



JANUARY 2016



New Year's Resolution: Volunteer!

One of the first events of the New Year is the Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service on Monday, January 18th, with a challenge from the [NM Commission on Community](#)

[Volunteerism](#) (NMCCV) to make this a "day on, not a day off." Curtis Cannon, Executive Director of the Commission and SHARE Advisory Committee member, explains.

"MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service, honoring Dr. King's life and legacy, which is his commitment to service and social justice to make the world a better place for us all." Curtis began his own career in community service with a MLK Day service project in high school. "One quote from Dr. King that has guided my work at the Commission is 'Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?'"

There are many ways New Mexicans can celebrate MLK Day in New Mexico, where community projects range from building school playgrounds, to feeding the hungry, making sure families are safe in their homes, hosting community dialogues and much more.

For a list of MLK Day projects and events, visit the [Commission website](#) and choose what you will do on your "day on." You'll also learn more about the work of the Commission, to engage citizens of NM of all ages and backgrounds in community service, including 800 AmeriCorps volunteers working in organizations and communities throughout the state.



How to Improve Literacy in New Mexico

Did you know that 46% of New Mexico's population is functionally illiterate? About 900,000 adults are in need

of literacy services, according to the [New Mexico Coalition for Literacy](#). Throughout the state, organizations are working to improve literacy.

One organization is the [Imagination Library of Grant County](#). Affiliated with [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#), the Imagination Library of Grant County mails books in bulk directly to the homes of children, and recently mailed out its 65,000th book to children in Grant County, volunteer Loren Nelson said.

A three-year longitudinal study comparing test scores of children in Cobre and Silver school districts showed that the Imagination Library improved literacy among students.

"So far, 75-80% of children who receive books [from the Imagination Library] were at or above grade level for reading, and 45-50% of those who did not receive books were at or above grade level," Nelson said.

If you are interested in learning more and/or founding an Imagination Library in your community, you can contact [Loren or Barbara Nelson](#) at the [Imagination Library of Grant County](#). The Nelsons are in the process of expanding the effort to include other Imagination Libraries in NM.

Searching "literacy" in SHARE's [Resource Directory](#) returns [a list](#) of more than 100 organizations that support literacy efforts for adults and children – waiting for your help!



Who Are You Going to Call?

If you need help in a hurry, who can you call for information? A group in Albuquerque's South Valley is working with their State Senator, Michael Padilla, to identify and coordinate the multiplicity of phone call-in programs that offer services to families with young children.

Working with the [South Valley Early Childhood Group \(SVECG\)](#), Senator Padilla sponsored [Senate Memorial 106](#), which was unanimously approved in the 2015 legislative session. The Memorial calls for a "study of the feasibility of implementing a coordinated helpline pilot program in Bernalillo County to provide information about health and human services to assist families with young children and prenatal needs."

Last Fall, the SVECG Community Family Hub Action Team took the lead in hosting a gathering of a dozen of the two dozen call-in lines the group has identified. The gathering resulted in many of the programs meeting for the first time and exchanging information about their respective services.

Next steps call for more networking meetings and information sharing, resulting in a report and recommendations to be presented to the Bernalillo County Commissioners and the NM Health and Human Services Committee.

For more information on this initiative, visit the [SVECG SHARE page](#) or contact Cathy Sanchez Preissler at csanchezpreissler@salud.unm.edu



Track the 2016 NM Legislative Session

The New Mexico Legislature will meet for just 30 days, from January 19th through February 17th. Much can happen in this short period of time with long-term consequences. To track what is happening at the Roundhouse, bookmark NMLegis.gov and check in to see what is happening with issues that concern you and your community. Better yet, visit the Roundhouse and let your elected representatives know how you feel about the issues.



Join the SHARE Team

SHARE New Mexico's purpose is to share information and promote action that improves the quality of life of New Mexicans. ShareNM.org is more than just a website. It's a community toolbox for change. Each initiative and county page is designed to support projects our communities are working on today.

While SHARE New Mexico provides the webspace, structure and support, the content comes from the community. We depend on YOUR expertise and passion to identify and share the good ideas and resources that constitute those toolboxes for change.

SHARE is now recruiting for teams to help identify and share valuable and useful resources that support projects and collaborations in our initiative areas and in our communities.

Specifically, we are looking for team members to help us build and improve the resources available on our [county pages](#) and on our [initiative pages](#): Early Childhood; Food & Hunger; Housing & Homelessness; Community Health; Returning Citizens; Healthy Aging; and our new Indian Country initiative.

Don't be shy! If you've got ideas to share – and we know you do – we need you! Please contact Wendy@ShareNM.org and let us know how you'd like to contribute to our work together.

Other Ways to SHARE Ideas & Information

- Embed one of our community calendars on your website. Choose your calendar and click on the "Embed Calendar" button for the easy instructions.
- Submit a blog that addresses a topic relating to one of our initiative areas. Email communication@sharenm.org
- Share your resource lists with us. We'll combine our listings and everyone will benefit! Contact Wendy@ShareNM.org
- Register or update the information in your [SHARE Directory Profile](#). Include as much detail as you can – hours of operation, eligibility requirements, etc. Your colleagues and neighbors want to know that you are there for them.



Looking Back, Looking Ahead on SHARE

It's been a busy year for ShareNM.org! Here's what happened in 2015, and what's coming up in 2016.

2015 Highlights:

- Added Initiatives pages on Healthy Aging, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and Community Health Workers
- Worked with the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children to identify and support early childhood collaborations around the state
- Exchanged Resource Directories with Community Health Councils and 211 programs in NM
- Developed functionality to embed calendars on partner organizations' websites
- Increased newsletter, blogging & social media presence
- New Mexico funders initiated the process for developing a new Online Common Grant Application Process, linked to SHARE's Resource Directory

2016 Goals:

- Launch Online Common Grant Application
- Add Initiative Pages for Indian Country & Behavioral Health
- Fine tune the process for sharing Resource Directory entries with Community Health Workers, Case Managers, and others who help New Mexicans find needed resources
- Recruit new members for statewide teams to support SHARE Initiative and County pages
- Begin the process of designing SHARE 2.0

[Let us know](#) if you have ideas on what SHARE can do in 2016 to support initiatives and communities working together towards positive change.

SHARE

SHARE New Mexico is getting ready for its next generation website. You can help design SHARE 2.0 by exploring the many features of our current website and sending us your questions, comments and suggestions. There is a **Feedback** button at the top of every SHARE page. [Let us hear from you!](#)

THANKS!

- ★ To the NM Commission on Community Volunteerism, for reminding us that we are "better together."
- ★ To all those folks who volunteer to help New Mexicans master the essential skill of reading and literacy. Think about giving them a hand.
- ★ To Senator Michael Padilla for his leadership and support in building a coordinated Information and referral system for children and families in Bernalillo County.
- ★ Thanks to our funders and their leadership and support in developing a common grant application, another way to work "better together" with the organizations and communities to enhance the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

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

[Register](#) on SHARE and [sign up](#) for our eMail List! Update your organization's information in the [SHARE Directory](#). Post your community events on the [SHARE Calendars](#). [Send us](#) your comments, questions, and suggestions.



SHARE new mexico

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