



LA CASA

SUMMER 2009

Pat Acosta - Profile



Pat Acosta is the lead trainer for Encuentro Latino National Institute on Family Violence. The Institute was established this year in collaborative efforts between NMSU and La Casa Inc.

In 1982, Pat, a young barrio mother, chose to leave her abusive relationship and raise four daughters as a single parent. She has been involved in the Domestic Violence Movement since 1984. Serving in a variety of roles, Pat has been instrumental in developing and implementing community grass roots projects, mainly in distressed communities. Pat is a 1998 NMSU Social Work Program graduate. Her community contributions also include teaching the art of modern dance and the Chicano Street Teatro to young barrio girls.

Often you will hear her say:

“As a community advocate, you quickly learn and understand that the most important tool in the community mobilization are the gente (people) and its leaders. When they join efforts it’s that

human element that can impact lives and start to create CHANGE. But we must go to the people!”

Pat has been appointed to serve in local, state and advisory boards and often to speak on critical issues affecting Latino communities. These issues include domestic violence, community building, housing redevelopment, Latinos in public housing, self-sufficiency and self-esteem, teen pregnancy and teen dating violence, immigration, civil and human rights, substance abuse and working with male and female perpetrators.

In 1997, Pat was the recipient of the Presidential Silver Medal Service Award (the highest national recognition given to volunteers in the U.S.) Pat has appeared on local and national TV. She appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show segment featuring finalists of the Youth Summit in Philadelphia and with Colin Powell when he spoke of his America’s Promise Foundation.

Pat’s story has been featured in USA Today, and in the book, Voices from the Heart, In Celebration of America’s Volunteers. In April 2000, Pat appeared in McCall’s Magazine. She was honored to receive the APS Unsung Hero, Amiga Fronteriza and the Points of Light Foundation Volunteer Awards.

Yet, Pat considers her biggest awards to be the letters, drawings and cards from people she has known; the victims, perpetrators and co-workers. Pat is a highly recognized Chicana, who through the art of volunteerism, activism, public speaking, training and dance has given

back to her community.

The Encuentro Latino National Institute on Family Violence was created through funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (HHS ACF) through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. This three year project has been funded for year 1 at \$250,000. The funding for levels for years 2 and 3 has yet to be determined and will involve a non-competitive reapplication.

The purpose of this project is to provide training and technical assistance on a national basis to help domestic violence organizations build their capacity to serve Hispanic clients. The Institute will offer services, such as the translation hotline, that indirectly increase the capacity to of domestic violence organizations to serve Hispanic mono-lingual Spanish speaking individuals. Additionally, the Institute will engage in promoting and researching new and innovative practices for working with Hispanic populations.



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Planned Giving

By Patricia McClure

It's funny how one thought always leads to another thought. Two of my three sons are heading off to the Middle East soon, one as a private contractor and the other as military. I can't tell you exactly how I feel about that, because I try not to think about it. But I can tell you, thoughts of death crept into the mind a little more than usual. Yuck.

I don't like being morbid, particularly when it comes to my sons, so I started brainstorming generic ideas about how a person could cope in a positive way about death. Now before you think I've totally lost my mind, I actually thought of some things that stopped my morbid thoughts and really made me feel better! And even better, I stopped thinking about my sons and started thinking, for the first time, about estate planning.

I recall, from a very distant anthropology class, a culture somewhere in Africa that believed as long as a person is remembered, they're never truly dead. Once a person is forgotten then they are finally, totally and truly, dead. For some reason, that concept has always resonated with me.

And as a community-oriented person, I really like the idea of contributing to my community even when I'm gone.

I didn't know much about endowments until I started working at La Casa and I tell you, I really like the concept. It makes me feel good, peaceful actually, to think the money I'd bequeath to the endowment is never touched, only the interest the money generates will be used. It's like a part of me will always be here helping La Casa.

There are many different planned giving methods and I'll take a look at them over time. I'm on a roll now and want to compare the different giving plans. But in the meantime, if this is something that resonates with you, too, please give me a call. Researching information with other people always produces richer results than tackling something alone. Well, at least for me it does!

And it's always great when yucky thoughts can be transformed into lovely ideas!

