



# Bienvenidos Building Bridges Initiative

HELP-New Mexico, Inc. received the Compassion Capital Fund (CCF) grant for its third and final year to continue providing training, technical assistance and small sub-awards through the Bienvenidos Building Bridges Initiative (BBBI).



Workshop in Roswell, NM (November 2009)

In November 2009, we were notified that there will be no more funding for CCF after this year. However, BBBI will continue providing trainings and technical assistance through September 30, 2010.

In November 2009, the BBBI staff started the Request for Proposal trainings to assist smaller, inexperienced non-profits to apply for a CCF sub-award. HELP-NM will disburse \$210,000 in March 2010 in sub-awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$22,000.

Between November and December BBBI delivered 30 trainings of which 12 were specifically RFP trainings. Trainings were held in the following counties: Doña Ana, Grant,

Lincoln, Chaves, Roosevelt, San Juan, Taos, Socorro, San Miguel and Bernalillo. The trainings were attended by over 500 participants representing over 225 organizations. Of the 500 participants 252 attended the RFP training which represented 182 organizations. Of the 182 organizations that attended the RFP trainings 100 submitted letters of intent and 84 submitted full proposals.

The proposals will be reviewed by community volunteers. We were very lucky to have recruited 35 community volunteers. After the volunteers are done with the review process and funding recommendations, sub-awards will be announced on March 1, 2010.

BBBI continues to provide trainings on several topics such as Community Asset Mapping, Forming a Non-Profit, Board Development amongst other topics. For a full listing of our upcoming trainings please see page 3.



**BBBI Staff:**

Division Director  
Jerry Otero

Program Manager  
Gracie Gonzalez

Training Coordinator  
Gary Larsh

Administrative Assistant  
Martha Aragon

VISTA Volunteers  
Matt Loehman  
Ashley Byrd

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**Special points of interest:**

- Remembering Tom Bell, Former Training & TA Manager, you will be greatly missed.
- For information regarding our trainings please see the last page and keep checking our website for training updates, workshop descriptions, dates and locations.

# VISTA Volunteers' Recent Activities

Our dedicated VISTA volunteers have been involved in several exciting projects over the past few months. In December, Matt Loehman lead a special two-part holiday project to bring a little joy to people in difficult situations. First, Matt and fellow VISTA members organized a cookie and ornament decorating party at Casa Esperanza, a temporary housing facility for children with cancer and their families. They brought cookies, frosting, sprinkles and arts & crafts to Casa Esperanza, and had a wonderful time working two evenings with the kids and parents. The arts & crafts supplies and lots of holiday cookies were left at Casa Esperanza for resident families over the holidays.

The VISTA members also adopted a family in need for Christmas and initiated a donations drive at HELP-NM to accommodate the family's "wish list". HELP-NM employees responded with customary generosity. Items were collected and presented to the family of six who greatly appreciated everything.

Other VISTA activities during the end of 2009 included Jerry Lujan and Matt Loehman researching and writing a huge grant proposal, along with Jerry Otero, requesting funding for a three-county substance abuse treatment program; Ashley Byrd and Victoria Hensley assisted Gracie Gonzalez with a large, state-wide RFP

training mailing; and Andres Galindo developed a support program for single mothers at a West Side community center. Additionally, Mel Allen researched grants and worked on a database for ESL programs at SER de NM; and Ashley See continued to develop a database for tracking donations and services at Love, INC. Jerome Pitts created a brochure to market SER de NM services. Louis Si-fuentes continued to develop a database for Headstart. We also welcomed a new VISTA, Christopher Knight, who transferred to HELP-NM in December. He is placed at Love, INC.

Laura Bruzzese, Volunteer Coordinator  
[LBruzzese@helpnm.com](mailto:LBruzzese@helpnm.com)

## Employee Birthdays Between October & December 2009

*HELP-New Mexico, Inc.* would like to wish Happy Birthday to the following employees who had or will be having birthdays in the months of January 2010 through March 2010.

### January Birthdays

Gloria Lopez  
Irene Santos  
Jessica Carreras  
Maria Rodriguez  
Teresa Cook  
Tom D. Savage  
Sylvia Valtierra



### February Birthdays

Anna B. Meraz

Amanda Rivera  
Carolina Lujan  
Crystal Garcia  
Diana Ochoa  
Gina Storseth  
Irene Panlilio  
Katherine Luera  
Kimberly Romero  
Lea Ann Kershaw  
Luz Chavez  
Maria Farias  
Michelle L. Lucero  
Phyllis J. Tabet  
Rita Garcia McManus  
Roberta L. Valerio  
Roni A. Spetalnick

### March Birthdays

April Edwards  
Bertha Baca  
Chris Masters  
Desiree Ballesteros  
Elisa Rudloff  
Lorenzo M. Ramirez  
Mabel R. Esquibel  
Maria Vale  
Mary Ramirez  
Nolelia R. McNew  
Patsy Arenas  
Rachel Chavez  
Thomas N. Perez  
Vina Valenzuela





Tom Bell, Former Training & TA Manager

## In Loving Memory of Thomas X Bell

It is with great sadness that I write this regarding my former co-worker and friend Tom Bell. Tom was the former Training & TA Manager for CCF/BBBI. He was with the program from November 2007 through June 2009. Tom had great energy and love for the nonprofits we helped through the program. Unfortunately, after a short lived illness he passed away on November 2009. Tom will be greatly missed by many. I will miss you my friend. Below are some comments from some of the agencies that worked with him.

