

# Happy Holidays



## 2012 Santa Crawl



The 2nd Annual Santa Crawl was a jubilant journey around Albuquerque, as colorfully-dressed party-goers rode the party bus to various locations, spreading holiday cheer and the word about Los Ojos de la Familia, wherever they went. The journey began at the Hilton Garden Inn, where participants - dressed as Santa, Mrs. Claus, elves, presents, Nutcracker characters, et al - brought their unwrapped, unopened gifts for the toy drive; we more than doubled the number of toys brought in from last year.

As we waited for the arrival of the bus, we took the opportunity to mingle and pass out the beads that we would distribute around town. Each bead necklace had the LODLF logo on one side, and the web address and contact information on the other.

Participating locations were Back Alley Draft House, Hotel Andaluz, and the Fox and the Hound. Altogether the event raised \$6000 for Los Ojos de la Familia.

We want to extend special Thank-You's to the following people:

- Sean Milkes & Joe Maez, for their generous contributions, and thank you to everyone who paid to be a part of the event, as well as further contributions throughout the night, which helped us to reach our goal of \$6k;
- Photographer Armando, for travelling with us, and helping to chronicle our adventure;
- Brian Chavez, for making and providing the drinks which were available for free on the bus;
- The Hilton Garden Inn (Aleem & Ana Cupich and the staff), for hosting the last two years, making it a great starting and ending point for the evening;
  - The Back Alley Draft House, for participating the last two years;
  - Hotel Andaluz management, for hosting our party and participating in the festivities;
  - The Fox & Hound, for opening a private room for us this year;
  - CGI, for sponsoring the party bus;
- and thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event, making it a fun and festive way to celebrate the holidays and tell people about our great charity.

## Toys and Coats for Kids

We have collected over 100 unopened, unwrapped toys, which will be given away during our annual Holiday Basket Give-Away this Saturday, December 15, 2012, to the children of the underprivileged families to whom we deliver the gift baskets.

We also collected dozens of coats, which were delivered to two local schools, for them to distribute to children who needed them.

## Silent Auction

A friend of the charity, who recently moved out of state, generously donated several of his household furnishings. LODLF held a silent auction and the items raised over \$900 for the charity. Thank you to Virgil Allen, for his generosity.



## Emergency Assistance

We received a few requests for emergency assistance this month, and we were happy to be able to help the following families in our community:

A member of our community was diagnosed with stage-4 pancreatic cancer and given 6 months to live. He had always been the picture of health, so this diagnosis was completely unexpected as well as an unimaginable burden on his family. However, he received a sponsorship to receive the Gerson treatment, and asked for assistance buying organic groceries to help in the fight for his life. We gave the family a gift card to Whole Foods.

One family in serious need came to us for help. Their daughter was diagnosed at birth with multiple abnormalities, which will require more than 20 surgeries, and their son has autism. The father was laid off in April, and although he found work in August, two full time jobs, they had fallen behind.

They asked for help catching up with their final delinquent bill, a utility bill, in order to avoid eviction. We paid their PNM bill and gave them gift card for food and supplies.

Another hard-working family has volunteered with the charity and attended several LODLF events, but had fallen on some hard times and were struggling to get caught up on bills; they asked for some help putting food on the table this holiday season. We happily gave them a gift card to help with food and household goods.

We heard from another New Mexico family, whose father is unemployed and trying to find work, and the mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and is undergoing treatment, while they do their best to raise 3 children. They are staying with family until they can get on their feet; we gave them a gift card to help with food and household items.

# United Way



Many of us are coming up on renewal for United Way.

Los Ojos de la Familia is registered with United Way Northern New Mexico, and we encourage you to consider asking that your donations go toward our charity. Ask your benefits administrator how you can designate LODLF as your charity of choice this season.

For more information on our charity, visit our website:

[www.losojosdelafamilia.org](http://www.losojosdelafamilia.org)

or find us on Facebook



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!