



Newsletter

Foster Parents Needed!



Did you know that Childhaven recruits and licenses foster parents?

Childhaven wants to increase the number of quality foster homes available to children in our community. Many children wait months for a foster home to open up so that they may move out of their current placement and into a loving home. We want to eliminate this waiting period, and you can help.

By becoming a foster parent, you can provide a child with a safe, nurturing, loving family for a temporary period of time. Being a successful foster parent is hard work, and requires an open heart and home. Yet, foster parenting can be the most gratifying work your will ever do.

Are you interested in becoming a foster parent? For more information, contact Galadriel Currin 505-592-0650 or galadrielc@childhavennm.org.

Childhaven's Children's Advocacy Center Receives National Re-Accreditation

The Childhaven Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) recently received re-accreditation from the National Children's Alliance, the accrediting body for CACs in the United States. In order to achieve this standard of accreditation, a CAC must demonstrate a commitment to helping children heal from abuse by providing them with "effective, efficient, relevant, and compassionate services." There are 18 CACs in the state of New Mexico, only 5 of which are nationally accredited (including Childhaven and its satellite CAC in Gallup, NM).



NATIONAL
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ALLIANCE®
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Success in Parent Support Services



Since 1994, Childhaven's Parent Support Services has served the needs of clients and family members by providing individual support to families. Home-based or group-based parent education classes help individuals build Nurturing Parenting skills as alternatives to punitive child rearing practices. This evidence-based curriculum assists in the development of empathy, self-awareness and

self-worth in parents/guardians and their children. Since implementing this Nurturing Parenting Curriculum in 2016, Childhaven's outcomes have shown **94%** of the families have not sustained a repeat incidence of child maltreatment, signifying healthy and happier homes for children in our community!

Group parenting classes are FREE and occur weekly on Tuesday nights from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Pre-enrollment in the course is required. In-home and 1:1 sessions are also available for those in need. Dinner, child care and transportation are provided. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please contact the Childhaven Parent Support Worker at (505)592-0636.

Childhaven Employee Christianna Wilson Receives Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Excellence Award



Christianna Wilson, a Childhaven Youth Advocate and Life Skills Coach, received the Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice Excellence Award in recognition of her service as a Foster Youth Alumnus. The award is given at the New Mexico Children's Law Institute in January to members of the Children's Court community who have contributed significantly to their field and demonstrated outstanding dedication, leadership, knowledge, and integrity. Christianna's supervisor, Janice Davis, Childhaven Shelter Director commends Christianna for her work ethic and dedication to the youth. Christianna is not only an exemplary employee, but also a past recipient of Childhaven services. At ages 11 and 14, Christianna resided in Childhaven's Emergency Shelter following failed foster/adoptive home placements. While in Childhaven's care, Christianna was appointed a CASA Volunteer who eventually became her foster parent. With the support of her foster parents, Christianna applied for admission to private school (Navajo Preparatory School) in hopes of graduating high school. Three years later Christianna graduated on the Dean's List from Navajo Preparatory School.

Christianna has since aged out of the foster care system, but she continues to forge her own path. She is currently in pursuit of her degree from San Juan College, and has been employed by Childhaven for three years. Her unique ability to relate to children in the

shelter drove her to apply for a Youth Advocate position at Childhaven. Last year, Christianna was promoted to a new position, Life Skills Coach, in which she provides transitional age youth (ages 12-21) with the support they need to become happy, healthy adults. Christianna shares her lived experience with clients, telling them “I know how you feel; I was there once.” Christianna is an inspiration not only to the children and youth at Childhaven but also the staff. It is so rewarding to see the success of our Childhaven mission.

2018 Childhaven Employee of the Year

Bailey Henley, a Youth Advocate at the Emergency Shelter, was recently named Childhaven’s 2018 Employee of the Year. Her fellow co-workers nominated her for the award, commending her brilliance, incredible work ethic, bubbly personality, and positive attitude.

Congratulations, Bailey!
We are grateful to have you on our team!



2018 San Juan CASA Program Volunteer of the Year

Since becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate with Childhaven, Stacey York has advocated for 9 children, some of whom she worked with for only a number of months and others for as long as 5 years. Several of the children’s cases required that Stacey travel to other counties or states. Sometimes children were successfully reunited with family members, and sometimes they simply aged-out of the system; one youth was placed in 18 different homes prior to turning 18 years of age. Despite such challenges, Stacey

remains a good listener, which is why children, teens and families feel understood and cared for when speaking with her. The responsibilities of a CASA Volunteer are numerous, and maintaining regular contact with your CASA children regardless of distance is not easy. It requires dedication to the work, which is why Stacey York was selected as 2018 San Juan CASA Volunteer of the Year! Congratulations, Stacey, and thank you for all your dedication to the children!



Are you interested in becoming a CASA volunteer? The next set of CASA trainings will be on April 2-4, 6, 8, and 10-11, 2019. For more information, please contact Kaibah Gorman at 505-592-0617 or advocatecoach@childhavennm.org.

Highlights of Hope

Over the holiday season, many volunteers lent their assistance to projects and activities for the children at Childhaven, including:

- Providing meals for the children in the shelter
- Doing crafts and activities with the children during winter break
- Completing landscaping work on our properties
- Detailing Childhaven vehicles
- Painting and decorating a bedroom in the shelter



Thank you, volunteers!

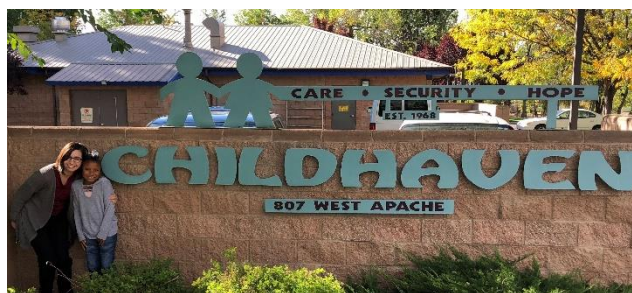
Childhaven appreciates all who donated Christmas gifts for the children receiving services through Childhaven. Your generosity allowed us to ensure that each child received gifts this year!

Gifts for children in the shelter were hand-delivered by Santa, Mrs. Clause, and Buddy the Elf during an annual Christmas party hosted by Farmington High School's National Honor Society students.



Third-Grader Raises Money for Childhaven

When an opportunity arose to complete a community service project for her third-grade class, Shia Neil knew she wanted to do something to help children in need. What started out as a small project soon grew: Shia organized a Facebook fundraiser and sold some of her toys at a yard sale. Others joined her cause by contributing to the yard sale, and she donated proceeds from both fundraisers to Childhaven. Afterward, Shia still wanted to do **more** to support the children, so she prepared and sold baked goods during the Thanksgiving season.



Shia's commitment to community service is remarkable; all combined this eight year-old raised over \$1,000 for the children at Childhaven as part of a home-school project. When asked why she chose to organize a project benefitting Childhaven, Shia said, "I chose to help Childhaven because I was adopted when I was two. I want other kids to have a chance at a safe home like I have." It is truly touching to see the power of her commitment to give back to the community.

2018 Pledge for Children Campaign

Thank you to the heroes who gave to the Childhaven Foundation's 2018 "Pledge for Children" campaign. We raised over \$46,000, and could not have done it without your support and generosity!

The Childhaven Foundation would like to acknowledge our board members, ambassadors, and sponsors, whose support and dedication bolstered this campaign's success!



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