

IMPACT REPORT

2025



APRENDAMOS
Family of Services





Dear Community,

2025 was a significant year for our team. Throughout the year, we celebrated two decades of building brighter futures together for children, families, and individuals in Southern New Mexico. Reflecting on this time, we recognized the collaborations and partnerships that were instrumental to our twenty years of growth.

As we look to the future, we are committed to creating spaces to amplify the voices of our stakeholders and the families we serve. While we want to celebrate the successes and wins, we also want to hear about the challenges and use what we learn as an opportunity to better meet the needs of our community. By focusing on expanding our team to ensure we have a solid infrastructure and foundation in place for continued growth, we can not only continue to lead from the heart but also use valuable data to help us make informed, intentional decisions.

We look forward to continued partnerships that have the power to plant seeds of hope for generations to come. Thank you for being a part of our journey!

With Gratitude,

Abel Covarrubias

Abel Covarrubias, CEO

Our Leadership Team



Celina Garcia,
Chief Operating
Officer & Director,
Alegria Family
Counseling



Maggie Provencio,
Chief Financial
Officer



Elke Wunderlich,
Chief Strategy
Officer



Grace Legaretta,
Chief Experience
Officer



Erin O'Donnell,
Director of Outreach
& Marketing



Cynthia Herrera,
Executive
Administrative
Assistant



Cristin Weldon,
Director, Cariño
Family Health &
Unidos Fathering
Services



Margarita Apodaca,
Director,
Aprendamos Early
Intervention



Karah Tooley,
Director,
Esperanza
Children's Therapy



Trisha Braecklein,
Director, Mariposa
Autism Service
Center

OUR VALUES

Families First

We commit to the well-being of the families we serve through compassionate care to achieve our clients' highest protentional while maintaining the dedication and collaboration of the families we go home to.

Pursuit of Excellence

We strive for excellence in delivering high-quality services to families through continuous learning, collaboration, accountability, and evidence-based practices, while achieving personal and professional growth to support those we serve.

Shaping the Future

We value individual differences and actively listen to others' needs, fostering strong relationships through support and encouragement. With trust and honesty, we deliver quality services, inspire positivity, and use our strengths to 'pay it forward' in service to others.

Integrity Always

Through professional standards and teamwork, we ensure accountability and transparency from all interactions and outcomes. We overcome barriers through bold conversations and interactions while remaining ethical and humble.

Meaningful Difference

One child, one family, and one relationship at a time, we strive with each program collaboratively to make a meaningful difference by being mindful, intentional, and fully present in our services.

To learn more about our
values-driven organization



Scan Here



A Journey of Hope for the **FLORES FAMILY**



When Grace and Daniel’s son, Josiah, was around 2 years old, she started noticing differences in his development. They knew other kids his age had already spoken their first words—with some even using multiple words—but so far Josiah had not reached this milestone. As most concerned parents would do, they made an appointment to take him to the doctor to share her worries.

Unfortunately, the doctor’s appointment did not provide the answers they were seeking. Soon after, Grace met with her WIC (Women’s, Infant, and Children’s) counselor, and used this meeting as an opportunity to discuss Josiah’s development. “WIC sent a referral to Aprendamos,” she said, which got the ball rolling for assistance for Josiah.

Josiah qualified for early intervention support, and once he started receiving services, it became apparent that he might require additional help. “His team told me that he also could possibly have autism. I looked into it and he got diagnosed close to his third birthday. By then, I was already pregnant with my second son,” Grace shared. Josiah transitioned from receiving services from the Aprendamos Early Intervention program to receiving support from Esperanza Children’s Therapy and the Mariposa Autism Service Center (MASC).

Josiah’s journey led to Grace and Daniel having access to resources and tools. They now had an awareness of signs and behaviors, and used this knowledge to look out for indicators in their other two sons. Because of their advocacy, their second son, Izaiah, began receiving early intervention services at just six months old, and eventually was also diagnosed with autism at around 18 months of age. Just like Josiah, he is still receiving services from Esperanza Children’s Therapy and MASC. Grace also saw signs in their third son, Zayn, who is now benefiting from Speech Therapy from Esperanza Children’s Therapy.



