



First Responders Awards

This quarter we discovered that three of our local firefighters are suffering from various forms of cancer, and we felt compelled to reach out to each of them. Our first responders are the first ones who answer our calls for help, so Los Ojos de la Familia established the First Responders initiative as a way to respond in kind.

Max Moya - A firefighter with the rank of driver, Max is a husband and father of two, who was diagnosed with testicular cancer. He has already undergone two surgeries and is currently still receiving treatment for his condition.

Mark Jaquez - Mark is also a driver, as well as a paramedic and former serviceman in the US Air Force. Mark was recently diagnosed with colon cancer. He is currently going through chemotherapy to try and shrink the tumor, prior to his upcoming surgery.

Miguel Tittmann - Miguel is a husband and father of four, whose wife is currently battling brain cancer. His youngest was induced slightly prematurely, so the mother could begin undergoing chemotherapy right away.

We were deeply moved by each story, and we wrote each family a check to help cover medical bills and child care. We are so thankful to be able to give back to those who are charged with caring for our whole community.



Emergency Assistance

Awards

In January & February, there were five Emergency Assistance recipients nominated by the board, and all were approved to receive help.

Elijah Dimas - Elijah is a brave and cheerful 8-year-old boy who has been battling Ewing's Sarcoma for nearly two years. The family is grateful that he has made it so far, but they are suffering from an ever growing financial hole from the many medical bills from surgery, treatment and prescriptions. He is scheduled for a stem cell transplant next month, where he will need to stay for a month, and his mother will need to travel with him, incurring even more costs. His father will not be able to go, as he must stay home to work and keep up with the bills. We wrote a check to help the family with medical bills and travel costs. Keep fighting the fight, Elijah, we're cheering for you!

Monica Chavez - At the end of December, Monica's cousin Sandra passed away unexpectedly. Monica was her primary caregiver, and also the caregiver for Sandra's mother and brother. With Sandra's passing, Monica and her aunt were also given the primary responsibility for her five children, 14 and under. She asked for help with funeral expenses and necessities for the children. We gave her a gift card to take care of the basic necessities.

Xiomara Mengana - is the main provider for her family, responsible for her 75-year-old mother, as well as her own four children. She recently lost her job and is losing her health insurance. She asked for any help to provide food and basic utilities for her family. We wrote a check to catch her up on her PNM bill.

Brittany Dominguez - Brittany is a wife and mother of three, whose vehicle was broken into, and all her children's soccer gear and other items were stolen. She needs help fixing the car door and replacing all her children's soccer gear as well as other things taken from their family vehicle. We gave her a gift card to help replace the needed items.

Michelle Talavera - Michelle was diagnosed several months ago with breast and lymphoma cancer. She has been unable to work, due to her ongoing treatment. Her husband works full time, but he is barely able to keep up, with the added burden of all the hospital bills. We helped them get caught up on their utility bills. Keep fighting, Michelle!



UPCOMING EVENT, MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

JOIN US APRIL 8TH, FOR THE
7TH ANNUAL TEXAS HOLD'EM TOURNAMENT

PLACE: HOLIDAY INN
5050 JEFFERSON ST NE, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109
REGISTRATION: 6:30 PM TILL 7PM
DINNER: \$25 PER PERSON
TOURNAMENT FEE: \$100 (INCLUDES DINNER)
DINNER: 7PM TILL 8PM
POKER TOURNEY: 8PM TILL 11PM
DANCE: 11PM TILL 1AM

ALL PARTICIPANTS MAKING THE FINAL TABLE WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE
FOUR ADDITIONAL GRAND PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED AS PARTICIPANTS
ARE ELIMINATED FROM THE TOURNAMENT BY ACE DRAW RAFFLE
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES...

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