

*La Casa: Providing counseling and a safe place to stay for victims of domestic violence and their children since 1981.*

Spring 2004

## LA CASA SUPPORT GUILD



### 8TH ANNUAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT Judy Finch

La Casa, Inc. will be holding its Eighth Annual Benefit Golf Tournament on Monday, May 24, 2004 at the New Mexico State University Championship Golf Course in Las Cruces. Your involvement is vital to our ability to continue providing quality services to many families and their children experiencing domestic violence. We look forward to your participation in making this year's tournament a success.

Three flights of golfers (men's, ladies, mixed in a "scramble format") will tee off with Includes Green Fees, Carts, Snacks, Lunch, 2 Mulligans, 10 Raffle Tickets & a La Casa Shirt!

There will be two tee-times beginning at 8:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Monday. There will be many special events on the golf course including a

chance to win a 2004 Dodge Pick Up, generously provided by Sandoval Dodge. There will be prizes awarded to more than 50% of the participating teams. Golfers are asked to sign up as a team of four players.

There is always a need for Volunteers to work at this tournament. Your participation is an excellent way to show your support of La Casa and its mission to provide quality services to families experiencing domestic violence.

**HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE!  
2004 Dodge  
Pick Up!  
Provided by  
Sandoval  
Dodge**

Please contact OT Montoya or Stephanie Chavez at La Casa, 526-2819 or Judy Finch, 523-4286 for more entry forms and additional info.

**ORGANIZE YOUR TEAMS NOW!!**

**Registration begins at 7:00 am & 11:30 am**

**Monday-May 24, 2004**



### MESSAGE FROM THE GUILD PRESIDENT Linda Marr



I hope you enjoy our spring newsletter and look forward to seeing you at our annual golf tournament on May 24! If last year is any indication, it will be a wonderful day for golf, full of fun, good food and lots of prizes—all to raise awareness and money for a worthwhile cause! What more could we ask for?

As I finish my two-year term as president of the guild, I am thankful for

all the hardworking members of the guild, particularly our wonderful officers—Sandy Larcher, Pascale Blue, Amy Bush and Cookie Stephan. I am grateful for the many guild members who faithfully attend the monthly meetings and graciously volunteer to chair our fundraising and membership events. Without their commitment, none of these events would every happen. I also want to thank Gina, Stephanie, OT, Nina and the many other dedicated staff members who take time from their busy schedules to help us in so many ways. Last, but never the least, you, our many friends in the community, have shown

your support over the years and deserve a hearty thank you from all of us!

The organizational structure of the guild will be changing in the next few months, but not our mission, that of promoting and advancing the welfare of La Casa. We have all sorts of activities lined up—a fashion show, an evening at the Mesilla Valley Corn Maze, and the sixteenth annual Holiday Bazaar held on December 3-5<sup>th</sup>. More information on these and other activities to follow.

In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming you to our 8th annual benefit golf tournament on May 24<sup>th</sup>. See you there!



# La Casa Spotlight!



## GUILD SPOTLIGHT

### Emily Cohen

#### PHOTO OF EMILY

The La Casa Guild's very own Emily Cohen was one of seven Las Cruces women who was honored with the REACH award, presented by the YWCA Del Norte Region for contributions to the community in the "Service to Community" category.

Emily first became a volunteer with the Arts Council while being a primary caregiver to her late husband. Thereafter she became a board member for the DAAC where she moved up to Treasurer. Emily has also acted as hospitality chair for the Renaissance Faire artists, which included getting hundreds of breakfast items from volunteers and being out in the early chilly mornings. She still volunteers for this task every year.

During her tenure at the Arts Council, she was asked to be on the Board of Directors at Hospice. She participated in a major fundraiser, the Christmas Gift Wrapping Booth at Mesilla Valley Mall and co-chaired the gift

wrapping services one year, which meant staffing the booth from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, spending countless hours monitoring the proceedings, banking, and filling in for volunteers. She has been involved in many fund-raising events from garage sales to serving as the "most senior" model for a Hospice Fashion Show.

From Hospice, she proceeded to serve on the Board of La Casa and helped to raise money for their domestic violence shelter. She procured all the furniture, toys, books, and art work for the Children's Playroom and during the playroom's grand opening she was surprised to find the playroom named for her. In addition to her many efforts, Emily also has staffed the entire volunteer program for the La Casa Bazaar, which involved making countless telephone call and keeping the calendars for at least a hundred volunteers. She attends every La Casa fundraiser, from working the Golf Tournament to serving at the La Casa Holiday Children's Party.

In addition to being on La Casa's Guild, Emily has also been an active volunteer for KRWG TV and KRWG Ra-

dio. She has served on the TV Los Amigos Board of Directors for five years and was also a volunteer for the Elder Hostel Program at NMSU.

Emily started the PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians) movement in Las Cruces as well as acting as the treasurer for this organization. She also speaks to different groups in the community and is very concerned about the high incidence of suicide in gay teenagers. She was the only Great Grandmother to march in the Gay Rights Parade in San Francisco in 1999. Emily is a very family oriented mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her spiritual life is active and she is a supportive member of her temple. She has served as the Ticket Lady for the Temple's major gala for the past 15 years as well as cook for this event!

