

# Human Services Committee

## Small Grantee End of Year Updates

Coming Home Connection

Girls Inc.

SFPS Office of Equity and Inclusion

SFPS Parent Academy

SF Veterans Alliance

Scott's House

SITE Santa Fe

The Birthing Tree

# Coming Home Connection

## “Taking Care of Neighbors”



# Successes

- In-home care and support services were provided to low-income older adults living alone in Santa Fe
  - 3 hours every other week for six months (40 hours of service for each client)
    - Funding provided for 8 clients
  - Services provided included:
    - Light housekeeping
    - Meal prep
    - Transportation for groceries and medical appointments
- Developed a solid cadre of TCN caregivers
  - Higher rate of pay led to a reliable, consistent roster of TCN caregivers
  - CHC convened TCN caregivers for feedback and self-care strategies

# Challenges

- Some TCN clients had difficulty keeping appointments or trusting caregivers
  - Last-minute cancellations, refusal to allow a caregiver to enter the home
- Client consistency
  - Two TCN clients eventually declined the services, two TCN clients passed
  - In all cases, CHC replaced those clients with waitlisted clients to provide total funded hours of service

girls  
inc.  
of Santa Fe

Girls Inc. of Santa Fe

# Successes

- We noticed a substantial increase in the number of people seeking funds for groceries, and were glad to be a resource to them to help address food insecurity.
- We were able to provide money to off set medical procedures/expenses, rent, utilities, and immigration processing fees.
- We disbursed funds to 46 households

# Challenges

- We received more requests than we could fulfill and it's difficult to have to tell people we can't help them at the amount that would make a serious impact.
- The staff member who does our navigation is not a fluent Spanish speaker, so we needed support from other staff to interpret
- There was sometimes hesitation and embarrassment in having to enroll in the Unite Us database
- We received a request from someone living in a shelter for groceries. It was difficult not to be able to offer help that would address the root cause of their distress.

Santa Fe Public Schools  
Office of Equity & Inclusion  
Volunteer Program

# Successes

- Securing contracted support staff to help with all areas of the Volunteer Program from, onboarding to training and implementing teams.
- Implementation of one pilot volunteer team at Mandela International Magnet School serving middle school grade levels. One volunteer indicated that he would not be participating if it was not for the implementation of the team.
- Procurement of a national professional development company, Strobel Education to provide 4 full day learning opportunities for our volunteer program.
  - The topics will include Classroom and Behavior Management, Engaging the 21st Century Learner, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Trauma Informed Practices.
  - These topics will not only provide better informed adult volunteers, but will also give them a time to connect with each other and create a strong community who work together to make a better Santa Fe.

# Challenges

- Having an exceptionally unique school year with many unexpected obstacles, left me with limited time to research and implement the full goals of the grant.
- Volunteer participation and enrollment in training opportunities.
- Limited training facilitators, who are nationally and locally recognized to support volunteer training courses.
- Changes in proposed budget.
  - Shifting from our proposed budget to utilizing the funds for our program to work with a single national provider who will facilitate volunteer learning opportunities.



## **PARENT ACADEMY**

Raquel Plaza

SFPS Parent Academy Manager/Liaison

# Successes

- Goals met by offering the following free classes to Santa Fe adult learners:
  - Spanish G.E.D Support (General Educational Development Test)
  - Computer Basics and Intermediate
  - Spanish for Beginners
- Childcare and certificates provided to adult learners
- Survey results: positive feedback for all classes offered. The GED and the Computer instructors were commended for their patience and effective strategies. The Spanish learners commented on how the class helped them to learn Spanish and how they have incorporated it into their daily lives. Parents expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to learn a new language while their children were safe, engaged, and socializing with peers.

# Challenges

- The timing of the receipt of the purchase order (October 16) posed difficulties, as the academic semester had already begun in August and was scheduled to conclude in December - with Thanksgiving break in between. The timing impacted the ability to recruit instructors, organize class schedules, and coordinate logistics such as facility agreements and promotional materials during the Fall semester, postponing some of the classes, such as Spanish, until the Winter/Spring semester.
- Another challenge has been low enrollment and attendance in our adult classes - for example: around 20% decrease in attendance for the ESL Title I classes since mid-January - largely due to fears among low-income and immigrant adults about attending public events and classes even when free.

# Santa Fe Veterans Alliance

Year ending June 30, 2025

## Challenges experienced over the past year:

- Finding landlords willing to accept housing vouchers.
- Attempting to assist Veterans who do not want to be housed and who live "off the grid".
- Scarcity of available Mental Health assistance for Veterans.
- Overcoming the stigma associated with being homeless.
- Obtaining forms of Identification.

## Successes over the past year:

- Assisted 166 Veterans with direct services and referrals.
- Housed 17 homeless Veterans.
- Prevented 28 Veterans from becoming homeless.
- Developed 7 new community partnerships.
- Provided 41 Veterans with utilities, food, automobile repair, temporary housing, emergency home repair, and other urgently needed assistance.
- Worked collaboratively with community partners to provide a range of needed services.

# Challenges experienced over the past year:

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# Scott's House: Community Hospice and Respite Home



# Successes

- We provided free end-of-life hospice, respite, and support services to approximately 400 individuals in Santa Fe.
- We strengthened and expanded our referral network in the community by focusing on individual relationship-building with social workers in local hospitals and hospice agencies, as well as participating in Santa Fe's Eldercare Network.
- This outreach increased awareness of Scott's House as a trusted community resource for end-of-life care. Community providers know they can refer clients to us, and individuals in need know they can receive end of life services, regardless of their economic status.

