September 2016

The New Mexico National DWI Victims' Memorial of Perpetual Tears

In 1991, Sonja Britton lost her son, Monty "Butch" Britton, in a DWI crash. After losing her son, Sonja, who has lived in Moriarty from the age of 3, spoke to everyone she could about creating a DWI memorial. "This was her concept, to have a place where people can come and have their loved ones remembered," Board member Debbie Ortiz said. It wasn't long before she gained local support, and in 1994 the Perpetual Tears Memorial, Inc. became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

In 1999, local businessman Mike Anaya donated three acres of land for the Memorial to the City of Moriarty. The City of Moriarty then adopted the project, which made it eligible for state funding, and in 2002 Sonja began to lobby for support from the New Mexico State Legislature. After three years, she gained the support of the legislature and the memorial received its first funding allocation. This, combined with private donations, was enough to build the field of markers and the surrounding wall.

In 2006, the New Mexico National DWI Victims' Memorial of Perpetual Tears held its grand opening with more than 300 people in attendance. The following year, Britton decided the memorial should honor DWI deaths nationwide. Anyone living anywhere in the United States can apply to memorialize loved ones at the monument.

In all, $1.5 million has been raised through public and private donations and is now invested in the NM National DWI Victims' Memorial of Perpetual Tears. Sonja Britton is retired from the Board of Directors, but continues to serve on the Advisory Board.

NEW! SHARED Resource Directory

Thanks to the Partnership for a Healthy Torrance Community, the United Way of Central New Mexico, and Debbie Ortiz, the *Estancia Valley East Mountain Resource Directory* is now available on the SHARE New Mexico Torrance County page.

Ortiz updated resource information to produce the Directory and is working with SHARE New Mexico to augment and update SHARE's Resource Directory listings for the county.

Ortiz also moderates Estancia Valley East Mountain Community Resources Facebook page, which posts pictures and news about current and upcoming events. Check it out to see the latest happenings in Torrance County. And for those of you with directories, this is a great way to engage your communities.

Thank you, United Way of Central New Mexico, for making this collaboration possible.

September 11th is National Grandparents Day. On this day we pause to acknowledge, especially, the more than 25,000 New Mexican grandparents who are responsible for raising their grandchildren. Of these 33,000 children, more than 9,000 do not have any parent present in the home (GrandFacts).

On September 20, the Albuquerque Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Community Alliance will host its annual event, *Parenting the Second Time Around*, at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center in Albuquerque from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The gathering features a resource fair, fun children's activities, speakers, and a box lunch. The event is **free.** To register, call 505-255-8740

Support for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Grandparents raising grandchildren face unique challenges, including financial and legal challenges, and often don't know where to find help.

Connie Compton, who raised her grandchild, emphasizes the isolation that many such grandparents experience, feeling that they are the only ones in this situation. "It's important to let them know that there is a group interested in them, to help make their lives better, to advocate for them."

A number of these grandparents and their allies are working together to build awareness and increase resources available to help grandparents raise the next generation of New Mexicans.

Serving northern New Mexico, Las Cumbres Family Services sponsors the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program, with groups now meeting in Santa Fe and Taos.

The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Community Alliance, serving the greater Albuquerque area, is supported by a collaboration of organizations.

- Outcomes facilitates monthly support groups throughout the metro area, as well as workshops and special events.
- MCH Family Outreach provides staffing support for the Alliance and a case manager to help grandparents find the resources they need.

- Pegasus Legal Services helps grandparents address legal issues, like guardianship, and serves as the fiscal agent for the Alliance.

Legislative Support

A legislative memorial was passed in 2015 (HM 8) and continued in 2016 (SM 1) to support grandparents raising grandchildren in New Mexico. A statewide task force is charged with studying and recommending concrete policy changes to expand the availability of resources to grandparents raising grandchildren.

All the organizations above are participating in the task force. SHARE New Mexico is pleased to be supporting the effort by adding and updating resources in the SHARE Directory that address grandparent needs.

Betsey Stilson, another grandparent and member of the GRG Alliance, reminds us that "this is a societal issue. Our children are falling through the cracks. We need to recognize both the needs and the wisdom that grandparents bring to the task of raising our children. Our job isn't over, because society isn't ready for us to be finished."

How You Can Help

Visit Grandparents Raising Grandchildren at SHARE New Mexico and learn what is both needed and

happening around this initiative. If your organization provides resources to support grandparents raising grandchildren, please let us know. Contact wendy@sharenm.org or any of the other organizations listed here.

Designing SHARE 2.0

SHARE New Mexico has been live about three years now. Our intent is to support the good work being done and eliminate duplication of effort, so that we can work smarter together and better address the challenges and opportunities in our communities.

In the past three years, we've been listening to and learning from our target audience: "people helping people." You have helped us identify ways we can better meet your information needs in a timely and efficient manner. In addition, technology evolves every day with new and better ways to collect, compile and share web-based information.

The time is right to launch a redesign of the SHARE website. With the assistance of our funders, in particular the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and members of our SHARE community, we can take what we have learned from you and build the next generation SHARE website.

Over the next several months, we'll be letting you know of our progress and inviting your input as we design and test the various components of the new SHARE website.
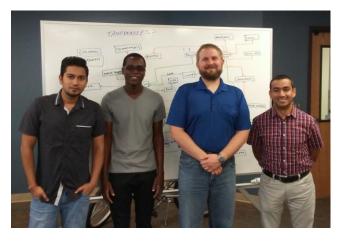
Meet the Technical Team

Larry Heard is SHARE's new database manager. Larry has a Master's Degree in Education and has worked as a teacher, instructional technology specialist, and geographic information systems analyst. Most recently, Larry worked with the New Mexico Community Data Collaborative developing online mapping applications, delivering training, and providing mapping support to a diverse group of government and community organizations.

UNM's Institute of Innovation and Design (IDI) has put together a team with the range of expertise needed to ensure that SHARE 2.0 operates with optimal ease, efficiency, and accuracy.

IDI Team: Tushar, Edwin, Jarred & Wisam

Jarred Kozlick, IDI Director, has lived in Albuquerque since 2001 and received his Master's in Computer Engineering in 2014 from UNM. Jarred's areas of interest are data system design, large scale data management solutions, and web application development.

Wisam Al-Doroubi received his Master's in Computer Engineering two years ago and is currently working towards a Ph.D. Wisam works full-time at IDI maintaining and developing data warehouse solutions and databases for analytics and data management. His interests are data management, front-end web applications development, machine learning and neural networks.

Tushar Ojha is a Computer Engineering graduate student at UNM and a Graduate Assistant at IDI. He completed his Bachelor's in Engineering in India. He enjoys working on web application development and data analytics, and has a keen interest in machine learning related research. He enjoys painting, reading, traveling and playing basketball in his free time. He is also an avid soccer fan.

Edwin Agbenyega is currently enrolled in the Computer Engineering Master's Program at UNM. Edwin pursued his undergraduate in South Korea. He shares an interest in web development with his peers at IDI and has experience in database management and web development. He also enjoys tennis, playing the piano and traveling.