When we asked Grace what her expectations were when beginning services with Aprendamos, she shared how overwhelming it was at first. “I was really young and didn’t understand a lot. Getting into the program, I had a great case worker, Grace, who explained a lot to me,” she said. It was also an eye-opening experience for Grace. “When I did my own research, I realized I had already been around autism—I just wasn’t taught about special needs that come with the diagnosis, and I didn’t realize all the services we could get.”

Once they had a more solid understanding, Grace and Daniel began to help their sons set goals and work with the team to help them succeed. “When I realized they were different, I just tried to help them and understand them. I wanted them to reach their milestones to live a more normal life,” Grace said.

Now, 10 years into receiving services with Aprendamos, Grace has seen a difference in all three boys. “Josiah is 12 years old, Izaiah is 9, and Zayn is 4. What they didn’t get to experience as typical toddlers, they are learning, and I can see the difference in them now,” she shared. All three of her sons receive Speech Therapy through Esperanza Children’s Therapy, and Josiah is repeating many words, and they are working on his reading skills.



While Izaiah currently only speaks a few words, he has an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device to help him communicate with his family. “We are working on trying to see if he understands us and we understand him. He understands a lot more than people think,” Grace said.

Looking back on their family’s experience, Grace and Daniel also feel that being a part of Aprendamos has helped her to become an advocate for her children. “I would say to always put your kid first. It’s ok to help them get services, and ultimately, they will benefit from speech, OT, PT, and everything.” Grace also shared just how important it was for her to access programs earlier in her son’s lives. “The younger, the better, so when they are older they are not labeled as ‘bad’ and aren’t behind. Lots of people are in denial and don’t get the necessary help,” she said.

When we asked Grace what having access to services like those provided by Aprendamos means for her, she said, “I’m thankful for everything and everyone who is in the field. It’s a lot for the staff, too, and they take the time to help kids and work with them and their families. I am thankful for the Aprendamos team because they love what they do and they work with kids like mine.” She also shared the hope and support she has received throughout the last decade. “Without them, our experience would have been more difficult, lonely, and challenging. The team at Aprendamos brings light into the darkness.”

Thank you, Grace and Daniel, for letting Aprendamos be a part of Josiah, Izaiah, and Zayn’s lives, and for trusting our team to partner with you to help build brighter futures for your sons!

“I wanted them to reach their milestones to live a more normal life.”

WE PROUDLY SERVED



Home visiting services that promote prenatal, maternal, infant, and early childhood health, safety, and development.

839 Children Served



Hands-on classes that equip new and expecting fathers with the skills and confidence to care for and connect with their children.

Coming Soon!



Comprehensive free early intervention services for children from birth to age three who have a developmental delay or disability.

1,593 Children Served



Speech-Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy services for children ages three to eighteen.

831 Children Served



Services for children and young adults ages two to twenty-one diagnosed with autism utilizing Applied Behavior Analytic techniques.

149 Individuals Served



Counseling services for children, families, couples, and individuals focused on emotional healing, growth, and confidential, compassionate support.

786 Individuals Served



4,198 Individuals Served

- 6 Programs throughout Southern New Mexico

308 Employees

- 85.4% Women
- 11.7% Men

19.4%

**Workforce
Growth Rate**

5 Generations

- 43.2% Generation Z
- 37.3% Millennials
- 16.6% Generation X
- 2.6% Baby Boomers
- 0.3% Pre Baby Boomers



The Power of Community Partnerships: **BCOM MISSION MEDICINE**

At Aprendamos Family of Services, we believe in shaping the future. From serving families in the prenatal stage to celebrating young adults as they move into adulthood and beyond, we are committed to being a resource for children and families in our community.

However, our dedication to shaping the future does not stop with the families we serve. For the last two years, we have had the honor to partner with Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine through their Community Based Learning: Mission Medicine Program. Through the program, student doctors have the opportunity to partner with local organizations to get real-world experience and training.

