

APRIL 2021 | ANNUAL REPORT

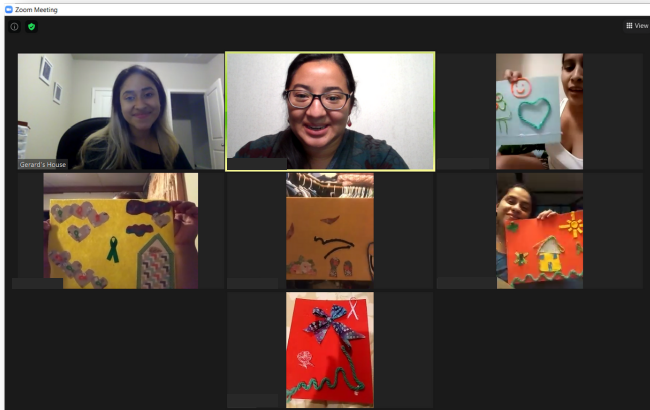
GERARD'S HOUSE



2020 Highlights



Making virtual groups work >> Within weeks of social distancing requirements, Gerard's House switched all of our weekly grief support groups to a virtual format. Our first challenge was getting all our group participants and volunteers online, then set up and trained on virtual platforms. Our second challenge was experimenting and applying all of our creativity to make online grief support groups as inviting, supportive, meaningful and fun as possible for all the different age cohorts we serve. One solution has been partnering with arts organizations to create activity packets that we deliver to our families' homes. In groups, we do the activities together using the delivered supplies.



THRIVING IN A TIME OF CRISIS

2020 was a year like no other - and in response to COVID-19, Gerard's House completely transformed its services.

The success of this important work has been made possible by incredible support from our community, as well as the creativity and dedication of our volunteers, staff, and board members.



Gerard's House
...for grieving children

More 2020 Highlights

Prioritizing casework for families in our care >>

The biggest change we made to adapt to this past year's challenges was to dramatically increase our casework for grieving families, especially for those who were already living in poverty - and who faced extraordinary obstacles due to COVID-19. Working closely with our families and with our collaborative partners, our main priority, alongside grief support, was to assess and address unmet needs of families in our care - such as rent, food, utilities, emergency funding for direct financial assistance, internet access, behavioral health, medical care, information about rights and legal services, and more.

We will continue this prioritization into 2021 and for as long as necessary.

Direct financial assistance to families in urgent need >>

Gerard's House applied for and received more than \$100,000 in emergency funding solely for direct financial assistance to families in need. We have been distributing every penny of this funding to families in our care who were already living in poverty and were thrown into crisis by pandemic layoffs, hours reductions, and other hardships - including illness from the virus itself. At the end of the year, the City of Santa Fe asked Gerard's House to distribute \$80,000 in direct financial assistance through the CARES Act because of our close relationships with families living in poverty who have bonds of trust and support with our staff and volunteers.



Organizing, collecting and distributing clothes, food, gifts, diapers, toiletries, car seats, strollers, toys, gifts, and other necessities >>

In 2020, Gerard's House hosted multiple food drives, clothing drives and diaper drives for families in our care. In addition to food and clothing, we added as many goodies to these drives as we could, including gift cards, PPE, toys for babies and children, toiletries, and other supplies.

Additionally, in October, we hosted a needs clinic to kick off our CARES Act funding distribution.

We have also been part of many other innovative pandemic-specific projects, including a Family Wellness Pop-up at Presbyterian Medical Center. The goal was to get essential items into families' hands, while also sharing about the virtual programming.

COVID-19 Grief Panel Discussion >> We recently hosted a Zoom panel presentation and discussion for our staff and volunteers about the primary and secondary effects of COVID-19. Our keynote speaker was Kathy Sanchez, co-founder of TEWA Women United. She spoke about how we can respond to grief in a way that honors indigenous ways, the impacts of the pandemic on the Pueblos, how traditional death and grief rituals have changed for loved ones of Pueblo community members who died of COVID-19, and how we can support these unique grieving situations.

**WE ARE HONORED TO WORK
WITH MANY COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS
IN OUR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING :**

Adelante | Alas de Agua | CHRISTUS St. Vincent Hospital
Communities in Schools | EarthCare | Fathers New Mexico | Growing Up New Mexico
Highlands University | Las Cumbres | Many Mothers | Santa Fe Dreamers Project
Santa Fe Public Schools | The Food Depot | The Sky Center | Youth Shelters

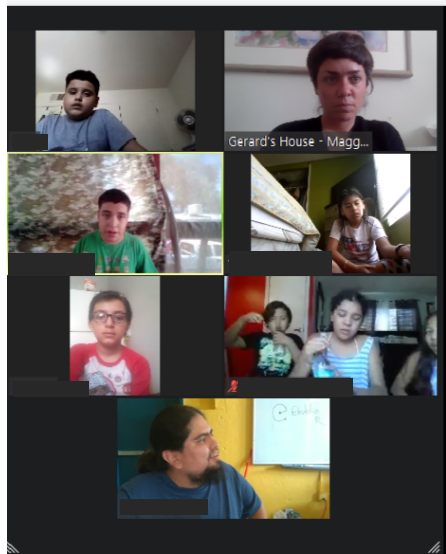
Supplementing Racial and Economic Equity Training >>

For twenty-three years, Gerard's House has provided trainings about grief. One of our most requested community-wide trainings has been how to support children, youth, families and adults through the grief process. In the past six years, we expanded our trainings for incoming volunteers with topics such as working with immigrant students and families, the effects of poverty, trauma and privilege and how to help young people and their families by supporting rather than saving. All of these trainings have also been requested by the wider community as well. In 2020, we provided these trainings for Santa Fe Public Schools volunteers and Capitol High School staff. In 2021, we are offering trainings for a range of collaborative partners and community members.

