

EAGA Business Builder

Volume 14

Issue 47

eaganm.com

December 11, 2018

The speaker today was Beverly McMillan—Family Advocacy Center

Albuquerque
Family Advocacy
Center

Ms. McMillan is originally from Georgia, but moved to our part of the world at the turn of the century (2000). She is manager of the Victoria's Secret Care Center; is a member of the board for various organizations in our community; and came to speak to us today about the Albuquerque Family Advocacy Center, where she has been the Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator since 2007. The Family Advocacy Center exists to help with the coordination of assistance for persons involved in interpersonal violence. That violence occurs in various forms: financial (the abused person has no income of their own, and only means of support is by staying with the abuser) ; mental (subjecting the person to psychological trauma); and physical. The national average is one of four women are victims. In New Mexico, it is two of four women. And quite often, men are victims as well. Within our four county area there are at least eight organizations that have been formed to help someone experiencing abuse or family violence. That seems like a good amount of available assistance. Actually, the fact that the possible help is spread through so many agencies and locations is a problem in itself. Folks seeking that help find themselves in a complicated, confusing and daunting maze. Often it is not obvious exactly where to find the needed assistance. Other times, when the right agency is located, there are long delays before there are any positive results. For example, quite often a victim of domestic violence gets so frustrated with the search for help and the delayed responses, that the person just goes back to the environment that caused the problem in the first place. The Family Advocacy Center is there as a sort of first point of action. Their task is to provide direction and specific contacts that result in a more speedy and beneficial assistance to the person in need. The Center has its own obstacles to hurdle as well. Legal definitions and laws sometimes interfere with logic and reality. To be successful, the Center can always use the help of concerned businesses and individuals. If you are one of those, you can assist in a variety of ways: Tour the Center's facilities and find out what you can contribute to help with improvements that are needed; and right now, this cold weather has caused a tremendous need for good, warm coats—in all sizes and genders. The Family Advocacy Center offices are at 625 Silver SW, second floor. You can drop off coats there, or you can contact Jim Asperger for assistance in getting your coats to the facility. This time of year is a heavy activity day for the Center. Not only because of the weather, but because, amazingly enough, their busiest day of any year is the day after the Super Bowl. If you would like more information, or if you want to help, contact the Albuquerque Family Advocacy Center at 505-243-2333, or visit their facility at 625 Silver SW.

◆ **THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING ON JANUARY 1ST.** Instead, use the day to make New Year's Resolutions that you can break by February.

◆ Aaron Rodgers continues to improve. He is now in room 337. Bruce Hoover delivered the Santa Christmas Rug to Aaron at the hospital on December 19th. Bruce said that Aaron and his wife wanted to thank everyone at EAGA for their thoughtfulness and well wishes. "I think it made their day !!!"

Jack Zipper was also by to visit Aaron later in the month. Jack said that he wishes we could have all seen Aaron's face light up and his ear to ear grin when he expressed his appreciation for EAGA and the money.

◆ Thank you to Executive Director Kevin for the great Christmas Holiday party. All in attendance had an excellent time; the door prizes were amazing; and who knew the President Lou can actually sing that well. Thank you to all who participated, and a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU ! to the members that contributed gift certificates and other prizes for the event. And what a great job by Paul Jew, and the Emoji Studios crew, on the excellent EAGA video.

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