



Love God. Love your Neighbor.

I am really proud of ECM and our whole International District community for how neighbors cared for each other during this past year of crisis and need. Overwhelmingly, the Covid pandemic and the risks were taken very seriously because we knew we really only had each other to rely on. Around us, people organized to bring extra food and encouragement to families who were running low or in isolation. Phone calls and check-ins naturally happened as we cared for our community and their health vulnerabilities. We worked together when neighbors were in financial need or at risk of being evicted from an apartment. Small group communications started happening to offer support and information and check on each other's safety when neighborhood incidents happened in real time. In the midst of this, ECM experienced incredible generosity from many donors, enabling us to financially help our neighbors as more needs than ever arose.

The examples and stories of the love and the goodness of our community neighbors helping each other are endless, and this for me is the fruit of ECM and the years of building relationships and community together. When it comes to a complex world and how I am to live in it, I have always tried to keep the theology very simple: "Love God. Love my neighbor." We all have a lifetime of living and learning to do these simple things well. I wish us all great joy on this lifetime journey together.

John Bulten, Executive Director

Healthy Communities

On June 17, 2021, ECM's One Hope Centro de Vida participated in a community event at Casa Feliz, an affordable housing community in the International District. In collaboration with International District Healthy Communities Coalition and multiple other community partners, the event promoted healthy communities by sharing relevant resources and providing vaccines for 194 community members. It was a resounding success and we look forward to further community collaborations!





Our food cooperative remained active during Covid (people still need to eat, right?) and successfully kept its doors open with ZERO Covid transmission! Thank you to Norma for providing a safe way for our community to maintain their healthy eating practices!

In **ECM's Pathways program**, our Navigators witness many sad stories and often watch our community members and families struggle in ways that can be draining, even demoralizing. But, in the midst of these conflicts, much good is happening and successes bring great joy. We are pleased to share a heart-warming story with you, our generous donors and supporters!

Tiny House Village

Have you thought of what you would do if things fell apart? Many of us know that we have a back-up, a support structure, a place to go if the need strikes. But what about those who don't? Where do they go?

Bev entered Pathways following a series of incidents that even she, a former contractor who worked overseas for many years, could not surmount. A car accident landed Bev in the hospital, where she contracted Covid. The resulting long hospital stay led to her losing her job, her car, and finally her apartment. For the first time in her life, Bev found herself homeless and struggling to provide for herself. Through her ECM Pathways Navigator, Bev was given a safe place to live at the Tiny Home Village, a transitional housing project managed by the Albuquerque Indian Center in the International District. Not only is she safe and off the streets, but the Tiny Home program stresses self-care and encourages participants to take a month or two to recuperate before looking for employment or an apartment. This is a much-needed break for Bev, and she is now looking forward to the future.



ECM Staff visited Bev during a tour of the tiny house village.



ECM has worked to build and maintain the **La Mesa Garden park** since 2012, and John built the rustic shade structure with the help of volunteers in 2014. In June, someone intentionally started a fire, but the way our community showed up and came together to clean it up was incredibly uplifting.

Volunteers are a big part of the ECM community and can be found throughout our programs. From cashiering and sorting clothes at The Common Good Thrift Store to daily food pickups for our food cooperative, our volunteers are helping us to thrive. Add in those who work in our youth program or transplant petunias or paint or just clean up, and you can see how important they are to us! And without our generous medical and dental volunteer providers, One Hope would not be able to serve our International District community in such a professional, caring manner. A thousand thank-yous to those who are giving their time and hearts to ECM.

Another big thank you to our work groups! We are so very thankful that a lifting of Covid restrictions has allowed us to welcome back a couple of groups this summer.



Long-term volunteers Lydia and Karen at The Common Good Thrift Store.



Folks from Sunnyside, CA, who typically come every summer painted our admin house this year! Thanks, Munyoki and group!

THANK YOU!

Without our individual, church, and community donors, ECM would not be serving in the International District, making differences, large and small, in the lives of our community. Thank you so much to all of our donors! We could not do this without you!

We also want to extend a hearty thanks to our foundation and program donors:

The Nature Conservancy
NewMexicoWomen.Org
Albuquerque Community Foundation
Albuquerque Community Foundation, Richard Kirschner and
Mary Oertel-Kirschner
Bernalillo County
University of New Mexico, Health Sciences Center
University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center
New Mexico Department of Health
McCune Charitable Foundation
United Way



Friends from Hope Church in ABQ: a faithful and involved donor & partner of ECM since 2013!

One Hope Centro de Vida is back to full operations! Our dental clinic opened in April, and we are booked solid, meeting the dental needs of our neighbors who were without care for over a year. We are back to in-patient services for our medical, women's, nutrition, and mental health clinics, and we serve as a clinical space for asylum seekers who must have an up-to-date physical for their asylum applications. We are also on the front line of vaccine education, coordination, and even some delivery, in addition to participating in vaccine hesitation studies and plans for community-wide vaccination campaigns. It is truly an exciting time for us!



One Hope and Growing Awareness were fortunate to each have an intern this spring.

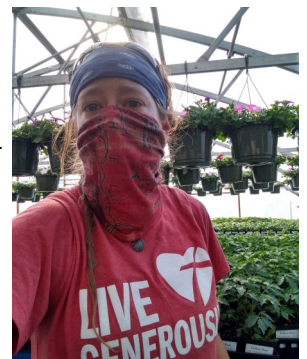
Growing Awareness continues to grow and change a little every year. 2021 was our best year financial year to date, totaling \$62,000 in sales! Thanks so much to volunteers, interns, gardeners, and nurseries for supporting us through another growing season!



This spring we held regular retail hours at the office backyard and sold to the public Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Some folks have been coming to ECM to buy tomato and pepper starts for their garden since 2010! When I thank them, amazed that they keep coming back, they say, "You're our farmer, and you have the best plants. Of course we come back! See you next year!" We get great feedback on the quality of plants and often people will compare them to plants purchased at box stores: "Your plants are the best! They did so much

better than the ones from the box stores." I always say it takes a special person to track us down and come to ECM to buy their Chocolate Cherry or Sun Gold tomato plants.

Growing Awareness is also an established local grower for four Albuquerque nurseries and sells plants weekly throughout April and May to Rehm's Nursery, Plants of the Southwest, Jericho Nursery, and Jackalope Nursery. Our box truck (a U-Haul in its former life) that is used daily for food donation pickups, is turned into a plant delivery truck. We strap in metal shelves and load up: a full truck can fit around 55 flats (990 plants) at one time. A wholesale order from one nursery per week ranges from 8 to 100 flats!



We also donate a lot of plants every year to community groups and small farmers. May your gardens be fruitful and abundant! Thanks everyone for a great year!

Morgan Attema



Contact Info:

East Central Ministries
123 Vermont St. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87108

Visit the Website:

www.EastCentralMinistries.org

Phone: 505.266.3590

