

Vision

Saranam's vision is to transform the lives of homeless families.

Mission

Empower families to end their homelessness and poverty through housing, education and supportive communities.



Saranam, located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is an innovative two-generational program that addresses the significant underlying causes of homelessness—lack of support systems and community, poverty, despair and isolation. Saranam provides **families** with safe housing, intensive case management, a supportive community, and a pathway forward to self-sufficiency through education. With basic living needs provided for up to two years, families are able to focus their efforts on education, vocational development and acquiring life skills for independent living.

Saranam's ultimate goal is for families to achieve self-sufficiency. To assist them on this path Saranam provides basic living needs to include fully furnished apartments, household supplies, and clothing. With these basic needs covered, families have up to 24 months to focus their efforts on education, vocational development and career goals while acquiring life skills for independent living.

Additionally, Saranam is committed to a new way of looking at generational poverty. A two-generational approach is an antipoverty initiative that provides services for both children and their parents. This approach helps families get what they need to create a legacy of economic stability and overall well-being that passes from one generation to the next. This approach recognizes that families come in all different shapes and sizes and that families define themselves.

The importance that a parent's education, economic stability, and overall health has on a child's trajectory is well documented. Likewise, children's education and healthy development inspire and encourage parents to set the entire family on a more secure path.

We work from and towards the needs of both the parent and the child, using research, education, and personal experience to determine what to include, change, or reform in our program. We have an 80% success rate of families successfully exiting the program into permanent, safe, stable living situations, where they are able to fully support themselves on their own income. The life skills we provide ensure that families are able to maintain and sustain these outcomes, which differ from other transitional and permanent housing programs, whose success rates, though seemingly similar to Saranam's, indicate continual financial assistance for housing and supportive services for their clients. In comparison, Saranam families are able to completely achieve self-sufficiency. The 80% of families who exit

successfully do so on their own income, which they earn through employment or scholarship and use to provide for their housing, utilities, and basic living supplies. Additionally, we provide support, programming and opportunities to increase assets for our alumni.

Saranam Campus

Saranam is committed to being a sustainable solution to homelessness. We have operated at our current 24-unit campus on the east side of Albuquerque since 2005. For the past five years we have been strategizing about building a second site to increase the impact we can have on ending family homelessness. To do so we are committed to a \$4 million capital campaign project and are purchasing a 3.5-acre property from Mesa View United Methodist Church located in Taylor Ranch on Montano Rd and Coors. This property is appealing as it provides many necessities for our clients: safety, public transportation, grocery, childcare and other services. It is on the bus lines that make accessing UNM and CNM campuses easy.

The concept design for the expansion project includes 25 small homes, a playground, a gathering space, a community garden and parking. The 3.5-acre space will also include classroom, storage and office space.

Saranam's Impact & Results

- **Education = increase income.** As a core component of the program Saranam knows, educational attainment positively influences earning potential increasing earning potential by \$9,600 annually for a person earning a high school diploma or GED, with an **additional \$6,200** or more for people with an associate's degree. A total of 14 high school/GED, 17 Associate Degrees, 2 Bachelor Degrees, and 11 Vocational Certificates have been earned over the last five years with many more in progress!
- **Self-sufficiency.** Saranam's **80% success rate** of families exiting the program into permanent, safe, stable living situations. Our families generate income and pay taxes, rent, utilities, etc. becoming stable, productive members of the community-at-large. Alumni continue to be stable and are now even purchasing their own homes!
- **Cost Savings.** The annual cost for housing and education at Saranam is **\$10,478 per person and \$33,530 for a family.** The **estimated annual cost to the city of Albuquerque per homeless person is \$42,790**, including medical, jail and emergency shelters. That is an annual savings of **\$32,312 per person.**
- For 16 years, Saranam has served 132 homeless families in Albuquerque, including 152 adults and 272 children.

