



Volunteer event raises funds and awareness for Family Crisis Center

By Debra Mayeux The Daily Times

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FARMINGTON — A family in crisis seeking a safe haven from danger has somewhere to turn in this community.

The Family Crisis Center in Farmington provides shelter, counseling and necessities to victims of domestic violence.

Funded by grants and donations, the Family Crisis Center fills a need in this community, which has higher rates of domestic violence than the national average, Development Manager Alma Lorenz said.

The center's main fundraising event of the year is the Roses In Winter Ball, a New Year's Eve celebration at the Courtyard by Marriott. The ball begins at 6 p.m. Dec. 31. It includes appetizers, wine tasting, dinner and dancing.

"The kids also will be entertained with food and prizes," said Letitia Sandoval, assistant to Lorenz.

Planning for this annual event is a year-long process that begins with a volunteer board.

"Our biggest role of volunteers are those helping us with the ball," Lorenz said. Volunteers also serve on the center's nonprofit board of directors.

"We are looking for good, quality board members to pitch in and help us with fundraising and to pitch

us to the community," Lorenz said.

Fundraising efforts are important to the Family Crisis Center, which is working to complete a new emergency shelter for domestic violence victims. Marge's Place, set to open in the spring, needs some finishing touches. A security fence and shelving and closets in the victims' rooms were left out because of budget constraints.

"We've got to have a security fence," Lorenz said. "We are all about wanting to have our clients come and feel welcomed. They are in crisis and nervous about being in a strange place."

Victims of domestic violence are welcomed into the shelter with their children, who also need to feel safe, volunteer Lucy Jojola said.

"The children are touched deeply by domestic violence," she said. "The center provides services that teach them how to break the cycle of violence."

Jojola was a victim and works as a volunteer to help others in the same situation. She also chairs the ball committee, calling area businesses to ask for donations that can be auctioned during the event.

Jojola coordinates the event with the assistance of other volunteers.

"I don't walk alone," she said.

Volunteer: For more information about the Family Crisis Center call Letitia at (505) 325-3549.

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