"I'm truly sorry to hear about Tom. We'll miss his energy and tremendous experience. He made a great contribution to the advancement of New Mexico's nonprofit community". Judith Tamm, Executive Director, Taos Housing Corporation

"I am so sorry to hear this sad news. Please send his family our condolences on behalf of the NM Conference of Churches". Daniel Erdman,

CCONM Coordinator, NM Conference of Churches

"How sad! I didn't know that he was so sick. If you're in contact with his family please let them know that Tom was respected and greatly appreciated for all he did to help so many". Ann Edenfield Sweet, Executive Director, Wings Ministry

"I liked Tom so much: we had considered working together if he relocated to this area. My prayers are with you and the others in your office". Nema LeCuyer, Executive Director, Rivers Academy

"How very sad for his family and for you as well. I am so very sorry. He was a wonderful man". Maria E. Trillo, Executive Director, Casa de la Cultura

"This is such sad news! I cannot believe this. Tom was so encouraging of our program and organization. Both you and Tom really made me feel that what I was trying to accomplish for Sierra County was important. It is tragic news that we should all take to heart and remember how precious each day is". Sandy Faykus, Turtleback Therapeutic Equine Facility

"What a terrible shame. The world is a much smaller place without a man such as Tom Bell. He was a man of dignity and intelligence. He was well rounded enough to be able to carry on casual conversations with anyone, and empowering in his communications. His loss sets back humanitarian efforts, and humanity in general, here in New Mexico. I will never forget the impact he made on me". Christine Ortiz, BYA Coordinator

Gracie Gonzalez,  
BBBI Program Manager  
505-766-4921 or gracie@helpnm.com

## Employee Service Anniversaries Between October 2009 & December 2009

We would also like to congratulate the following employees for their dedication to HELP-NM. The following employees had (or will be having) service anniversaries during January 2010 through March 2010.

### 1 to 4 Years of Service

Ana L. Sierra  
Annette T. Diaz  
Roberta L. Valerio  
Roni A. Spetalnick

Veronica A. Alonzo  
Victor Cabrera

### 5 to 8 Years of Service

Amelia-Nell Isaminger  
Irene Panlilio  
Lorenzo M. Ramirez  
Miriam Brettner

Rachel Chavez  
Rosa Hidalgo  
Thomas N. Perez

Vina Valenzuela  
**9 to 11 Years of Service**

Maria Rubio  
Patrick D. Martinez  
Sandra Romo  
Susan L. Sanchez  
Virginia Benally

### 16 to 20 Years of Service

Lee A. Angel

### 21 to 25 Years of Service

Arminda Munoz  
Gloria M. Lopez  
Lourdes Martinez



## HELP-NEW MEXICO, INC.

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*Creating self sufficiency and providing economic opportunities to strengthen families throughout New Mexico.*

*Over the past 42 years, HELP-New Mexico, Inc. (HELP-NM), has provided services to over 816,000 individuals and families including migrant families, self-employed farmers and ranchers, low-income families, abused and neglected children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and disadvantaged youth. These services have included adult education, job training, early childhood development and education, youth development and care, self-help housing construction, rural health clinics, land development, job placement, literacy training, affordable housing, nutritious meals, and family counseling.*

**[www.helpnm.com](http://www.helpnm.com)**

## BBBI Trainings January—April 2010

### FEBRUARY

Forming a Non-Profit, in Albuquerque  
Board Development, in Santa Fe  
Intro to Grant Writing in Las Vegas  
Program Development/Evaluation in Carlsbad  
Program Development/Evaluation in Roswell

### MARCH

Grant Writing, in Socorro  
Grant Management/Reporting, in Albuquerque  
Website Develop/Social Media, in Albuquerque  
Marketing and Forming a Non-Profit in Taos  
Board Dev. Policies/Procedures in Gallup  
Grant Management/Reporting in T or C  
Business Planning/Dev in Las Cruces

Intro to Grant Writing in Las Cruces

### APRIL

Board/Volunteers Recruitment, April in Albuquerque  
Marketing, in Albuquerque  
Budget Workshop, in Albuquerque  
Fund Development in Santa Fe  
Working with Diverse Populations in Albuquerque

If you have any questions regarding our trainings, would like to more information regarding dates and locations, would like to suggest new training topics or locations or would like to volunteer to be a Trainer or Technical Assistant please contact Gary Larsh, Training Coordinator at 505-766-4917 or via e-mail at [glarsh@helpnm.com](mailto:glarsh@helpnm.com).