

NMCA DV *Spotlight*

A monthly celebration of
the work happening
throughout our
Coalition!

Advocate of the Month

MATILDA HADZIC

Member Spotlight

**ESPERANZA SHELTER
ANJI ESTRELLAS**

Member Spotlight

**TGRC OF NM
ADRIEN LAWYER**



Member Spotlight

ESPERANZA SHELTER

ANJI ESTRELLAS

"We moved from just a few beds to a full-service agency. We're very proud of what we do here at Esperanza."

"Another way we're trying to innovate—I'm currently writing a grant to hire an in-house attorney. So I hope we get that grant because this is a huge need. Over 95% of the offenders in these court cases have attorneys and those attorneys attack the character of our survivors and its traumatizing."

"I've led the organization for five years and... I brought trauma-informed care model to the agency. I've built up a budget that's now in the black."

"I've brought together a leadership team that I can really rely on to run departments. We just had our most annual appeal ever and that was led by Marcos Zubia, our development director."



Listen to their first podcast interview releasing June 7th!

<https://anchor.fm/nmcadv>

Member Spotlight

ESPERANZA SHELTER

ANJI ESTRELLAS

Anji Estrellas Anji Estrellas, M.A. is a native New Mexican originally from Roswell and has lived in Santa Fe since 1994.

She has spent her entire career in behavioral health with her first social work practicum and employment after college at a domestic violence shelter.

She is in her fifth year as Executive Director at Esperanza Shelter. Esperanza is the only domestic violence shelter in Santa Fe and in 2021 celebrated its 45th year of service to our community.

She is incredibly proud to be a part of such an outstanding team at Esperanza and looks forward to helping guide the agency through its next strategic plan goals.

"So really my goals have been... to clean things up organizationally... taking care of staff as well as clients through a trauma-informed model, building a leadership team where everybody's individual expertise is what really runs the agency so I can focus on the big picture... of moving the agency forward."



Listen to their second podcast interview releasing June 14th!

<https://anchor.fm/nmcadv>

Advocate of the Month

MATILDA HADZIC

of Esperanza Shelter

"I think that's one of the things that comes most naturally to me as an advocate because it doesn't even dawn on me to [judge my clients]... I see them and I see me."



Matilda Hadzic was born in Canada, to immigrant parents. She moved to the southern United States in her early teens, where she eventually pursued her bachelor's degree in Nursing.

Then, as it can, her life took a series of unexpected turns.

She is now a mother of four, a survivor of domestic abuse, a person in recovery from substance use, and has finally found her true calling as an advocate for survivors.

"Every day of my life was a success, whether it was shadowed by darkness, or shined on by light. Every day provided me with the knowledge and strength I have now."

Her hope is to help others along their journey and to be like those empathetic individuals that helped her on her path.

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

<https://forms.gle/V1Gi9HLVPK1Sv7W66>

Listen to her full podcast interview releasing June 21st!

<https://anchor.fm/nmcadv>



Member Spotlight

TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER

ADRIEN LAWYER

Adrien Lawyer co-founded TGRCNM in 2008 with Zane Stephens to be a clearinghouse of service provision, education, and advocacy for the transgender community in New Mexico. He has facilitated over 3,000 Transgender 101 training sessions throughout New Mexico, including training every corrections department in the state, numerous district attorney offices, police departments, public and private schools, healthcare and social service facilities, and countless businesses, nonprofits, and other entities. Adrien has led successful advocacy efforts for model transgender student policies, gender-neutral restrooms, trans inclusion in social service facilities, statewide bullying prevention, and most recently, birth certificate gender marker change.

On a national level, Adrien presents and consults on many issues impacting the trans community, including TGRCNM as a successful model for local service provision.

He has been recognized with the Jose Sarria Into the Light Award for community service and the Vincent R. Johnson Model of Hope Award for LGBTQ role models. In 2019, Adrien won the Advocacy In Action (AIA) Professional Innovation in Victim Services Award presented by the New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission (CVRC).

Adrien is a trans man and father. In his spare time, he enjoys playing guitar with A Band Named Sue.



Listen to their full podcast
interview releasing June 28th!

<https://anchor.fm/nmcadv>

Take Care

GET AWAY

Maybe it's time to book that vacation...

The American Psychological Association lists four reasons to take a vacation from work:

- life satisfaction
- physical improvements
- mental health benefits
- improved productivity

When we overwork ourselves, we risk burnout.

Don't let burnout stop you from continuing the work that is meaningful to you.

Take a break.

For some fun summer get-away ideas right here is the state of New Mexico — [read this article](#).

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"Failure is not something to be ashamed of—nor is it proof of unworthiness. Failure is something to be powered by."

Feedback? Email Rochelle@nmcadv.org

ABBY WAMBACH