Valentines Festivities

On February 13th, 2009, the Families Program held a St. Valentine's Party for all the children in the shelter. Volunteers from the Boy Scouts came to La Casa Inc. and provided different types of activities. Food and gifts were provided to all the children and their families. A juggler, who was a great surprise to us all, made the event that much more enjoyable.

The following day, Saturday February 14th, a Valentine's Breakfast was held for the Shelter Clients and their children. The event was held by the Heart for the World Church and coordinated by one of their volunteers, Lindsey Reyes. Both Elena, our child advocate, and Patti, the children's counselor, transported all 15 women and their children to the church where they were awaited with a wonderful breakfast, followed by testimonials from DV survivors and a closing with a great dance performance.

The women were all very excited and happy to know that they had been recognized on that day.

Every woman was given a rose and gift bag and all the children had activities that arranged by age groups, while their mothers were pampered the rest of the morning.

This was a very memorable day not only for the women but all of us who attended this event.



Community Groups and Organizations Support La Casa

Gypsy Queens of New Mexico EBay Fundraiser Auction

The Gypsy Queens of New Mexico held a week long EBay auction, March 1 through 8. A variety of art work, jewelry and tattoo time was auctioned off. This fundraiser generated a lot of interest with the press culminating with an article in the Las

Cruces Bulletin and a TV interview on KVIA Channel 7 News. 75% of the proceeds went to La Casa. The Gypsy Queens raised over \$500 for La Casa.

Picacho Hills Country Club Fashion Show Luncheon

The Picacho Hills Country Club hosted a fashion show luncheon featuring clothes from Dillard's. La Casa staff and family members and Picacho Hills Country Club volunteers were models. Dillard's staff was on hand to assist the models and give out samples and goodies to those attending the luncheon. The Picacho Hills Country Club raised \$176 for La Casa.



Sun-News photo by Norm Dettlaff

3rd Annual Butterfield Range War

Local law enforcement and the Picacho Posse Gun Club were involved in a friendly shooting

competition at the Butterfield Shooting Range on March 28.

It was a contest pitting cowboy action shooters against seven law enforcement agencies from the state. Approximately, 50 cowboys, cowgirls and law enforcement officers took part in the competition. Cowboy Mica McGuire took 1st place in the competition with LCPD Mark Nunley taking 2nd.

A .22 Henry Golden Boy long rifle was raffled at \$5 a ticket. Proceeds went to La Casa's Domestic Violence Shelter and La Pinon's Sexual Assault Recovery Program. Approximately \$3000 was raised in this event.

Shootout sponsors were 1st American Bank, Mathers Realty, Custom Cartridge, Smith & Aguirre Construction, Aguirre Auto Service, Sportsmen's Warehouse, Western Fabrication and DJ Welding.

Las Cruces Kings Semi-Pro Football Team Hosts Toiletry Drive

The Las Cruces Kings football team's schedule runs February to May. Admission is free to their Saturday home games at Sierra Middle School, but on Saturday, March 14th, the Kings asked the public to bring to the game a toiletry item for a shelter resident. A variety of items were donated ranging from toothbrushes to deodorant to shampoo. La Casa received two boxes of items for the shelter.

The Kings are planning a football camp for the children living in the shelter or have a parent in the non-resident counseling program and/or participating in the Children's Program. This camp is scheduled to take place in May. For more information about the Sun Kings go to: <http://www.hometeamsonline.com/teams/?u=NMAFL&t=c&s=football&p=home>

The Revolution Motorcycle Club Host Clothes Drive

A new El Paso motorcycle club that emphasizes family and community involvement, in February, hosted a clothes drive among the many El Paso motorcycle groups during a weekend Poker Run. On the following Monday, The Revolution MC brought to La Casa three shopping carts full of clothes for all ages groups and sizes.



left to right: Steven Sanchez, Jacqueline Sanchez, Jeanette Castillo, Patricia McClure, Nicole Rede, Angie Rodriguez, Kathy Wise, Pat Acosta, Andrew Yabumoto.



The “Sometimes There’s More To Life Than Making Money” Award

La Casa thanks **On-Sale Tires** and **J&J Mufflers** for helping La Casa solve a problem at the expense of making a profit.

