



Learning to SHARE

[SHARE New Mexico](#) is an online community space to share information and ideas, connecting people who are working together to drive change in New Mexico. In this newsletter, we will share a few of the collaborative ventures that are working together to create healthy, vibrant communities. We invite you to share what you are doing and learning in collaboration with others in *your* community.

WHAT WE CAN'T
DO ALONE
WE CAN DO
TOGETHER



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren - Sharing Joys, Challenges and Resources



According to the New Mexico State Plan for Aging & Long-Term Services Department, more than 46,000 grandparents in New Mexico are living with their grandchildren, with nearly 25,000 of those solely responsible for raising their grandchildren.

Connie Compton, a member of Albuquerque's [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Community Alliance](#), is one of those grandparents. She is raising one grandchild, now age 16, whom she's taken care of since he was a baby. "The group has just been the most wonderful experience for me, because grandparents raising grandchildren is very isolating in a lot of ways," Compton said. "Finding people in the same situation as you are in is just the best experience, because people don't understand what you're going through."

The upcoming "[Parenting the Second Time Around Conference](#)" on September 18th is a collaborative effort between Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and the Albuquerque [Dept. of Senior Affairs](#). The event, at the Barelás Senior and Community Centers, includes a resource fair, workshops, children's activities, free food, and music. That afternoon at 4:30 PM, the Dept. of Senior Affairs will launch the annual Barelás Fiesta, with a dance at the Barelás Senior Center – grandparents and grandchildren invited. The Fiesta will continue the next day, September 19th, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. For more information call the Barelás Senior Center at (505) 764-6436.

On October 16th the statewide "[Otra Vez: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren 2015 Conference](#)" will be at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center hosted by the [Española Grandparents Raising Grandchildren](#) program. Register by October 2, 2015 at [Las Cumbres Community Services](#).

SHARE New Mexico's [Healthy Aging initiative](#), sponsored by the [Con Alma Health Foundation](#), aims "to gather and share information and resources that will be helpful to seniors, their families, and caregivers." A special section for [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren](#) is designed and maintained by and for grandparents to connect people like Compton with resources, services, and people who do know what they are going through and want to help.

Support for Returning Citizens and their Families



The goal of SHARE's [Returning Citizens initiative](#) is "to reduce recidivism through the collaboration of community-based, faith-based, for-profit, not-for-profit, and government agencies that network, educate, nurture, train and work with returning citizens and their families to prepare for successful transition into society as productive, law-abiding citizens of the community." Two collaborations that are working to achieve that goal are highlighted here.

"The reason I like SHARE New Mexico so much is it gives us one site for everybody to go to," said Ann Edenfield Sweet, Executive Director and Founder of [Wings for Life, International](#), an organization that is "transforming lives to break the generational cycle of incarceration. "

"One in ten children in American classrooms has a parent in the penal system," Edenfield Sweet said, and 72% of children with family members in prison will go to prison themselves; but by providing support to the families, that impact can be reversed. The Returning Citizens Coalition, sponsored by Wings for Life, brings together organizations and services to provide a wide range of supportive resources to families before, during and after incarceration.

Recognizing that many men in prison are also parents, [Fathers Building Futures](#), a project of [PB&J Family Services](#), offers job training and career services for dads returning from prison. The program currently employs 15 fathers working in auto detailing, mobile power washing, freight delivery, and woodworking. Krystyna Cizek, Communications and Special Events Coordinator, explained that "we employ these fathers to help them with job development so they have a sustainable income for their families and so they are contributing to their community."



Recently, Fathers Building Futures partnered with [Roadrunner Food Bank](#) to help provide training and employment in freight delivery. "Once they get those skills here and get some work under their belt, they can go out and find jobs elsewhere," says Cizek. She believes the program is "important because these guys are determined, hard-working fathers who not only want to provide for their family, but to also contribute to their community."

