



**They cannot
do it alone,
and we cannot do it
without your support.**



Dear Friends,

Crossroads for Women is a special program with a unique mission, but we now find ourselves at a crossroads of our own. So I want to start by saying --

If there were ever a time to support Crossroads with a financial contribution, now would be it!

Let me explain...

- At current funding levels, Crossroads does not have the capacity to serve all of the women who need our services.
- The number of women who need the services provided by CRFW is increasing.

Crossroads serves women who are working to break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration. They need comprehensive and integrated support and services to effectively address needs resulting from violence, incarceration, and homelessness, *plus* mental health and substance abuse disorders. We succeed because we understand that it is essential to provide a seamless continuum of services often starting in jail, through release and into the community.

The process of reintegration into the community is extremely challenging. Often the women must comply with conditions of probation or parole, while trying to achieve financial stability, access health/mental health care, locate housing, and attempt to reunite with their families, all while working to maintain recovery from addiction.

As it stands, Crossroads for Women is the only behavioral health service provider in the greater Albuquerque area that provides the comprehensive, integrated services that are required to meet these challenges.

We understand that in order to fully interrupt cycles of homelessness and incarceration for women, larger systemic change is required, and we are deeply committed to seeing this change become a reality. In the meantime, however, there are so many women in need.

An assessment of the waiting lists for our programs makes it clear that Crossroads for Women could easily *double* in size and we would still not meet the current need in our community.

In 2012, Crossroads for Women housed **88** women and **29** children, and provided additional services for another **60** women who graduated from Crossroads or Maya's Place. We did this in spite of having lost a significant revenue source under the behavioral health services redesign undertaken by the State, and more recently, changes in Federal regulations which directed valuable resources away from our services.

We would not have survived without the financial support of the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and numerous foundations, funds and civic groups – and of course, *individual donors like you!*

Crossroads is a good investment, with positive returns for the entire community.

- Currently it costs between \$60 and \$82 a day to house a woman at the Metropolitan Detention Center (aka County Jail) – with no rehabilitative services.
- Crossroads can house women for far less than that – while at the same time providing the skills and support they need to move forward with their lives.

We believe in what we do. We believe in the women we work with, and the women learn to believe that they really do have worth, and that they really can become positive, productive members of the community.

They cannot do it alone, and we cannot do it without your support.

Something has to give. Or someone has to give.

That's why I'm writing to you during this time of need.

We ask only that you give according to your means, in gratitude for the many blessings we all enjoy in life, with compassion for a forgotten population that is not so abundantly blessed.

Here are some examples of the good your gift will do:

- \$1,000: Four months of bus passes for clients who work or go to school.
- \$500: Moves a family into their new home, complete with furnishings and home essentials.
- \$250: Two weeks of intensive case management and reintegration support for a new client recently released from incarceration.
- \$100: One week of life skills and trauma recovery classes for 30 women.
- \$50: One tattoo removal session for a client with gang or other negatively associated tattoos.
- \$25: Hygiene kit for a formerly homeless new client.
- \$15: A nutritious meal for ten women in the day program.

Will YOU give? YOU can make a difference in the lives of the women and children we serve AND the people whose lives are touched by these same women and children.

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting the critical services that Crossroads provides.

Sincerely,

KC Quirk
Executive Director

P.S. Your tax-deductible gift will do *so much more* than the tax dollars spent on incarceration; please give what you can, to change lives *and* benefit the community.