One morning, a shelter resident, discovered one of her tires slashed. She was out of money and had planned to go job hunting that day. La Casa staff drove around town looking for a cheap good tire. Some dealers wanted to help but didn’t have a tire, other dealers had no interest in helping. Finally, late in the afternoon, when contacted, the On-Sale Tire Manager sold La Casa a brand new tire at cost and mounted the new tire on the client’s car for free. The happy client was able to resume her job hunting the next day.

La Casa receives many furniture donations that are given to clients throughout Dona Ana County. Often times, clients have no means to pick up the furniture and La Casa had no trailer to take the furniture to the clients. Jim Duttie of J & J Muffler sold, at cost, to La Casa a new trailer complete with ramp. Now La Casa is able to make weekly furniture deliveries to clients in need.

It’s always amazing to watch problems dissolve into thin air when folks lend a hand!

South Valley Office

La Casa’s South Valley Office may not offer shelter to domestic violence victims, but it has become a highly resourceful place for the communities of Anthony, Sunland Park, Chaparral and Hatch. The South Valley Office provides domestic violence counseling, support and advocacy for domestic violence victims and their families in Dona Ana County.

The South Valley Office accepts crisis walk-ins and phone calls. If it’s determined a restraining order is needed, the staff will assist the victim in filing the order or will refer the clients to La Casa’s attorney. Staff also refers clients to Legal Aid if necessary. The staff provides information and services to victims by referring them to government and non-profit agencies that can provide help to victims’ most immediate and pressing needs and problems.

Victim case management encompasses a wide variety of issues, problems and concerns. Staff guide victims through

life’s challenges in areas such as financial planning, job preparation, goal planning, education planning, and/or housing. La Casa staff is always there to assist victims with any type of life skills knowledge, great or small. Individual and children’s counseling are also available.

Once a week, the South Valley staff travel to Hatch to meet with domestic violence victims. Since there is no Hatch office, meetings take place where victims feel safe. Sometimes it’s during a safe time in the client’s home or some other predetermined place, indoors or out.

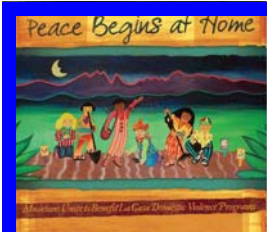
The South Valley Office accepts all types of donations: furniture, linens, clothes, food, etc. These donations are offered to current clients. Call the South Valley Office at 882-3008 to find out what type of donations are currently needed.

Residential Counseling Services

By Celene Silva

Upon entering the shelter, clients are assigned a domestic violence residential counselor. Through counseling, clients learn the dynamics of domestic violence and about healthy relationships. Clients also learn techniques on how to deal with stress, increase their self-esteem, feel independent and how to cope with their feelings and emotions. Counselors help clients develop a domestic violence safety plan to promote the safety and well-being of the client. This plan is reviewed regularly by counselor and client to insure the client’s safety is protected.

“Peace Begins at Home” CD



Local musician, Chris Sanders wanted to create a fundraising CD for La Casa when, “Ryan Steinmetz introduced me to a courageous woman, a La Casa client, whose story became the inspiration for this musical garden of songs.” She asked her musician friends to donate a song for the CD named, Peace Begins at Home, asked a graphic designer friend to do the art work and she became the CD’s producer. The art work on

the cover was taken from a mural in the shelter’s play room that was painted by Lindy Bridgers.

Musical Artists include: Chris Sanders, Steve Smith, Randy Granger, James Gier, Ana Egge, The Chenille Sisters, Laura Kemp, Charlie Wood, Jim Shearer, Cider Jazz, Bob Einweck and Melissa Rios.

The CDs are \$20, 100% of the proceeds will go to the Capital Campaign. The CDs may be purchased at La Casa’s Administrative offices or through any La Casa Board member or Guild member.

Newsletter recipients have the option of having the CDs mailed to them free of charge. That’s our small way of thanking you for your support. Call La Casa at 526-2819 and ask for Patricia or Kathy and they will take your order or use the order form below.

Now on sale at the Barnes & Noble NMSU Bookstore:

NMSU Bookstore is located in Corbett Center on the NMSU Campus.

Hours: M-F 8:00 am- 5:30 pm

Sat. 10:00 am-2:00 pm

“Love is Not Abuse” T-shirt

Every year, student artists from local schools submit posters about domestic violence for October’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month. La Casa receives so many thought provoking works of art that it is often difficult to a select the winner.

