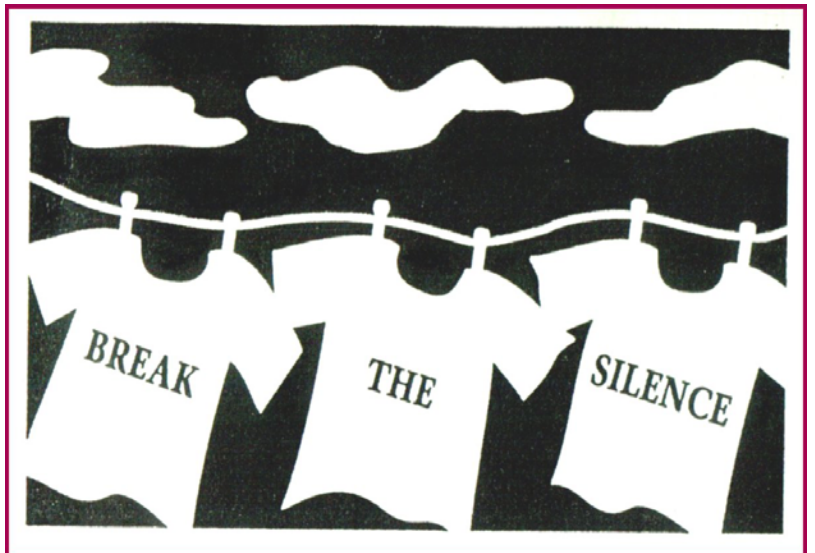
Thursday, October 6th
11:30 am

Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn

The public is invited to attend a luncheon where Rivers will be the keynote speaker. Cost of the luncheon is \$25 and reservations are required. Call La Casa at 526-2819 for reservations and information.

"Love is not Abuse" was the theme of La Casa's first Poster Contest conducted this fall for mid-school and high school age youth. Approximately 75 student entries were received in September and winners of the contest will be recognized at the La Casa Candlelight Vigil. All poster contest entries will be displayed at the Vigil and current plans include developing the winning poster into a Las Cruces Billboard display.

La Casa's "Clothesline Project" will be touring Las Cruces locations throughout October. The clothesline project addresses the issue of violence against women by giving an outlet for women affected by violence to express their emotions through art. These T-shirt art projects are displayed on a clothesline. The "Clothesline Project" will be on display at the Candlelight Vigil. For other display locations, or if you would like the clothesline displayed at your organization, please contact Stephanie Chavez at (505) 526-2819.



Volunteer Spotlights

Thanks Sandy!



Sandy

Larcher has been a member of the La Casa Guild for the last 10 years and has had the rewarding role of La Casa's Guild

President for two years. Sandy has worked tirelessly as chairman of our annual Holiday Bazaar for at least

seven years and does a wonderful job. The annual bazaar is held the first weekend of December at Dickerson's Barn to benefit La Casa. Sandy is very skilled in managing people and is admired and respected by all. Sandy has made a great difference in contributing her talents and skills to La Casa's fundraising. Not only is she dependable, organized, unassuming and dedicated, but she is a diligent and hard worker. She graduated from Utah State University and met her husband while attending there. They are the parents of two

boys and one girl. They discovered Las Cruces while he was serving in the Army at White Sands. Sandy recently retired from NMSU as bookstore supply supervisor. She is also an active member of the Las Cruces Red Hat Society. Hats off to you Sandy! Thank you from La Casa!

Thanks Sam!



La Casa

would like to take this opportunity to "spotlight" another special volunteer, Agnes "Sam" Branco. Sam has been working in La Casa's donations room since

February 2005. She graciously donates about four days a week for two to three hours a day. Sam has been working very hard to keep up with the donations that the community so generously donates to La Casa. She goes through each individual bag and box putting house wares away and sorting, folding and hanging up all of the clothes we receive.

The donation room at La Casa provides clothing, toys and household items to our residents who many times come to us with

just the clothes on their backs.

La Casa is lucky to have such wonderful volunteers who so generously give of their time and talent. Thank you Sam!

*Sometimes we seem so lucky,
or maybe we're just blessed.
When there seems to be too much to do-
Along comes a volunteer like you!
You've made our days much brighter.
Our work a joy to share.
We know we'll always make it through-
As long as there's volunteers like you!*

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Hi Everyone!

As you all know October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the agency has many events scheduled...we are in need of volunteers to help cover these events. Please consider giving some of your time to raising awareness and promoting the services we offer.

Please give me a call or e-mail me at the following address: khancock@lacasainc.org 505-526-2819

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who generously give their time and talents to the staff and residents of La Casa Inc. Thanks a lot!

*Karen Hancock,
Volunteer Coordinator*

Our Heartfelt Thanks To Our Generous Donors ~ April to August 2005

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Mesilla Pastry Café/The Shed
Mesilla Valley Kitchen
Mesilla Valley Transportation
Moose Lodge of LC, No. 2081
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NMCADV
NMSU Employee Fund
NMSU Women's Studies
NMSU Athletic Dept.
NMSU Golf Course
NMSU Horticultural Forum
Olympian University of Cosmetology
Paa-ko Ridge Golf Club
Pepsi Cola of Las Cruces
Perry Construction
Peter Piper Pizza
Picacho Hills Country Club
Picture Frame Factory Outlet
Price's Country Charm
Quiznos Sub
REA Magnet Wire Company
Red Mountain Café
Renee's Bridal
Revocable Living Trust
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Rio Mimbres Country Club
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Michael Yoke

Thank you all for the many donations that continue to come through our door to help victims of domestic violence and their children.

Thank You



La Casa, Inc.

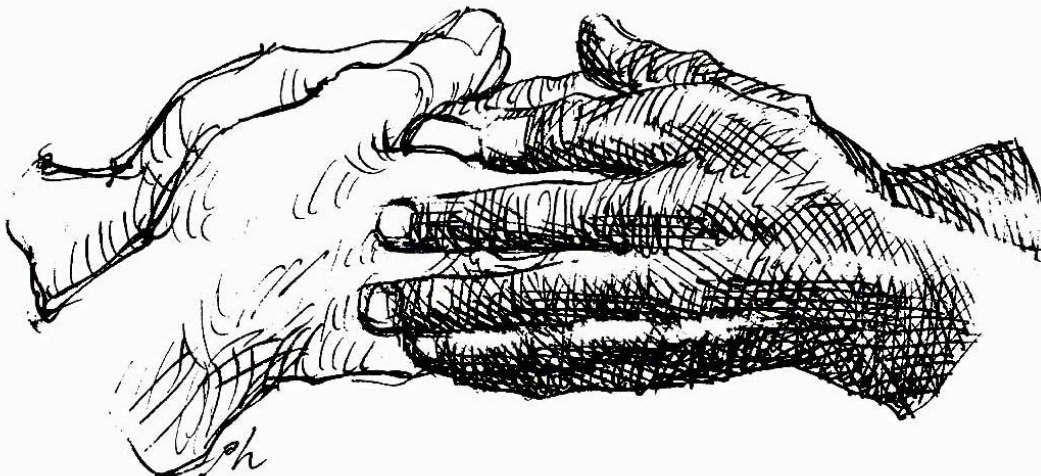
Domestic Violence Programs for the Entire Family

P.O. Box 2463

Las Cruces, NM 88004

Domestic Violence IS Everyone's Business!

*Make a Difference,
Get Involved*



**La Casa is a
United Way Agency**

United Way
of Southwest New Mexico