



La Casa, Inc. - P.O. Box 2463
 Las Cruces, NM 88004
 (505) 526-2819

Who Are We?

La Casa, Inc. was founded in 1981 to provide housing for battered victims and their children in Doña Ana County. Throughout the eighties and early nineties, we continued growing and started new programs to better meet the needs of the families we serve. Since our founding, we have served thousands of individuals and we now offer programs to help every member of a family experiencing domestic violence. La Casa plays a leadership role locally and statewide on issues relating to family violence, crime victim's services and homelessness, through participation in coalitions and taskforces, public awareness campaigns, and outreach to community groups and families in need throughout the region.

Services are provided in Las Cruces and in Anthony, Chaparral, and Sunland Park. The shelter in Las Cruces, which can shelter 45 women and children in sixteen bedrooms at any given time, has been at full capacity several times since the completion of our new facility in the spring of 1996. All services in Las Cruces are provided in the one 17,000 square-foot building donated by the New Mexico National Guard and the City of Las Cruces. Services beyond emergency shelter include counseling for victims, their children, and perpetrators; transitional housing; and advocacy with the courts and other community organizations. The fact that nearly all services are provided under one roof is a major strength of La Casa, allowing for better provision of support and coordination of services.

*La Casa-continuously striving for
 advocacy and action for a
 SOCIAL CHANGE*

2003 Annual Report

LA CASA, INC.

Our Mission Statement

Whereas, The Board of Directors and Staff of La Casa, Inc. are committed to working against violence toward women. Our belief is that the problems of battered women and their children are a result of both personal and societal violence. We have dedicated ourselves to the empowerment of battered women and their children.

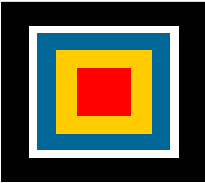
Be it resolved that, The primary mission of La casa, Inc. will be focused on assisting battered women to increase their self-esteem and to become self-sufficient. la Casa, Inc. shall provide shelter, counseling, education on domestic violence, and advocacy in a supportive environment provided regardless of race, creed, sex, age, physical impairment, religion, or sexual preference.

And, La Casa, Inc. will teach alternatives to violence in relationships to battered women, their children and perpetrators of abuse. We will provide education to our community, targeting domestic violence prevention education to our youth. La Casa's goal is to promote positive changes in personal relationships as well as to involve educational, judicial, social, and economic institutions in the efforts of La Casa, Inc. to further the empowerment of women in our society.

**1 IN 4
 WOMEN
 EXPERIENCE
 DOMESTIC
 VIOLENCE**



**DO YOU
 KNOW
 ONE OF
 THEM?**



HIGHLIGHTS THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Individuals Served 1,748

Shelter Days of Care- Adults	4,472
Partial Days of Care- Adults	10
Care & Support Per Child	11,788
TOTAL DAYS OF CARE	16,270
<u>Hours of Service</u>	
Client Support Services	1,848.15
Clinical Counseling/Mental Health	17.75
Counseling Mental Health	993.75
Counseling Mental Health/Group	393
Crisis Intervention 24 Hour	165.25
Crisis Intervention Non-Registered	345.5
DV Service Assessment	313
Life & Social Skills/Mental Health	457.25
Life & Social Skills/Group	825.5
Mental Health Diagnostic Evaluation	2
Socialized Assessment	2
MEALS & SNACKS SERVED	32,531

We Need Your Help!

La Casa depends on the financial support of individuals, businesses, churches and service groups for one fourth of our annual budget.

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.

These monetary contributions

Gina Orona-Ruiz, Executive Director

LA CASA OFFERS A VARIETY OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES TO FIT THE NEEDS OF ALL WHO ARE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE...

Emergency Shelter Program

Offers safe housing, counseling, and advocacy to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Victims who are in immediate danger receive first priority, but we also assist victims of emotional and/or sexual abuse.

Children's Program

Provides individual, group, and family counseling. Additional parent training and recreational activities offered for children residing in the shelter. The program also provides non-residential counseling. Available in Las Cruces, Anthony and in the public schools.

Battering Intervention Program

A 26 week program for individuals with a history of partner abuse, either self-referred or court mandated, providing participants with information and practical tools to change those values, beliefs, and behaviors which support the use of physical, verbal, emotional, or sexual abuse. Nine groups available including Spanish speaking only groups. Services offered in Las Cruces and Anthony.

Transitional Housing Program

Provides short-term transitional housing for domestic violence victims and their children, case management, life skills training, and counseling.

South Valley Outreach Counseling Program

Provides group/individual counseling, support and advocacy for domestic violence victims and their children in the South and North Valley of Doña Ana County. Services provided at our satellite facility in Anthony, the Department of Health in Sunland Park and Chaparral.

Outreach and Education Program

Works to raise public awareness about domestic violence issues and the services for domestic violence victims and their families offered by La Casa, Inc. Speakers are available to give presentations to schools, churches, professional and community groups.

Specialized Parenting Education Program

Provides education services to families participating in our programs. Services are tailored to meet specific needs of families experiencing domestic violence. Basic parenting information and key issues are discussed in the context of the individual and generational effects on children witnessing abuse.