As a fundraiser, it was decided to create a t shirt with a powerful image concerning domestic violence. The art work selected was from the 2007 first place winner from Mayfield High school.

These t shirts can be purchased for \$15 at La Casa’s administrative office. Sizes available are small to extra large. T shirts will be mailed free to newsletter recipients. Call 526-2819 and ask for Patricia or Kathy and they will take your order or use the order form below.



Please make checks payable to La Casa or you may contribute by Visa or MasterCard.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone _____

Ship to address if different from above

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

	Quantity	Price	Total
Peace Begins at Home CD	_____	\$20.00	_____
Love is Not Abuse T-shirt	_____	\$15.00	_____
Small () Medium () Large () X-Large ()			
Grand Total:			_____

I want to pay by : Visa MasterCard Cash

Credit card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name as appears on credit card: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to La Casa, Inc. P.O. Box 2463 Las Cruces, NM 88004

Call 526-2819 and ask for Patricia or Kathy and they will take your order.

Upcoming Fundraisers

Steve Smith and Hard Road Benefit Concert-KRWG-FM and La Casa

An evening with Steve Smith and Hard Road Band with special guests Bill Evans and Bill Amatneek. Thursday April 16, 2009 @ 7:30 pm at the Rio Grande Theatre. Tickets go on sale March 20th at Enchanted Gardens and KRWG-FM office, Room 117 in Milton Hall or online at www.krwg.org. Tickets: Adults- \$15 in advance, \$20 at door; Students (6-15)- \$7.50 in advance, \$10 at door.

Garage Sale

La Casa garage sale will be held on Saturday May 30 from 6:30 am to 2:30 pm at La Casa.

Fashion Show

Preston Contemporary Art Gallery will host a fashion show featuring local clothes shops and jewelry artists on Saturday, June 13. Time to be announced. Tickets: \$15. 1755 Calle de Mercado, Mesilla, NM 88046. 523-8713.

Girls' Night Out

Helping Hand Event Planning is coordinating a Girls Night Out on Friday, June 26 at the Old Amador Hotel. An evening of pampering activities such as manicures, pedicures, facials, massages and much, much more. Admission is \$50 and all proceeds will go to La Casa.

La Casa Baseball Night at Cohen Stadium

Monday July 27 is La Casa Night at Cohen Stadium. The El Paso Diablos will be playing Shreveport. Game time 7:05 pm. Admission is a \$2 donation to La Casa.



Volunteer Recognition

La Casa Inc. would like to thank Leah M. Lopez for her dedication to the Batters Intervention Program and Administration Department. Leah has worked with us since February of this year and she plays an important role in both programs since she is always eager to work no matter how small or big the task is. Leah will graduate from NMSU this May with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Women's Studies, she will be going to Santa Fe at the Southwest College to get her masters in Counseling. She really enjoys working with the victims and the perpetrators

Price's Creameries Generous Donation

La Casa was awarded \$14,000 from Price's Creameries' Community Grant Fund. This money will help create a modern and safe playground for children living at the shelter. The total cost for the playground is \$30,000.



Amy Johnson Bassford and Patricia McClure

La Casa Garage Sale

La Casa garage sale was held January 31. This was the first garage sale since the expansion construction began in 2007, so there were a lot of good deals in furniture, clothes and miscellaneous items. Despite the cold temperature of 19 degrees, hardy customers and volunteers arrived at La Casa at 6:30 am. Sales remained strong and steady until the 2:30 pm closing time. The garage sale made over \$2000. A very warm thank you to the faithful and loyal volunteers who braved the cold weather!

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Mail Back Donation Form

La Casa programs and services, not to mention the domestic violence victims who La Casa serves, depend on your generosity and the generosity from the community. You can make a secure online donation through PayPal at www.lacasainc.org or you can mail the donation form below to:

La Casa Inc.

P.O. Box 2463 Las Cruces, NM 88004.

Our sincere thanks and gratitude to ALL who contribute in any way.

I would like to make a tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ (enclosed)

I am interested in talking with the Resource Development Manager about giving non-cash assets, such as stock or real estate. _____.

I am interested in talking to the Resource Development Manager about making a donation to La Casa's endowment _____.

My employer, _____, will match my gift.

Please make checks payable to La Casa or you may pay by Visa or MasterCard.

My Name (our names) _____

Address _____

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Signature _____



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