Sharing Toys, Play and Learning in the South Valley

The University of New Mexico's Cariño Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance Program and CNM's Childhood Multicultural Education program have teamed up to bring a toy lending and resource library to the South Valley. [The Cariño Toy Lending Library](#), located at CNM's South Valley Campus, 5816 Isleta Blvd SW, SV-51. Paloma Gonzalez-Delgado, Toy Librarian (what a great job title!) helps visitors choose among the thousands of educational toys, games, materials, videos, books and other resources to check out at no cost. The library toys encompass all ages and stages of development as well as a resource section for teachers, providers and caregivers with literature and activity ideas to enhance child development, and most importantly, to make learning fun!



Recently, the Toy Lending Library set up a branch location at the new offices of [Partnership for Community Action](#) at 722 Isleta SW, Albuquerque. Joel Casas, Program Manager, says Cariño is looking for more partners to offer branch sites for the library. If you are interested, contact Joel or Paloma at 505-224-5017.

Sharing Healthy Food



As New Mexico's growing season comes to an end, there is still time to get fresh fruits and vegetables from local growers. Visit [New Mexico's Farmers Market website](#) to find a farmers market in your community, or check out one of the mobile markets that bring the produce to you.

[Bernalillo County's Mobile Market](#), which provides fresh fruits & veggies in Albuquerque, will be at these locations:

- Tuesdays, September 15, 29, and October 13 at First Nations Community Healthcare, 5608 Zuni Road SE from 12-2 P.M. and University of New Mexico's Southeast Heights Clinic, 8200 Central Avenue, from 3-5 P.M.
- Tuesdays, September 22nd, October 5th and 20th at Presbyterian Medical Group Clinic, 3436 Isleta Blvd. SW, from 12-2 P.M. and First Choice Community Healthcare, 2001 El Centro Familiar Blvd. SW, from 3-5 P.M.

In other parts of the State, [MoGro Mobile Grocery](#), a project of the [Santa Fe Community Foundation](#), offers organic grocery products and local produce to five Pueblos: Santo Domingo, San Felipe, Laguna, Cochiti and Jemez. The [Rio Puerco Alliance](#) is working to bring mobile farmers' markets to the Eastern Navajo Nation and is looking for volunteers and donations to help bring the idea to life. [Roadrunner Food Bank](#) offers mobile food pantries throughout the year. Also check out the [Street Food Institute's website](#) to learn about training programs for New Mexico entrepreneurs seeking "to employ sustainable business practices that support local farmers, entrepreneurs, and families."

Find these and other community events on SHARE's [Community Calendar](#).

SHARE Your Organizational Profile



SHARE's statewide [Resource Directory](#) is an important place to list your nonprofit, not only to let other people know who you are and what you do, but to help connect your organization with other like-minded individuals seeking to make positive change throughout New Mexico's diverse communities.

SHARE's Resource Directory provides detailed information about local non-profits and other organizations, including their contact information, and a map of where they are located, making it easy to reach out for collaboration, information sharing, and community action.

Thanks to 250 organizations that have added or updated their information in the SHARE Resource Directory since the beginning of May, we now have over 8,000 programs and over 9,500 programs across the state.

Join the SHARE Community. SHARE New Mexico is built by and for the community. That means we all rely on each other to help keep our website active and information updated. The more information we share and the more connections we can make, the more all of us will benefit.

Thanks to . . .

The wonderful work our highlighted partners are doing in, for and with our communities:

- The [Grandparents Raising Grandchildren](#) groups in Albuquerque and Española, and to the [Con Alma Health Foundation](#) for their support for our children, parents and grandparents;
- [Wings for Life, International](#) and [Fathers Building Futures](#) for never giving up on families in difficult circumstances;
- [The Cariño Toy Lending Library](#) for making learning easy and fun!

And to the [United Way of Central New Mexico, PNM](#) and the [McCune Charitable Foundation](#), who support our efforts to host New Mexico's most complete and comprehensive Resource Directory, by encouraging grant seekers to update their organizational profiles on SHARE.

Coming soon . . .

In our November newsletter, we will be sharing information on efforts underway to provide an online common grant application process on SHARE

[Sign up for SHARE News!](#)

SHARE New Mexico is an online community space to find public and private sector information about issues impacting the quality of life of New Mexicans.