Emily is a known and beloved by so many people from all walks of life in Las Cruces and is an incredible role model to all who know her. The La Casa Guild is proud to have her on the board.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### OT Montoya

The Kiwanis Club of Mesilla Valley hosted a celebration of volunteers during National Volunteer Week 2004. Among the many volunteers throughout the community, La Casa proudly acknowledged the following for their outstanding volunteerism:

Dulce Carter, who teaches English as a second language (ESL) to La Casa clients. Terry Alvarez, who worked with La Casa for three years, entertaining the kids with her magic and storytelling. Julia Swatman, who worked for one

and a half years, assisting with the children's program. Elizabeth Bringham, who worked for two years, teaching ESL to clients, and Jennifer Caldwell who worked with the children's program for four months.

Volunteers are vital to La Casa. We would not be able to provide the many services to domestic violence victims and their families without their help. The La Casa staff appreciate all the volunteers who are such an integral part of our organization.

### VOLUNTEER

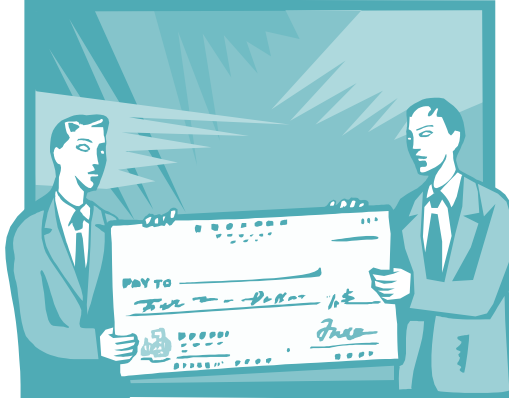
*Make a difference!*



## NEW EQUIPMENT FOR LA CASA!

La Casa has recently received much needed equipment thanks to the Rotary District 5520, Rotary District 4110, Rotary International and the Chihuahua Amigo Club. The clubs generously donated \$18,000 to La Casa, which was used for La Casa's main shelter office and their satellite Anthony office. Such items that were purchased with these funds were dressers for the shelter, play therapy toys for the children, new computers, desks and many more items which they were in desperate need of. We give our sincere thanks and gratitude!

Because La Casa is a non-profit agency providing services to families suffering from domestic violence, donations and supplies are always



# We Need Your Help!

La Casa, Inc. of Las Cruces has been providing counseling and a safe place to stay for victims of domestic violence and their children since 1981 and depends on the financial support of individuals, businesses, churches and service groups for one fourth of our annual budget.

These monetary contributions are used for such varied expenses as: food, utilities, salaries for shelter workers, educational and recreational materials for the children at our shelter, and travel expenses for victims and their children needing to relocate for safety reasons.

Please continue to support your local shelter and the victims and children we serve.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gina Orona-Ruiz

January brought tremendous enthusiasm and vision as staff, the board of directors and guild members met in a strategic planning session to discuss our work in addressing domestic violence in this community. It was a great opportunity to examine what has been accomplished over the last five years, revisit our mission statement and to envision what the future will look like.

With feedback from the people we serve, community agencies and others interested in the planning process, we

are ready to start the new fiscal year with a great plan that addresses facility needs, expansion/restructure of services, domestic violence education to our community, fundraising and strengthening our relationships in our community.

With an emphasis on providing adequate quality comprehensive services, La Casa has an incredible need for adequate facility space. Throughout 75% of the year, we have residents in the shelter residing in our living room and playroom

due lack of available bedroom space. In addition, our direct service staff many times has to alternate the use of office space in order to provide the privacy that each individual we serve deserves. As we begin the work on our strategic plan and work towards these very important goals, I am confident in the strength and support of our community in helping La Casa provide safety and support services for families who aren't afforded the peace at home many of us take for granted.

### OUR MISSION

La Casa is a non-profit organization providing comprehensive services, including shelter, in order to diminish domestic violence and abuse in all forms. Our services are available to ALL individuals, regardless of race, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

### OUR VISION

We envision a community knowledgeable about domestic violence and abuse and fully engaged and committed to their (its) eradication.

### OUR CREED

We believe domestic violence and abuse can be overcome. We believe that dignity, social justice, safety, freedom from abuse and the pursuit of happiness are basic human rights for all, rights that can only be realized with the active engagement of the entire community. In all our endeavors we affirm these rights without regard to race, creed, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or any other differentiating factors. We actively oppose all forms of violence and abuse including physical, psychological, emotional, verbal, sexual and economic.



P.O. Box 2463  
Las Cruces, NM 88004

phone: 505-526-2819

## La Casa Support Guild

2002—2003 Officers

President.....Linda Marr  
Vice President.....Sandy Larcher  
Secretary.....Amy Bush  
Treasurer.....Pascale Blue  
Past President.....Cookie Stephan



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*We hope that you enjoy our  
newsletter!*

*We welcome any questions  
or comments.*

*Please contact:  
Stephanie Chavez  
Email:  
Schavez@lacasainc.org  
Or call 526-2819  
with any newsletter  
inquires.*