OPEN ARMS SANTA FE

Impact Report

2026



A Year of Growth and Becoming a 501(c)(3)

Over the past year, the Micro-Community at Arroyo Chamiso — operated first by Christ Lutheran Church - Safe Outdoor Spaces (CLC-SOS) in partnership with The Life Link — has grown from a fledgling shelter site into a stabilized community with expanding services, a completed community room, and a widening circle of donors and city support. This narrative traces that growth from July 2025 through July 2026. In November 2025, Open Arms – Santa Fe achieved a major milestone, receiving its official 501(c)(3) designation and formalizing its status as an independent nonprofit.

Independent 501(c)(3) status means gifts to Open Arms are now tax-deductible directly to the organization and opens eligibility for a broader range of foundation and grant funding that requires this designation. It will continue to operate on the Christ Lutheran Church campus, provided in kind by the church.



This Year, By the Numbers

59
Individuals served, Aug 2025–June 2026

22
Moved into permanent housing

10
Residents in the micro-community today

27
relationships begun with residents who left programming

+$273,000
In funding & community support

2,500+
Families served through food pantries

501(c)(3)
Status achieved, November 2025

10
Garden planters installed

Housing and Resident Outcomes

The number of people served grew substantially over the year, from 38 total clients in August 2025 to 59 by July 2026. Twenty-two residents have moved into permanent housing through The Life Link's case management and housing vouchers. Our micro-community is home to ten residents, with case managers continuing to work through the waitlist for available units.

Twenty-seven residents left before completing services this year. For many, that meant stepping back from the structure the program asks of residents such as house guidelines and regular case management, before they were ready to take it on. That's not where their story with us ends: they now know Open Arms exists, what it offers, and that the door stays open for when they are ready. It's also informing what we build next: developing a lighter-touch, readiness-focused track for residents who need more time before they can fully engage is a priority for the year ahead.

Resident Outcomes

22

Permanently Housed

Food Security

2,500

Served over 2,500 families

Community Room

$6,700

Furnished with a Symons Family Foundation $6,700 grant

Programming that Builds Connection

11

Murals Painted

Volunteers and Community Involvement

14

Community Partnerships, 42 Individual Donors

Strengthening the Campus

AED

Automated External Defibrillator installed



Food Security

Food access expanded significantly this year. What began as a pilot drive-through pantry in March 2026, distributing four boxes of food on its first distribution, has grown into a reliable monthly service, now regularly providing up to twenty boxes, increasing the number of families served, with residents helping pack and distribute the food. Alongside it, the church's weekly indoor food pantry now gives out roughly 200 boxes a month. To keep pace with demand, the program added two new commercial refrigerators, a commercial freezer, and additional shelving over the course of the year, and together, the food pantry programs served over 2,500 families.

The Community Room

As of July 23, 2026, the long-awaited community room is officially open for residents to use. Over the past year, construction moved from permitting through site work, structure delivery, electrical, insulation, drywall, flooring, minisplit installation, landscaping, ADA access, and furnishing — culminating in a dedicated indoor gathering space for residents, complemented by beautiful landscaping and a shaded picnic area outside. The Symons Family Foundation provided a $6,700 grant that furnished the room with a refrigerator, seating, storage, and a desk.

Programming That Builds Connection

A new partnership with Vital Spaces Unhoused Art brought a mural project to the micro-community, giving residents the chance to work alongside a hired artist and paint the sides of their shelters. Four residents engaged directly with the artist, gaining a hands-on source of pride and ownership in their living space.

A gardening program also took root this spring, supported by volunteer donations of plants and tools. Residents cleared and replanted the community's raised garden beds, including a new brick raised bed in the community room's outdoor space, and now maintain ten raised garden planters with support from the site coordinator.



Volunteers and Community Involvement

Open Arms benefits from a growing base of volunteer support. Habitat for Humanity contributed most of the community room's construction in kind and continues to provide regular maintenance help, stretching every dollar in the Open Arms budget. Vital Spaces Unhoused Art regularly brings in volunteer visiting artists, and Nusenda Credit Union provided in-kind financial literacy training for residents. The Santa Fe Community Yoga group offers free weekly classes, and volunteers have also led meditation programming. Throughout the year, community members stop by regularly to donate clothing, food, and plants. This is the steady, grassroots support that keeps the community connected and well-stocked.

Funding and Community Support

Open Arms has secured more than $273,000 in funding and community support this year. The City of Santa Fe approved a new FY26–27 contract in the amount of $136,000, continuing its core support for the program. Private giving grew as well: 42 individual donors contributed over $25,000 in individual gifts, One Hundred Women Who Care awarded a $13,000 gift, and the Dan Cameron Family Foundation made a landmark $100,000 donation to Open Arms in Q2 2026. All support goes directly to community and campus maintenance, programming, and personnel.

Strengthening the Campus

Safety and upkeep improved steadily throughout the year: an AED unit was installed on campus, with first aid, AED, and CPR training underway; a maintenance worker was brought on to handle repairs, gardening, and general campus needs; the hygiene unit received upgrades including an outdoor sink and new soap/shampoo dispensers; and the church completed a major tiling project in the shared common area.

Looking Ahead

With the community room complete, new programming taking hold, and a growing base of city, foundation, and individual support, the micro-community enters its next year on stronger footing than it began with more residents served, more housed, and more community investment behind it than ever before. A top priority for the year ahead is developing a lighter-touch, readiness-focused track for residents who need more time before they can fully engage with case management — meeting people where they are, and building the bridge to full program participation. Additionally, Open Arms is establishing a monthly meal program, a cell phone fund, and a transitional support fund to ease the burden of transitioning into permanent housing.





With Gratitude

This year's progress was made possible by a growing circle of partners and supporters, including:

- The City of Santa Fe
- Christ Lutheran Church and CLC-SOS
- The Life Link
- The Dan Cameron Family Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity
- La Familia
- The Symons Family Foundation
- The Food Depot
- Reunity Resources
- One Hundred Women Who Care
- Nusenda
- Vital Spaces Unhoused Art
- Santa Fe Community Yoga
- Workforce Solutions
- 42 individual donors
- Community in kind donors

Get Involved

Every one of these milestones started with someone who decided to show up. Safe, supportive, transitional shelter isn't built by an organization alone; it's built by a community that refuses to look away. We invite you to be part of what comes next: volunteer your time, share your skills, or make a donation that turns into a roof, a garden bed, or a room where someone finally feels at home. Your commitments ensure that we can continue to provide this space for healing, and grow to support many more on the journey to permanent housing in Santa Fe.

www.openarmssantafe.org

Leadership



Martha Leeder



Susan Boe



Zoila Cleaver



Johanna Gilligan



Tug Leeder



Joan Murphy

Staff Leadership



Raquel Baca-Tompson, Executive Director