Established as a true community partnership, we have welcomed dozens of student doctors who have joined our Aprendamos Family of Services team in the field, working directly with the families we serve. By shadowing and working alongside speech, occupational, and physical therapists, nurses, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs), nutritionists, and family service coordinators, they have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of early intervention, autism services, children's therapy, home visiting, and more.

We hope that when their time with us is complete, they will have gained first-hand experience in supporting families from the prenatal stage to adulthood. We also look forward to meaningful, constructive feedback from BCOM Mission Medicine students on ways we can broaden our impact for families and strengthen relationships with the children and families we serve.

Collaborations like these keep us looking toward the future and inspire us to continue forming meaningful connections in our community. Thank you, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, for partnering with us to make a meaningful difference in Southern New Mexico!



Building Brighter Futures in Southern New Mexico

20 YEARS OF IMPACT

The Aprendamos Family of Services origin story has an unlikely beginning. It started in 1973 when our CEO and Founder, Abel Covarrubias, was born into a farming family in the North Valley. However, as the family farm grew, one thing became clear — farm life was not the best fit for Abel.

Abel's parents nurtured his dreams and aspirations and allowed him to forge his own path. He enrolled at NMSU and completed his Bachelor's in Biology and was accepted into the graduate program to begin working on an advanced Communication Disorders degree.

After graduation, Abel connected with friends and NMSU alumni who had founded a company called Direct Therapy Services (DTS) that provided programs and services for adults with developmental disabilities.

Abel joined the company, and while working with adults with disabilities, he observed that those adults who had access to early intervention and supportive environments seemed to thrive more than those who did not. Seeing a need, Abel met with the other DTS shareholders to begin brainstorming the idea of creating their own early intervention program. In 2005, Aprendamos Early Intervention was founded and received an early intervention contract with the State of New Mexico.

Over the next twenty years, the Aprendamos Family of Services organization evolved to encompass six business units — Aprendamos Early Intervention, Esperanza Children's Therapy, Mariposa Autism Service Center, Cariño Family Health, Alegría Family Counseling, and the Unidos Fathering Services.

What began as a small effort to meet the needs of children and young families has grown into a trusted hub of resources, education, and belonging. Over the past two decades, we have walked alongside families through some of life's most transformative moments from pregnancy, birth, early parenthood, and the many challenges and celebrations that follow. Twenty years later, our commitment is stronger than ever. We remain dedicated to strengthening families, expanding access, and building a community where every parent and child can thrive in Southern New Mexico.



A New Era of Support:

NURSE–FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

In 2025, our Cariño Family Health team launched a new era of support by introducing the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program to the Aprendamos Family of Services umbrella. As the first of its kind in Southern New Mexico, NFP matches first-time mothers with specially trained registered nurses who offer guidance, encouragement, and a strong foundation for building brighter futures for both moms and babies.

The NFP program works in tandem with our Parents as Teachers Home Visiting Model, ensuring that every family can find the right level of support. As an evidence-based program, the Nurse-Family Partnership has been proven to improve maternal and child health outcomes, strengthen family support systems, increase school readiness, and reduce child abuse and neglect.

When families are part of the NFP program, they are connected with a nurse who provides specialized support starting in early pregnancy through their child's second birthday. "When resources and support are provided in the most critical stages of a child's life, we see improved long-term impacts on family and child health," said Cariño Director of Early Childhood Development Health Systems, Cristin Weldon, RN, BSN, CCM.

The Nurse-Family Partnership works to empower parents, strengthen communities, and eliminate barriers so that children have the opportunity to thrive. Deanna Gamboa, Cariño NFP nurse, personally benefited from Nurse-Family Partnership services when pregnant with her daughter, Leanna.