Civil Legal Services

Provides direct legal representation and services to domestic violence victims in Doña Ana County, NM on civil legal matters at protective order, child support and custody, divorce and immigration-related hearings.

Non-Resident Counseling Program

Provides counseling for victims of domestic violence who are not current residents of the La Casa shelter. Individual and group counseling is offered on an ongoing basis as well as legal advocacy and case management.

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

To end domestic violence in our families and communities through:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Education
- Develop Zero Tolerance Policies for domestic violence in our communities
- Provide temporary, emergency safe shelters for persons experiencing domestic violence
- Provide peer counseling, support, case management and advocacy to victims
- Give support to communities to develop standards for law enforcement, the courts and legal systems to ensure batterer accountability
- Provide networking opportunities for local social service providers, law enforcement, courts, medical providers, faith community, the private sector and others.



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.

There are twenty or more volunteers at La Casa in any given month. They may work directly with clients, or they may free up our employees to work more intensively with clients by offering administrative support.

Volunteers demonstrate their concern for others by becoming involved and no doubt return to the community far more knowledgeable about the effects and problems of domestic violence, thus becoming valuable liaisons. The La Casa staff greatly appreciates all the volunteers who are such an integral part of our organization.

A Message From the Executive Director:

The last year has been both a rewarding and an incredibly challenging year. It has brought renewed and strengthened collaborations with our community partners as well as an increase in individuals utilizing our services with limited space and resources. It has been with the help of those community partners who have demonstrated a sincere commitment to ending violence in our community that our efforts have made a difference in the lives of many for whom home is an unsafe place.

Domestic violence is a serious problem in our community and it reaches many people from all walks of life. We all know someone who has somehow been affected by domestic violence- as a victim, a witness or as an offender. Because it affects all of us, it is important that we as a community maintain a no-tolerance policy towards domestic violence in our own lives as well as in our communities.

La Casa's primary goal is to provide safety for victims of

domestic violence and their children. All other goals and efforts must be met in a way that does not compromise this principle. For that reason, it is important that we work closely with community partners and assure that victims can effectively access their services. This is precisely why we have emphasized our efforts this year in including our community partners in our effort to end violence. Victims of domestic violence can't escape from abuse when they have nowhere to go, no help to get there, and no money. By ourselves, La Casa will never solve these economic, housing, and health problems associated with domestic violence. They require solutions and partnerships far bigger than those we have yet designed. To work on issues related to domestic violence it requires that we collaborate with many new partners, that they learn more about domestic violence, and that we learn more about their services.

I believe that the role of domestic violence organizations - in collaboration with others - is to

carry out a vision and a plan for making the world better for all victims of domestic violence

that we see and those whom we will never see. We should also serve as a reminder about the very diverse ways victims respond to violence and the very diverse needs they have.

It is the support and partnerships of individuals, businesses and agencies in our community as well as our legislators that has made it possible for La Casa to continue our work. Families experiencing domestic violence can find safety at La Casa as well as a place to decide what their next decision will be because of those who care enough to support our mission. Thank you Las Cruces and Dona Ana County for your participation in our efforts!

Gina Orona-Ruiz

A Message from the President of the Board of Directors:

Our efforts to minimize domestic violence and to bring awareness of domestic violence to the public's attention has been a difficult journey. However, we had assistance in the last year by members of the New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence, New Mexico Judiciary, and Senators Mary Kay Papen and Dede Feldman. Domestic violence was a priority at the 2003 session and all of the bills we supported were signed by Governor Bill Richardson.

Many wonderful things have also happened locally. The shelter received much needed improvements of new carpet and

fresh paint. We served many families and made many displaced families holidays much brighter by offering gifts and food baskets.

Our Anthony facility was provided much needed services thanks to efforts of Chuck Bisbee.

Past President Jon Juarez was an integral part of the progression La Casa enjoyed during my term. We are lucky to have him on our team. We have a very dedicated and hard working board that I am proud to be part of. The term of service for several board members has expired and there is not enough praise and

gratitude that I can give them for all they have done for La Casa through their many years of service. Judy Finch, Cheryl Nims- thank you.

There is what seems to be never ending work ahead to stop domestic violence. La Casa has set high goals for the coming year to continue on its quests to help those who can not always help themselves. Our new President Meryl Schwalm will be leading the way along with La Casa's incredible board. My time as board President was both fulfilling and challenging. Thank you for the opportunity to spend my time for such a wonderful cause. *Denise Torres*

A Special Thanks To Our Angels

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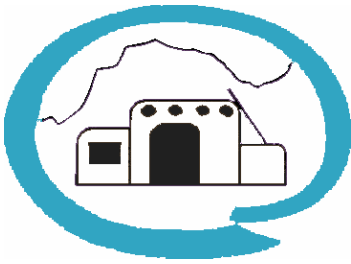
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La Casa, Inc.
P.O. Box 2463
Las Cruces, NM 88004

La Casa, Inc. is a United Way Agency



ANNUAL REPORT

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Ginny Richards
Cheryl Nims
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