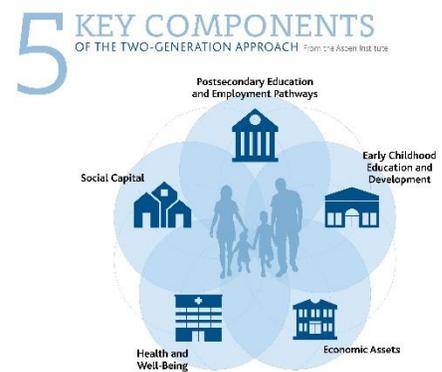


"I know my story might not be a fairytale, but my journey includes courage, perseverance, and hope... My safe haven is Saranam... Because of Saranam, I am the first person in my family to get a high school diploma."

The Program

Saranam's ultimate goal is for families to achieve self-sufficiency and long-term stability. To assist them on this path Saranam provides basic living needs to include fully furnished apartments, household supplies, and clothing. With these basic needs covered, families have up to 2 years to focus their efforts on education, vocational development and career goals while acquiring life skills for independent living.

- In year one, adults receive basic education on Saranam's campus from qualified instructors in order to develop academic skills in preparation for further study (GED, college prep, etc.) as well as life skills (parenting, financial literacy, safety, home care, addiction prevention, etc.)
- Next, adults receive vocational assessment around individual interests and abilities, set vocational goals and attend off-site training, vocational school or academic programs to prepare for employment
- Saranam provides families with guidance on career, academic, and financial goals and assistance with referrals, counseling, crisis management, childcare, transportation and enriching community activities.
- While participating in Saranam, families receive a year of practical life-skill instruction to address the barriers and challenges that led to homelessness. Families develop individual transition plans with specific goals to resolve barriers to self-sufficiency.
- Saranam ensures that relationship and community building are integral parts of the program. Saranam uses a peer group model whereby families enter and move through the program as a cohort. Living in the same housing complex, they immediately begin to create an established community, aiding them to gain important social skills such as conflict resolution, mutual reliance, negotiation and trust.
- Saranam's two-generational programming approach is an innovative characteristic that lays the foundation for families to attain self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty. Research shows that parents' education, economic stability and overall health has an impact on their children's trajectories. Similarly, children's education and healthy development inspire parents and set the entire family on a more secure path. **Saranam's programming encompasses all five** key components of a two-generational approach: 1) postsecondary education and employment pathways, 2) early childhood education and development, 3) economic assets, 4) health and well-being, and 5) social capital. Education is mandatory for adults entering Saranam. Having a high school diploma is the single most effective preventive strategy against adult poverty, and research corroborates that educational attainment positively influences earning potential.



- We believe a two-generational approach is necessary to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Our family and children’s programming provides access to on-site activities and developmentally appropriate life skills classes that mirror the adult classes. Children in our program can also receive private tutoring. Toddlers and preschool children participate in reading circles. We bring a wide variety of enrichment activities to the children, teens, and families each week, including science, arts, music, theater, entrepreneurship and financial management, cooking classes, anti-bullying initiatives, internet safety, and yoga.



Yudima has earned certificates as a qualified interpreter and phlebotomist. In her last few months at Saranam, she got a position as a nurse’s assistant in private doctor’s office and, approved for a first time homebuyer, bought her own home where she continues to live with her son and dog.

“Because of Saranam I understand what gratefulness truly means... I can take deep breaths without thinking about where I am going to sleep and eat tomorrow or how I am going to send my son to school. I can focus on my goals and build a strong foundation for my son.”



Jessica has just celebrated three years of sobriety! While at Saranam, she carried a full load at CNM and graduated with four associates degrees. Upon exiting Saranam she had a job at another local non-profit and is taking classes at NM Highlands toward a degree in Social Work.

*"It was because of Saranam that my sentencing was reduced to time served and probation... For the first time, I was proud of everything that I had overcome to make it to this moment- **I felt worthy.**"*



saranamabq.org
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