# Moving Forward





**Annual Report** 

### **Agency Leadership**

Executive Director April Spaulding

**Board of Directors** 

Ken Tager, President Resnick & Louis, PC

Bryson Frazier, Vice President City of Galveston

Jill Brame, Secretary
Southwest Aeronautics, Math &
Science Academy

David England, Treasurer Intel, Retired

Jenifer Romero
Jenifer Romero Consulting, LLC

Herman Sanchez Kewa Pueblo

Veronica Torres Wells Fargo

Bill Woldman, Senator Udall's Office, Retired

Kristina Gutierrez-Barela, MD Honorary Member

#### **Our Mission**

To improve the lives of children and adults with or at risk for developmental disabilities and their families by providing specialized services.

#### **Our Values**

Family Centered Services
Accountability
Communication
Community
Efficiency & Effectiveness
Excellence

#### A Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Families of Abrazos,

This year's theme, "Moving Forward", reminds me of a Dr. King quote: "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." Despite the many challenges of these past couple of years, Abrazos chose to continue to focus on our growth and advancement toward the goals we had set pre-pandemic.

We completed the construction of our new building, allowing us to add more office space, a dedicated boardroom, a training room, and our first onsite classroom and outdoor therapy area. We began enrolling and providing services for children in our highly anticipated new autism therapy program, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), making us the first and only nonprofit to provide this care to families in the state of New Mexico. And most importantly, this last year we returned to providing all services to the families, homes, and communities that we hold so dear.

At times we felt like we were moving slowly and other times we were exhausted by the race. But whatever the pace, we continued onward. And the payoff for this year's hard work by all of Abrazos' staff, the leadership of the board, and the generosity of our supporters can now be appreciated by all.

As we persist with our forward momentum, we look to a bright future of continued advancement of our mission.

I am pleased to present you with our 2022 Annual Report and invite you to join us as we continue to move forward.

Sincerely,

April Spaulding

### **Our Service Area**

### West - Albuquerque & Sandoval County

Abrazos' service footprint covers the cities of Rio Rancho, Corrales, Bernalillo, Placitas, and the west-side communities of Albuquerque, Ventana Ranch, Eagle Ranch, Paradise Hills and Taylor Ranch. We cover all 3,710 square miles of Sandoval County, including Corrales, the rural areas of Placitas, Pena Blanca, Cuba, and the pueblo tribes of Cochiti, Jemez, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, Sandia, Zia, and parts of the Navajo Nation.



### **Service Delivery Options**

Our professional staff members provide services based on the family's wishes - in the home or daycare, through the use of telehealth, at Abrazos' campus in Bernalillo, or a combination of all three options.

In March 2020, services had to convert to telehealth due to the health risks of COVID-19. Today less than 10% of the families we serve continue to use telehealth for their primary service option.



### **Accomplishments**

### **New Building and Campus Renovation Project**

Abrazos opened the doors to the newest building on our campus in December 2021. This \$1.7 million investment has strengthened our mission of providing specialized services to individuals with developmental delays and disabilities, specifically autism spectrum disorder. The new building, known as the North Building, houses the autism therapy program, ABA Therapy. The other two buildings on Abrazos' campus were also renovated with new stucco, roof replacement, and cooling systems. We also added a dedicated outdoor area, adjacent to the new building, for our therapists to use as an additional option for providing services.



## **Community Support**

### **Community Support Made It Happen**

The improvements made to Abrazos' campus would not have been possible without the support received from these foundations and businesses.























































## **Individual Support**

### **Individual Support Made It Happen**

These individuals also gave toward the improvements made to Abrazos' campus, as well as to our programs and services. It is this support that helps make the lives of the individuals we serve better!

Erika Aceto-Tode Carlos Molinar
Michael Adams Anne Nokes
Maria Aguirre Annie O'Brien
Laura Alberto Jess Padilla
Gary Armijo David Plate

Liza Bales
Lynnae Rael
Victor Barbiero
Valerie Rael

Kevin Beem Margaret Reade

Amy Berman Maria Renteria-Jaramillo

Emily Bihn Deborah Rodrigues

Serena Bihn-Adams Jenifer Romero
Christy Bogert Herman Sanchez
Jill Brame Elizabeth Sims

Angela Croshaw April Spaulding
Bryson Frazier Jamie Stepetic
Friends of the Library Erika Summers

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Kim Griffin Tom Swisstack
Katharine Harmeyer Kenneth Tager
Adam Hurd Bryant Thomas

Bryce Ingalls Veronica Torres
Teresa Lara Jackie Troncoso
Amanda Lovato Angel Trujillo
Sofia Lucero Lisa Trujillo

Randi Malach Hillary Velasquez
Breana Martinez Virginia Velazquez
Louis Martinez Charlane Wiswell

## **Our Impact**

### Family Infant Toddler (FIT) Program

Our Family Infant Toddler Early Intervention program provides services to families whose children ages birth to three years are experiencing a delay in development or are at-risk for developmental delay. A delay may present as an infant having difficulty with eating or a toddler who is slower to walk or talk. Some children are born preterm, increasing their risk for delay in development, while other children may have already been diagnosed with a disability such as Down Syndrome, hearing or vision loss.

Our specialized services include developmental evaluations and intervention, specialized therapy (occupational, physical, speech-language therapy), nutrition, infant mental health and family counseling services.

This year we were able to add a new service for families called lactation consultation. This service supports the new mother to achieve her breastfeeding goals. Our lactation counselor provides the mother with tips and resources, answers questions and helps her to address challenges she encounters so she can be successful in feeding her baby.