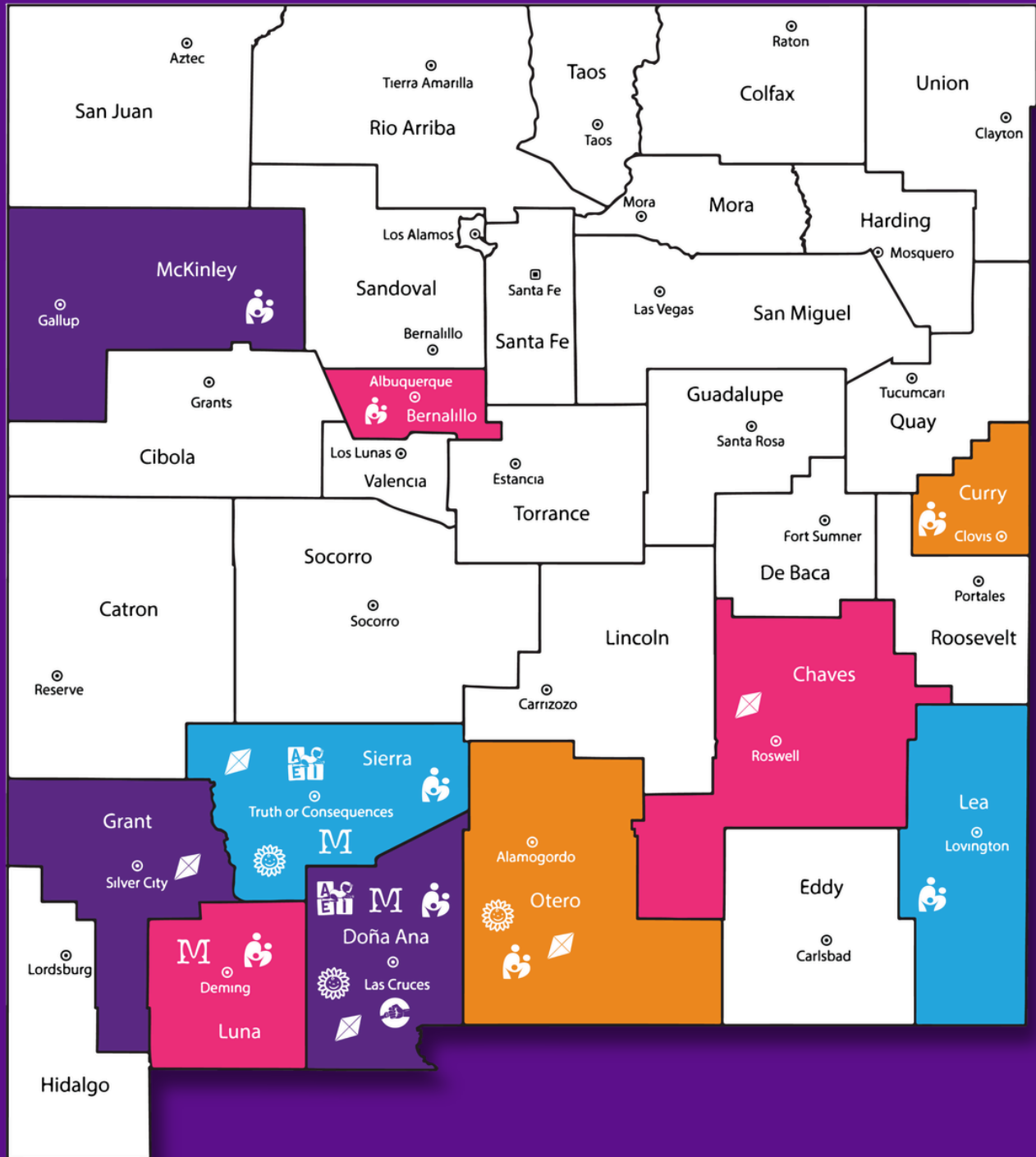
Now as a staff member for our Cariño NFP program, her experience has come full circle. "During my pregnancy, I went through a lot of hardships. Having my NFP nurse to lean on with all of my questions and concerns helped me so much. I truly do believe that I am a better mother because of her," Deanna said.

She also shared that because of the inspiration she received from her NFP nurse, Valerie, she decided to pursue a career in nursing with a specialty in OBGYN/Pediatrics. "Being an NFP nurse now is a dream for me. I look forward to being able to help other moms the same way my nurse did," she shared.

