## **Emergency Assistance**

We were deeply moved by the stories of those who were nominated to receive emergency assistance this month. Yet we saw in each of these a movement from despair to hope and the power of new beginnings.

Our first story is that of a troubled young woman (who would like to remain anonymous) who walked into Locker #505: Student Clothing Bank a little over a year ago. The staff did not know at that time, that the young lady was suffering deeply with problems at home; she was hurting herself and had nearly given up. Shortly afterward, stylist Mark Pardo contacted the clothing bank, wanting to give a free makeover for one of the Locker's students. Unaware of her inner struggles, the clothing bank consulted the young woman's counselor to see if he would ask her if she would be interested, and she was! That small gift made a huge difference in her life, and she has not done any harm to herself nor mentioned suicide since then. She has been living with her grandmother, as her mother works to get out of an abusive relationship. She now faces a new challenge with the arrival of her own daughter, born just this month. She and her mother are working to find a place together, and they now have the means to keep up with bills, but asked for help with the utility deposits. We were happy to be able to help with that small obstacle, to help keep this family together.

*Matt Doosenberry lost his wife last year, while she was giving birth to their daughter Emma. He works at the* 

Sandia Golf Club, where they have graciously allowed him to bring her to work with him, as he is struggling with the cost of child care. His coworkers and friends put a care package together for this young widower, and we contributed a gift card to Walmart to help take care of food and basic household items.

Jared Gutierrez is the single father with full custody of his four children. He works full time to care for his family, but has not received any child support since November. With the full cost of raising his children solely on his shoulders, and the overwhelming legal fees, he has fallen a little behind on some of his bills. We wrote a check to help him catch up on his mortgage. Keep working hard, Jared; we are happy to help you continue providing a good home for your family.

Athletic Youth Development Group Warrior Boxing - Cutting Edge



Los Ojos de la Familia established our AYDG program as a way to help less-fortunate children in our community become healthy, productive members of society through sport. We believe the teamwork, discipline and fitness habits developed in sports are invaluable tools to help kids excel and succeed.

*Here are some of the testimonials from participating children:* 

"Thank you for helping us at Warrior Boxing; it's really fun and our coach teaches us a lot, but it's worth it." - Francisco

"I wanted to join boxing, so I can start getting into shape. Also I want to learn how to defend myself. I have always loved the sport boxing and can't wait to learn it." - Javann

"Boxing gives me more opportunities to participate in sports and events. It helps me get stronger and go compete, also with everyday life. Thank you Los Ojos de la Familia." - Ivan

"I want to box because it helps me process and talk my anger out. Also so I can be in shape and have something to do because I get bored sometimes." - Javier

"Boxing helps me out a lot. I'm strong and healthy. It helps protect me and defend little kids from bullies." - Sheldon "Thank you for supporting me. Boxing has helped me in many different ways; it's very good for self defense and even just to have fun. Boxing has helped me stay out of trouble. I like the workouts we do, also I like the people here." - Kristen

"Thank you so much for sponsoring me; it really does help with my payments. My goal is to become one of the best boxers in my country. Boxing keeps me out of trouble; in my spare time I come here to the gym. I'd much rather spend my time at the gym than mess around in the streets. I would rather stay up and become someone, instead of being low." - Jonathan

"I just wanted to say thanks for supporting me. Boxing is so much fun, and it helps me stay in shape; it's a lot of work and dedication." - Omar

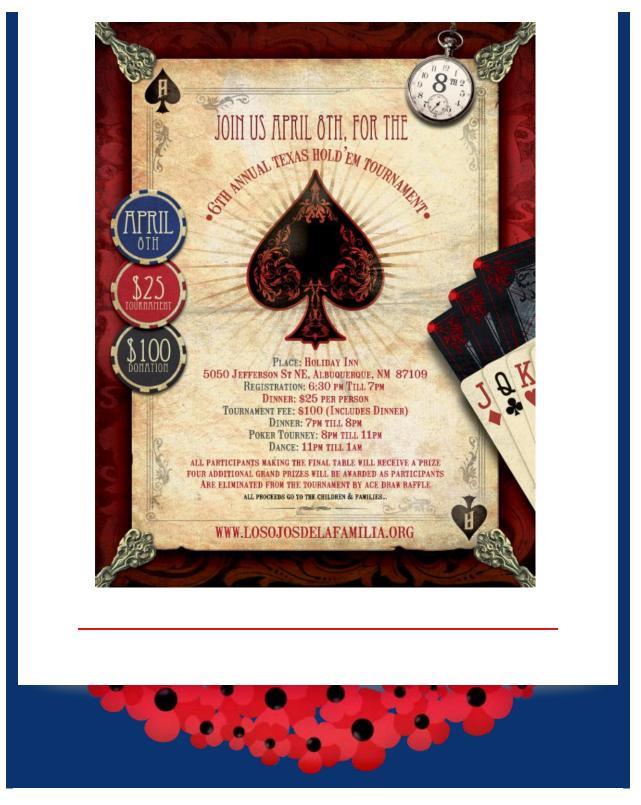
"I would like to thank you for all the support you've provided. With your help, I have been able to keep going to the gym and stay busy. I see improvement every day I'm in the gym; I always learn something new, and I enjoy being here with all my teammates." - Brandon

For more information on this program, visit our website <u>www.losojosdelafamilia.org/aydg/.</u>

## **UPCOMING EVENT**

## TWO WEEKS AWAY!!!

It's not too late to register at www.losojodelafamilia.org



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