"Our goal is to support each family to learn how they can support their child's development, access resources, and advocate for their child's needs- now and in the future. Because each child and family is unique, our services are individualized. The knowledge and experiences of each family form the foundation upon which we build. Each family has a team of professionals who work with them to identify the methods that work best for them during their daily routines and activities." - Randi Malach, Program Director



Abrazos served 532 children and families this year, providing over 18,000 hours of service.



## **Our Impact**

### **ABA Autism Therapy Program**

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy is known as the goldstandard treatment therapy proven to significantly improve the cognitive and behavioral skills of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. Taking nearly two years to be fully licensed and credentialed to offer this therapy, Abrazos became the <u>first and only non-profit provider</u> in the state of New Mexico. Our ABA program is client centered and family focused. We prioritize goals that are important to the client and their family, while respecting the individual family structure and culture.



The goal of Abrazos' ABA program is to support people with autism and their families by advocating for acceptance and understanding, while helping individuals build the skills they need to thrive. Success is different for everyone, and we support the autistic individual and their family by working on the goals and skills that matter most to them with highly individualized plans.-Katharine Harmeyer, ABA Program Director

Abrazos provided over 4,000 hours of Applied Behavior Analysis since its inception in December 2021.



## **Our Impact**

### **Respite Program**

The Respite program provides temporary relief for a family who is caring for a child or adult with special needs. Our trained professionals take over the responsibility and care of the child or adult, and provide the child or family member with an opportunity to experience activities outside of their daily routine, like going to a park, a movie, or a museum. Caregivers can use this time to run errands, attend personal appointments, spend time with friends or family, or engage in self-care activities.

"Respite care is a vital service to families caring for a loved one with a developmental delay or disability. Having time to recharge, reconnect, and relax is imperative to the success of families." -April Spaulding, Executive Director



"Our child loves spending time with her respite provider. This gives me peace of mind when I leave her to run errands or do some self-care." -Carol, Parent

### **Family Living Program**

Designed to promote independence, community inclusion, and an enhanced quality of life, the Family Living program is a home-based service that provides round-the-clock care to enable adults diagnosed with a disability to remain living in their natural or surrogate home.

"Abrazos is thrilled to be a part of the lives of families participating in the Family Living program. This service ensures individuals are able to live, play, and contribute to their communities while receiving the care they deserve by those who deeply care for them." -April Spaulding, Executive Director



Abrazos provided over 1,700 hours of Respite services this year.

### **Financial Statement**

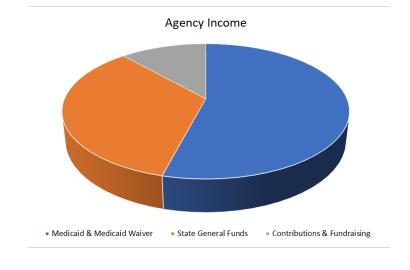
Abrazos is committed to being accountable and transparent with you, our supporters. Below is our Fiscal Year 2021-22 year-end financial statement. As a non-profit organization our focus remains on quality of service, while remaining fiscally responsible.

#### **Agency Income**

Medicaid & Medicaid Waiver \$1,400,368
State General Funds \$890,209

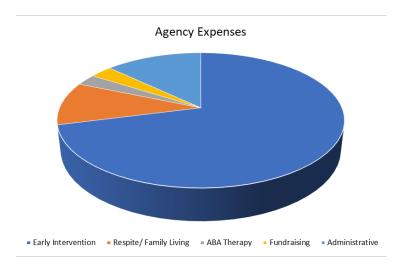
Contributions & Fundraising \$ 299,353

TOTAL \$2,589,930



#### **Agency Expenses**

TOTAL	\$2,628,116
Fundraising	\$ 78,545
Administrative	\$ 340,257
ABA Therapy	\$ 71,149
Respite & Family Living	\$ 272,782
Early Intervention	\$1,865,323



<sup>\*</sup> Note, financials had not yet been audited at the time of this publication

### **Abrazos' Dedicated Staff**

Abrazos is proud to have a highly dedicated and highly skilled team of professionals working tirelessly to assist every individual we serve to reach their greatest potential.

#### **Administration:**

April Spaulding, Executive Director
Erika Aceto-Tode, Respite & Family Living Manager
Liza Bales, Administration Manager
Amy Berman, Development Director
Kathleen Coates, Financial Manager
Katharine Harmeyer, ABA Manager
Randi Malach, Program Director
Rebecca Miera, Data Entry Specialist
Bob Powers, Facilities Process Specialist
Anne Saladino, Administrative Assistant
Shane Sullivan, Human Resource Manager

### **ABA Therapy Program:**

Serena Bihn-Adams Airth McCourt Mikaela Mendoza

### **Early Intervention Specialists:**

Annie O'Brien Erika Summers Jackie Troncoso Hillary Velazquez

### **Developmental Specialists:**

Lindsey Atencio
Teresa Lara
Amanda Lovato
Sofia Lucero
Airth McCourt
Stephanie Simon
Elizabeth Sims

### **Family Service Coordinators:**

Emily Bihn
Kim Griffin
Allison Hartley
Breana Martinez
Marcella Montoya
Regina Quintana
Lynnae Rael
Maria Renteria-Jaramillo
Jamie Stepetic



As a New Mexico Family Friendly Business, Abrazos has received the highest recognition - Platinum Distinguished Leader Award