Through the Nurse-Family Partnership, the Cariño team is committed to positively impacting and transforming the lives of first-time mothers and their babies. Together, we can help to shape the future for families in Southern New Mexico.

"I look forward to being able to help other moms the same way my nurse did."

AREAS OF IMPACT



-  Alegría Family Counseling
-  Unidos Fathering Services
-  Aprendamos Early Intervention
-  Esperanza Children's Therapy
-  Cariño Family Health
-  Mariposa Autism Service Center



2025 Aprendamos Family of Services

PHILANTHROPHIC INVESTMENTS

\$120,862

Charitable donations

- Las Cruces High School
- Organ Mountain High School
- Alma D'Arte Charter High School
- Centennial High School
- Hatch Valley High School
- Gadsden High School
- Mayfield High School
- Los Lunas High School
- Las Cruces Catholic Schools
- Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces
- NMSU Foundation
- Community Foundation of Southern NM
- Hearts for Autism
- Jardín de los Niños
- The Wee Warrior Project
- LCPS Foundation
- LC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Alzheimer's Association
- Greater Chamber of Las Cruces
- Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Every Kidz Corner
- Doña Ana County Humane Society
- Make A Wish
- Chester E. Jordan Elementary
- Ngage NM
- McKinney-Vento Project
- Sierra Vista Hospital Development Organization
- El Paso Del Norte Community Foundation
- SNM SHRM
- NMSU Soccer Team
- NM Force
- Soccer Legacy Team
- Sierra County Little League
- El Paso Cosmo FC
- Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest
- 8U Baseball

- Camp of Champs
- Hatch Valley Bears Football
- New Mexico State University
- Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of NM
- Keller Williams Keller Klassic Golf Tournament
- Empty Bowls
- Karen Trujillo Golfing for Educators
- LCPS Foundation
- El Paso Supers

\$21,000

Endowments and Scholarships





Creating a Village For Luna:

THE HALL FAMILY

When Luna was born premature at only 30 weeks, she was deemed medically fragile and was in need of specialized care. Suffering from pulmonary complications and requiring a gastronomy tube to help deliver nutrition, she spent four long months in the NICU.

While in the hospital, the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) referred Luna to Aprendamos Family of Services for an evaluation. “We didn’t know what to expect, at first. However, we were looking for support and resources to guide us through this experience and how to provide the best care possible for Luna,” said Luna’s adoptive parents, Lisa and Shawn.

With support from the Aprendamos Early Intervention and Cariño Home Visiting teams, they began setting goals for what they hoped to accomplish for Luna. “We knew we needed support and resources to guide us and help Luna on her growth and development journey,” Lisa shared. With Luna categorized as failure to thrive, they wanted to work together with a team to reach the common goal to help her grow and thrive.

In the beginning, their journey was overwhelming and even a bit scary. “We had just become empty nesters prior to this and we were focused on being grandparents,” Shawn shared. “While it wasn’t new to have a child in the home, with Luna, it truly was a life-changing experience,” Lisa added.

Looking back, they can now see how Luna has grown and is thriving and meeting her milestones. They have learned to build trust and rely on the Aprendamos team for resources and support, and over the years have built up their knowledge and skills to better care for Luna.



“Aprendamos is our village in raising Luna and it feels like we are a little family,” Shawn shared. Additionally, Luna has built her own relationships with her team. “Luna seems to enjoy everyone and has gotten comfortable and close to her staff and therapists,” he added.

However, one of the most exciting developments in Luna’s life happened on April 9, 2025. It was on this date that Lisa and Shawn finalized their adoption, making their role as Luna’s parents official. With a loving foundation and a network of people that are looking to support her in every capacity, Luna is sure to continue to grow, thrive, and reach her greatest potential.

Thank you, Lisa and Shawn, for letting Aprendamos partner with your family and be a part of Luna’s journey. We look forward to continuing to be a resource in your lives and providing knowledge and resources to help foster Luna’s growth and development!

“Aprendamos is our village in raising Luna and it feels like we are a little family.”



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