

MISSION STATEMENT: CVN will provide a transitional, residential therapeutic farm community for the purpose of equipping adults with a diagnosed mental illness to become more self-sufficient and functional contributors to society.

The vision is for a farm community where the persons assisted will live, and have opportunities to work and share in a safe, caring, culturally responsive, and sustainable environment with the ultimate goal of living independently.



Casas de Vida Nueva
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President's Ponderings

By Marilyn Stoops, CVN board president

Casas de Vida Nueva

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www.cvnfarm.org

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Remember when... you or someone in your family was first diagnosed with a mental illness? How uninformed you were about what that meant? And the myriad of medications that were prescribed before the doctor found the best one for you? Were you afraid to let anyone know because you were afraid they would misunderstand or think less of you?

Did you feel totally, totally alone? Were the dreams and plans for your life dashed even though you had good ideas and skills that the world needed, but not the energy to carry them out?

Then, imagine this... what if you or your family member had a place to go to get settled into your medications, a place where the people around you knew what you were feeling because they sometimes had those same feelings, who understood you, supported you, and worked side-by-side with you? Perhaps you could dream new dreams and make new plans for what you would like to do in your life. Perhaps you could even gain some new skills and maybe...even have fun in the process.

Then let me introduce you to Casas de Vida Nueva (CVN)... a planned transitional, residential therapeutic farm community for the purpose of equipping 25-30 adults with a diagnosed mental illness to become self-sufficient and contributors to the community around them. One goal is to provide a sense of community. All the facilities will be located in a rural farm setting where residents and staff live on-site and work together to tend the farm, grow and prepare the food they eat together in a family-style setting, care for the farm animals, learn agricultural skills, share recreational experiences and develop occupational skills. A second goal is to promote good mental health care. Mental health therapies including psychiatric care, personal medication education and stabilization, individual and group therapy and daily exercise for the body, mind

and spirit. A third goal is for the farm to be a demonstration project of good sustainable farming practices. The community will be designed to utilize solar energy, rainwater harvesting, water recycling and renewable, energy saving and non-toxic building materials. Residents and staff will host educational workshops for the community regarding tree planting in deserts, permaculture and sustainable building, rainwater harvesting and water recycling.

Sound like work only? Staff and residents will share recreational opportunities such as square/line-dancing, music, art, films and sports. For those who wish, pursuing a degree at the Valencia County—UNM campus is an option...creating a sense of interdependency, empowerment, purpose and self-determination.

Modeled after Gould Farm in Monterrey, Massachusetts, CVN, when it becomes a reality, will be the first residential therapeutic farm community in the Southwestern United States. There is a link to their website on our CVN website at www.cvnfarm.org.

Casas de Vida Nueva
P.O. Box 14345
Albuquerque, NM 87191

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WE ARE DISCONTINUING THE POST OFFICE DELIVERY OF OUR NEWSLETTER

CVN appreciates your interest in our progress. But the board has decided to reduce corporate costs by reducing the number of newsletters mailed. If you wish to keep getting this newsletter you must contact Charlotte Back cwback28@gmail.com with your email address. When the newsletter is sent out electronically you will be included. Our periodic newsletter is on our website, but if neither of those options work for you and you would still like the newsletter sent to you directly, write to Charlotte Back at 8135 Florence NE, ABQ, NM 87109 stating that you want the CVN newsletter mailed to your home address.

Yes! I support the development of Casas de Vida Nueva. Please accept my tax deductible gift.	
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Marilyn Stoops was one of thirteen New Mexico residents to receive the annual NM Distinguished Public Service Award for a lifetime of volunteer work. She began her work as a young volunteer teacher in the NM prison system, teaching inmates basic education skills in reading and writing.

She returned to college when all five of her children were also on campus, eventually earning a bachelor's degree from Eastern NM University and a master's degree in public administration from NMSU. She is a past president of Church Women United and is on the executive team of Albuquerque Interfaith.

She also participates as a volunteer with Family Promise, providing food and shelter to homeless families in Albuquerque and with Habitat for Humanity so that low-income families might have affordable housing. Her most recent volunteer experience — **Casas de Vida Nueva!**

News from the Golden Pear Boutique

Thanks to your generous donations we had many items for sale during the holiday season. Our Christmas sales were wonderful and we appreciate your help!

We are having a bed and bath sale during the month of March we will have a book sale. This includes a set of Harvard Classics with a publishing date of 1909. Other older and hard-to-find books will be included in that sale.

For the lover of Egyptian art we have a limited edition of a mask of Tutankhamen. It is a hand painted, sculpture (number BB3270).

The following is a list of some additional outstanding items we have for sale:

“Wayside” Kensington Staffordshire Ironstone from England- discontinued pattern.

Tea Set” Heritage” by Royal Sealy, set 41 out of 57.

Three Budweiser beer steins, sand paintings, an original oil of sand dunes with lighthouse, a Talavera plate, 1910 sewing machine, jewelry, an organ, lamps, 1950's canister set and

MUCH, MUCH MORE!

The Golden Pear Thrift Boutique is located at 1331 Juan Tabo NE, Suite M-1,
between Constitution and Indian School NE

Open Tuesday—Saturday 10:00—4:30

Margery Musser, Store Manager