If you are interested in attending any of these trainings, or in volunteering, please contact us at info@gerardshouse.org.

Youth Coalition, mural project and grief support >>

To support friends and siblings of young men who died by violence in our community during 2020, our staff was part of a collaborative team providing grief support services as 25-30 teenagers created two murals to memorialize their friends who died.



Speaking Grief Documentary >>

As part of our commitment to support the families and friends of thousands of New Mexicans who have died of COVID-19 and during the time of COVID-19, Gerard's House made the national *Speaking Grief* documentary into a local television, newspaper and online event. PBS aired the *Speaking Grief* documentary on Tuesday, August 11th. PSA's for *Speaking Grief* and Gerard's House were aired on the local radio stations; Que Suave and *Richard Eeds Show*. A social media campaign promoted the event, with help from local funeral homes, businesses, and hospitals.

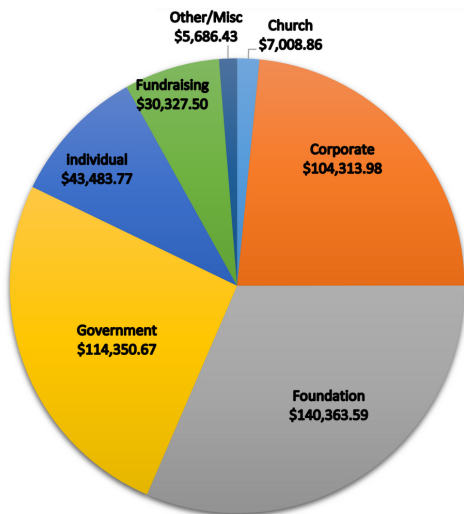
Casework and collaboration

Sasha's story >> Sasha is a young mom from El Salvador in Gerard's House's Young Parents support group. She has a pending asylum case and a 5-year-old son.

Earlier this year, Sasha was pregnant when she unexpectedly became homeless. After completing Sasha's needs assessment, our staff coordinated with Youth Shelters to pay for a hotel while Sasha looked for a home. Sasha found a studio apartment but lacked a deposit and first month's rent. With support from Gerard's House, Lifelink paid the deposit. Gerard's House paid half of her rent and collaborated with Adelante to pay the other half. When Sasha shared that she was sleeping on the floor, Las Cumbres provided a bed and a crib and Gerard's House volunteers donated furniture. When Sasha's baby was born, Gerard's House coordinated the donation of baby clothes from Many Mothers.

Roxana Melendez, the leader of Sasha's Gerard's House support group, remains in close touch with Sasha, dropping by weekly with food from Bienvenidos Food Pantry.

2020 Revenue >> \$445,534.80



The revenue above includes more than \$100,000 that Gerard's House directly distributed to families in our care in 2020 as direct financial assistance. All of these funds paid directly for rent, utilities, food and other urgent basic necessities.

In 2020, our team moved heaven and earth to support our community's grieving kids, teenagers, families and adults as much we could, perhaps even more than in any other year. We have been deeply moved and amazed by the open-hearted generosity of donors from every category in the pie chart above. You all deserve a huge round of applause. *Please join us in celebrating some of what we accomplished together in 2020:*

- 910 children, teenagers and adults received grief support services
- 525 urgent needs were met beyond grief support—some basic needs we met ourselves, others we worked with collaborative partners to address
- 419 individuals participated in our food distribution program
- 24,000 diapers were distributed to our families (shout out to the Food Depot, partner in this program)
- 2,000 volunteer hours were contributed by our amazing volunteers
- 18 grief support groups were offered each week
- More than \$100,000 of direct financial assistance was distributed to families in our care

Young Moms Group Poem 2/18/21 What being an immigrant means to me

Somos fuertes y valientes | We are brave and strong

Por loqueras, yo he hecho grandes cosas, por loqueras me an salido las cosas muy bien, asta ahorita, gracias a Dios! |
Because of madness, I have accomplished many things, because of madness, things have turned out well so far, thank God!

Por la seguridad de mis hijos | For the safety of my children

Por salir adelante y ayudar a mi familia a que progresen, por un futuro mejor | To help my family progress, for a better future

Una guerrera, una mujer afortunada y luchona | A warrior, a fortunate and hardworking woman

Para dejar de darle preocupaciones a mi familia | To ease the worry off of my family

Intrepidas, independencia, nos armamos de valentia, por mi familia y la independencia | Fearless, independent, we arm ourselves with courage, for my family and independence

Estabilidad, una vida mejor para mis hijos, y ayudar a mis padres para lo que fueron necesitando | Stability, a better life for my children, and being able to help my parents with whatever is needed



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