



May 2019 Newsletter

28th Annual "More the Merrier" Campaign

For almost thirty years, our "More the Merrier" campaign has supported Childhaven's current and future ability to provide services to children and families in need. Throughout the years, many people have come together to show their support of Childhaven at our "More the Merrier" bike rides, walk and rolls, and parties in the park. This year, the Childhaven Foundation is excited to announce that the 2019 "More the Merrier" will be a celebration of Childhaven's 50th Anniversary. In lieu of an event, we will be producing a commemorative publication, entitled ***Childhaven: 50 Years of Lifting Children from Crisis to Hope*** to highlight the history of Childhaven and those who have contributed to the organization's accomplishments.



Can you help us reach our goal of **\$40,000**? Your contribution will benefit countless at-risk children and youth and will help Childhaven accomplish its mission of "Lifting Children from Crisis to Hope" for many years to come.

Sponsorship opportunities will be available to those who donate \$150 or more to this campaign. For a sponsorship form or more information, call 505-592-0625 or email devdirector@childhavennm.org.

Childhaven's 50th Anniversary Celebration



Please join us at 6 PM on September 7, 2019 to celebrate the many children and families that have been positively impacted by Childhaven's services over the last 50 years! The event will take place at the Farmington Civic Center. We would love to have as many community members present as possible – our work would not be possible without your support!

Tickets are available for a minimum donation of \$50 each. Please call 505-592-0625 for more information.

Child Advocacy Victory

During the 54th legislative session this year, Childhaven's New Mexico Children's Alliance (NMCA) worked in partnership with several other organizations to pass House Bill 314, which ensures that child abuse victims in each of New Mexico's judicial districts will have access to the child-friendly, trauma-informed services provided by Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) around the state.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the "Children's Advocacy Centers Act" into law in April – this is a huge success for Childhaven and CACs around the state.

The NMCA and member CACs were also successful in securing additional state funding for the vital services we provide, as the number of abuse cases in New Mexico has increased by 86% since 2014.

What is a CAC?

CACs coordinate the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse while helping abused children heal. This is accomplished by bringing together professionals and agencies as a multi-disciplinary team to create child-focused approaches to child abuse cases. These disciplines include law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, mental health, medical, and child/family advocacy working together to conduct interviews and make team decisions about investigation, treatment, management, and prosecution of child abuse cases. There are 18 CACs in New Mexico, five of which are nationally accredited by the National Children's Alliance. Two of these accredited CACs belong to Childhaven!

San Juan CASA Training and Volunteer Award

Childhaven's San Juan CASA program had 10 new volunteers complete their spring pre-service training!



There was significant community support given during the 30-hour training. Many people within the social work and legal professions gave presentations and donations for meals were given from the following business: Weck's, Tomo's, Porter's, Riverside Pizza, Olive Garden, and Four Corners Mechanical.

In 2018, 71 CASA volunteers advocated for 156 children in active Abuse and Neglect cases. This represents 95% of the children that went before the Children's Court Judge in San Juan County. In 2019, for the first time ever, 100% of the children in state legal custody are assigned a CASA volunteer to their case.



On April 11, 2019, our CASA Volunteers were awarded the Group Volunteer Award at the San Juan College Volunteer Awards Reception. They were recognized for their outstanding work and commitment to children in our community.

Foster Parents Needed



Many children in our community 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. To learn more about becoming a foster parent, contact our Foster Care Liaison at (505) 592-0650.

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes."

-Mr. Rogers

Help Childhaven

Donate Used Items



Childhaven has a new donation bin for lightly used children's clothing and toys! To donate your items, please bring them in large trash bags and drop them in the bin which is located near the north side of the shelter.

Please bring monetary donations or new donated items into the shelter.

To view our current wish list, please visit childhavennm.org

Casseroles for Kids



Childhaven needs frozen casseroles!

Every Tuesday evening, Childhaven provides a free parent education class to members of the community. We cook approximately three pans of frozen casseroles every week to feed the parents attending the class and their children who are watched during the class by our staff in the Childhaven Emergency Shelter.

If you are interested in bringing a frozen casserole to the Childhaven shelter, please call 505-592-0625!