

NMCA DV *Spotlight*

A monthly celebration of
the work happening
throughout our
Coalition!

Advocates of the Month

**CLARISSA SIERRA
& DIANA GORDILLO**

Member Spotlight

**EL REFUGIO, INC
LINDA MARQUEZ-TOLLEFSON
& CHARLENE FLETCHER**



Advocate of the Month

DIANA GORDILLO
of El Refugio, Inc.

"I THINK THE MOST
IMPORTANT ASPECT
ABOUT BEING AN
ADVOCATE IS
LISTENING WITHOUT
JUDGEMENT."

Diana Gordillo is the Daytime Shelter Advocate for El Refugio Inc., in Silver City, NM. In her role at El Refugio Inc., Diana conducts client's intakes, enters information into the client database, transports clients to appointments, completes case management, safety plans and goals with client's while they are in shelter. She also assists with any manual labor and cleaning needed around the shelter.

Diana has a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in chemical dependency counseling from Western New Mexico University. Her long-term goal is to work with at-risk youth.

During her time at El Refugio, Diana has been able to help many clients get permanent housing, mental health and medical help, and even has assisted clients with the process of going back to school. When she is not at work, Diana enjoys spending time with her 2-year-old daughter, her husband, friends, and family. She enjoys traveling, the outdoors, and art. Diana has successfully sold two of her own paintings but likes to keep her art a hobby as an outlet for stress and self-care.

Want to submit your amazing advocate? Use the link below to fill out our online form:

<https://forms.gle/VIGi9HLVPK1Sv7W66>

Listen to her full podcast
interview releasing April 12th!

<https://anchor.fm/nmcadv>



Advocate of the Month

CLARISSA SIERRA
of El Refugio, Inc.

"WITH THE CLIENTS, I LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY'RE NOT ALONE THROUGH THIS ALL ... THAT I AM HERE ... THAT'S ONE THING I WANT TO LET THEM KNOW. NO QUESTION IS A STUPID QUESTION."

Clarissa Sierra is a 28-year-old mother of two beautiful and outgoing daughters, Serenity & Savannah, and is the youngest of her 3 older brothers and twin sister.

Clarissa is always up for a good laugh and spending time with her family and friends especially when it comes to being her daughters' biggest fan on the side lines at sporting events they partake in. Before starting at El Refugio, Inc. she served 8 years in the New Mexico Army National Guard and was a Detention Officer for 4 years with the County of Grant.

Clarissa became a Victim Advocate with El Refugio, Inc. in January of 2021 and since then has helped with empowering many survivors of domestic violence and their families. As a victim advocate with El Refugio, Inc. she assists domestic violence survivors in getting Domestic Violence Protection Orders, supports them through the court process, and she also spends many hours doing outreach in her community. As a survivor of domestic violence herself, Clarissa is dedicated to the cause of empowering survivors, being a voice against domestic violence and spreading awareness in her community.

Want to submit your amazing advocate? Use the link below to fill out our online form:

<https://forms.gle/VIGi9HLVPK1Sv7W66>

Listen to her full podcast interview releasing April 19th!

<https://anchor.fm/nmcadv>



Member Spotlight

EL REFUGIO, INC.

**LINDA MARQUEZ-TOLLEFSON
& CHARLENE FLETCHER**

"I THINK EVERY SITUATION WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH A SURVIVOR IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT THIS PERSON HAS SUFFERED AND JUST DEALT WITH A LOT OF ABUSE. YOU KNOW IF ITS JUST FROM EMOTIONAL ABUSE TO PHYSICAL ABUSE. ITS JUST REALLY HARD TO SEE ANYONE SUFFER VIOLENCE FROM SOMEONE THAT THEY CARE ABOUT."

"I LIKE PEOPLE TO REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAN AFFECT ANYONE... I ALWAYS WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT WE'RE HERE, WE'RE VERY NOT JUDGMENTAL, WE WORK WITH BOTH MALES AND FEMALES. AND FOR PEOPLE JUST TO REALLY REACH OUT TO US BECAUSE IF WE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT, IT JUST KEEPS HAPPENING."

"WE DO A LOT OF BONDING, SO WE LAUGH A LOT, WE JOKE AROUND A LOT. YOU KNOW EVEN THROUGH THE TOUGH TIMES STILL GET A LAUGH OUT OF EACH OTHER. IT'S REALLY NICE, WE HAVE A REALLY GOOD TIME HERE."



Listen to their full podcast
interview releasing April 26th!

<https://anchor.fm/nmcadv>

Member Spotlight

EL REFUGIO, INC.

LINDA MARQUEZ-TOLLEFSON

Linda Marquez currently serves as the Shelter Director for El Refugio Domestic Violence Shelter. Before entering her current role, Linda worked as a Shelter Advocate for eight years, providing direct service to victims of domestic abuse.

In addition to her work at El Refugio, Linda has been providing case management and prevention services in Grant County for 23 years, and aside from her work with victims of sexual and domestic abuse, she has educated the community's youth on Substance abuse issues and helped several pregnant and parenting teens graduate high school. Though her work varies widely, her goal of creating positive change in the community always remains the same.

Outside of work, Linda enjoys photography, kickboxing, and spending time with her family.



CHARLENE FLETCHER

Charlene Fletcher has been married to her husband Willie for 34 years. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. She enjoys crafting, cooking, going to casinos and spending time with her family and friends.

After 10 years as the Program Manager of the local Senior Program she became Administrative Assistant at El Refugio, Inc. in July of 2019.

As Administrative Assistant she assists in many aspects at ERI such as covid testing clients and staff, answering calls, greeting guests/visitors, scheduling meetings, printing packets, and writing minutes of meetings. Also assists with community outreach.



Listen to their full podcast interview releasing April 26th!

<https://anchor.fm/nmadv>

Take Care

GET WALKING

Mindful Walking Technique

- Leave the phone at home/work
- Breathe
- Observe the world around you
- Tune in to all of your senses
- Notice your body as a whole
- Be in the moment

Walking is a terrific way to reset your mind and body. Use this technique on your next break!

For an in-depth explanation of mindful walking:

<http://www.exploreandcreateco.com/blog/2017/6/30/mindful-walking-top-tips-for-showing-some-self-care>



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"The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it."

NATIONAL YOUTH POET LAUREATE
AMANDA GORMAN

Feedback? Email Rochelle@nmcadv.org