

## HopeWorks News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **HopeWorks Honors Clients, Pivots Toward “Healing Homelessness”**

*HopeWorks annual Client BBQ this year acknowledges need to heal trauma*

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM** (March 22, 2023) – When clients attend the annual HopeWorks barbeque this year at the day shelter on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street near downtown Albuquerque, the experience will include a new element. Before enjoying burgers, hot dogs, chips and dessert, guests (which include HopeWorks clients, staff, board members, and elected officials) will participate in a ceremony that will honor the intersection between spirituality, trauma, and homelessness. HopeWorks’ CEO Annam Manthiram will be joined by local practitioners, including Kalpulli Izkalli (a group of Indigenous healers) and Sacred Springs Reiki Collective to lead the ceremony.

“The phrase ‘ending homelessness’ is too consumed with placing the responsibility on the individual when it is the community and its actions (or lack thereof) that got us where we are now,” says Annam Manthiram, CEO of HopeWorks. “We cannot end homelessness until we heal each other through a holistic, mind, body, and spirit approach. There is collective wounding that requires collective healing.”

This ceremony is also intended to symbolically open the way for HopeWorks’ next big endeavor: HopeWorks intends to tear down its existing day shelter facility and build a new day facility and affordable housing project comprised of at least 68 units of affordable housing in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The proposed development will be constructed to provide at least four stories of affordable housing units with the ground floor designated to provide mental/behavioral health focused on non-westernized modalities for healing trauma and day shelter services (meals, mail, clothing, storage, bathrooms and showers, laundry, etc.) for those experiencing homelessness. Steps to secure local and federal funding for this effort is underway.

“Trauma has a negative impact on the mind, body and spirit, says Bernalillo County Commissioner Adriann Barboa. “When folks feel stable and safe in their living environments and have access to tools to heal, we will begin to see the long-lasting impacts of our efforts that benefit the entire community.”

**About HopeWorks:** Founded in 1985, HopeWorks is one of the largest nonprofit serving the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness or near-homelessness in New Mexico. Every year, approximately 8,500 people access our mental and behavioral health, outreach, and housing services as well as visit our onsite day shelter for basic needs: food, clothing, mail, storage, showers, laundry, hygiene and telephone/internet access.

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