# Challenges

- We had an unexpected facility issue during the grant period - our roof was in need of a major repair requiring us to start a fundraising campaign to cover the cost.
- Funding from the HSC helped support the cost of key caregiving personnel, allowing us to focus on fundraising efforts for this critical repair while maintaining consistent care for our residents.



SITE  
SANTA  
FE

# Successes

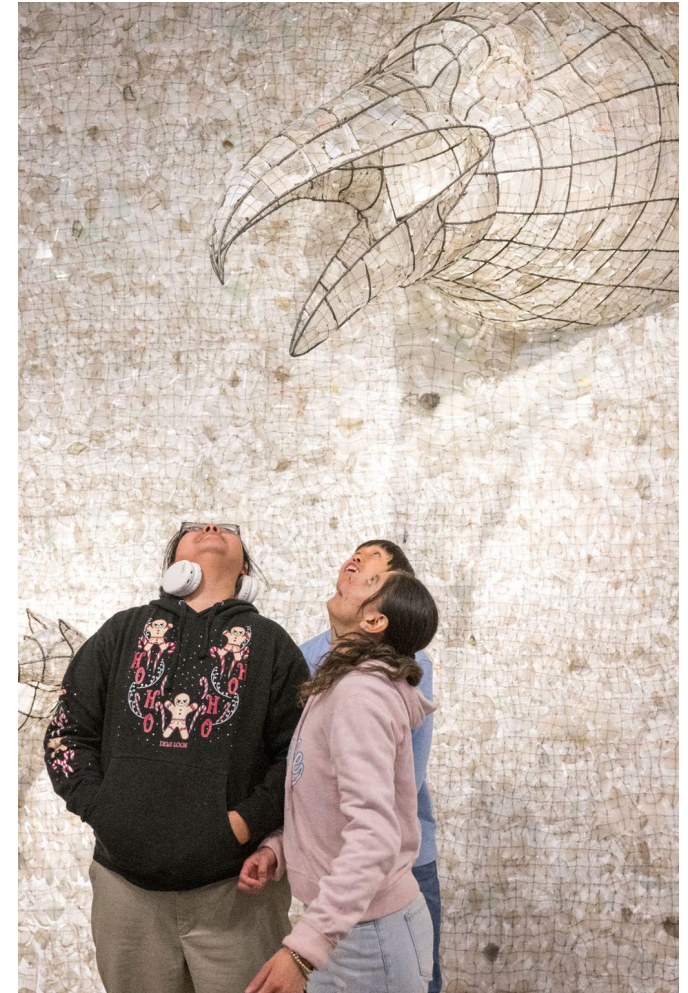
- 12 KIVA Program participants worked all year to translate their communication skills, collaborative efforts, and creativity into their very own independent film: <https://vimeo.com/1082333253/a5fcb46a77>
- On May 9th, KIVA students screened their film in SITE SANTA FE's auditorium. Students welcomed people into the space, took Polaroid photos, watched the film and, at the end, each student spoke a reflection on their experience.
- 75 attended, including family, friends, caregivers, school leaders, support educators, and previous KIVA students.



*KIVA Program students visit SITE SANTA FE exhibitions as part of the program.*

# Challenges

- Looking forward to the 2025-2026 school year, SFPS KIVA Program Instructors are creating two different classes to adapt to the variety of ability levels among students.
- An overall positive change, SITE staff will need to create different lesson plans for the two classes, one focusing on life skills, and the other focusing on workplace readiness skills. This will require additional staff time and management.



# The Birthing Tree

# Key Successes

- **Expanded Program:** Broadened birthing and doula support for uninsured, undocumented, and monolingual Spanish-speaking families in Santa Fe.
- **Leveraged Funding for Greater Impact:** Combined Small Grant funds with City of Santa Fe support and other non-federal sources and enabled service to 97 families with birth doula support and over 240 individuals through perinatal and postpartum support groups.
- **Early Prenatal Engagement:** Increased first-trimester doula care and prenatal care engagement.
- **Mental Health Support:** Postpartum visits helped reduce perinatal anxiety and depression risk.
- **Language and Cultural Equity:** Services delivered in Spanish and English by bilingual doulas providing culturally responsive care and navigation.
- **Community Collaboration:** Strengthened referrals from over a dozen local partners, reinforcing The Birthing Tree's role as a trusted safety net provider.

# Key Challenges

- **Shrinking Funding Landscape:** Loss of federal maternal health dollars has led to a surge in demand for limited non-federal funds.
- **Pressure from Larger Institutions:** Larger organizations now seek stopgap funding from the same non-federal sources, creating an unsustainable environment for small CBOs like ours.
- **Undocumented Families Left Behind:** We serve undocumented families who are excluded from most federal funding and remain largely unserved by other providers.
- **Rising Demand:** Community need continues to outpace capacity, with growing waitlists despite streamlined intake processes.
- **Complex Client Needs:** Families experiencing housing insecurity, domestic violence, and trauma often require intensive case management.
- **Delayed Medicaid Rollout:** Ongoing uncertainty around Medicaid reimbursement for doula services, especially for undocumented clients.
- **Low Postpartum Group Retention:** Birth support remains strong, but postpartum group attendance has been lower; strategies are in place to strengthen follow-up and engagement.