Philanthropist Profile: Chris and Helen Ortega

Chris and Helen Ortega were submitted for the inaugural philanthropic profile by Karen Eaton, a long-time Los Alamos resident and vice president of the Century Bank brand in Española.

"Chris and Helen are amazing. It doesn’t matter if the need is in Rio Arriba or Los Alamos County, you can always count on the Ortega’s. Chris is quiet, effective, and prolific supporter, in many respects. Helen has always put the needs of others before herself. They are a truly generous couple who set the standard for many of us," Eaton said.

As part of the legendary Ortega wearing family in New Mexico, Chris remained close to his roots and his extensive family even while serving in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1971 and in Los Alamos County. Helen was born in Española and has lived her entire life in Los Alamos.

The Ortega’s give generously in both, funds, and other goods and resources to their church, to Central American mission projects, to the Family YMCA, to youth sports, to educational endeavors, and a plethora of other concerns in both Rio Arriba and Los Alamos counties.

Chris has served on many boards over the years. His current commitments include the Family YMCA, the Finance Council at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, and the Board of Regents for Northern New Mexico College. He served a 10 year term on the Los Alamos County board of County servings as District 4. Chris has served the Española Valley in a future issue send an email to info@unitedwaynnm.org

Overlay lodging and food. Kids and teens have a safe place to go after school. Moving Arts Espahola gives kids the opportunity to experience visual and performing arts in a nurturing environment. The Española Teen Center and the Los Alamos Teen Center provide a safe place for teens to go for recreational activities, monitoring, tutoring, sports and a variety of skill building programs.

Hungry families are fed. Hunger is one in every four children experience hunger and food insecurity. In 2017, the Food Gap distributed 6.5 million pounds of food to people in need: children, seniors, grandparents raising grandchildren, people who often must choose between buying food, or paying utility bills, or buying medicine.

All of these are essential programs and services that receive funds from the UWNNM. As we approach the tumultuous times ahead, we must be prepared to make changing difference in RALA by spending more time, effort, and resources in our community to make a difference. We will continue to pull organizations together, brand funding to make our dollars more impactful, and share information and volunteers to lighten the load and increase the effectiveness of programs. Thank you for your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/26 Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Grrl Disco Discovery


10/26 Saturday 4-7 p.m. Mountain Elementary Campus

Game: taught house, house house, food, music, silent auction. www.unitedwaynnm.org for more information.

10/26 Saturday 5 p.m. Trick or Treat on MainStreet Downtown Los Alamos and business throughout the Los Alamos MainStreet. Go to www.losalamosmainstreet.com for more info.

10/26 Saturday 5 p.m. Costume Pet Parade As part of the Regional History of Architecture, Park, parade route on Central Avenue. Meet at the Elephant Statue at Ashley Pond, parade toward the corner of Central and Los Alamos.

10/20 Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Girls Discovery Interactive discovery for girls in grades 6-9 designed to inspire and empower. Contact 505-663-1500 to register.

10/26 Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Los Alamos County Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair Visit us online at www.losalamosarts.org for more info.

10/26 Saturday 11-7 p.m. Los Alamos County Hot Air Balloon Festival See www.unitedwaynnm.org for more info.

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Organizational Profile: United Way of Northern New Mexico

The United Way of Northern New Mexico is a 501 (c)(3) organization supported by the generosity of individuals, companies, foundations, and government agencies. Lived United Page of the Los Alamos County Bank. Century Bank and the United Way of Northern New Mexico is pleased to present the Live United Page of the Los Alamos Daily Post. The Live United Page will be a monthly feature that highlights different organizations, people, and activities that are making a difference and improving the lives of others in Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties. Organizations and people who are dedicated to the principal of Living United and making a better life for all generations.

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