Casa ESPERANZA

Hope NOTES

FALL 2026

¿Que Pasa En La Casa?

PARTICIPANT NEWS - Auriana's Big Move

Congratulations to Auriana and her family who have moved into a place of their very own!
The transitional program at Casa Esperanza is six to twenty-four months. Within nine months, Auriana earned her high school diploma, and is now studying to become a medical assistant at High Desert Medical College while working part-time.
Talk about a busy and inspiring season!
Casa Esperanza was honored to help them start this exciting new journey with essential furniture for their three-bedroom apartment. Alumni still have access to classes, activities, and mental health therapy.
We could not be prouder of Auriana!

ALUMNI NEWS - Jessica Continues to Thrive

When Jessica completed Casa Esperanza's 24-month transitional housing program in 2025, she walked straight into her own apartment with her children, and has been thriving ever since. Jessica continues her work with In Home Supportive Services and supports her family independently. What a remarkable accomplishment!
Now she is dreaming even bigger. As part of our alumni program Jessica has started working on a new Individual Development Plan, with the goal of launching her very own podcast! We are so proud of Jessica and her continued success, and we cannot wait for her first episode. Stay tuned!

HOLIDAY PLANS ARE UNDERWAY
SEE PAGE 3 FOR MEANINGFUL WAYS TO GIVE OR VOLUNTEER!

Ho Ho Hopeful Holidays

HOPE Happens Here *-FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

New Staff Structure

Casa Esperanza has entered an exciting new chapter with a strengthened staff structure. The team is moving forward with a shared commitment to expanding organizational capacity. This new structure positions Casa Esperanza to enhance program services, deepen community partnerships, and expand opportunities for the mothers and children we serve, and the donors who propel the work.

PHOTO (L TO R): ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT CLAIRE OXFORD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS ESPERANZA CONTRERAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRISTINE LOLLAR, AND CASE COORDINATOR BRIANNA SANTAELLA.

9th Annual Hearts of Hope Committee

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the incredible community that made the 2026 Hearts of Hope annual fundraiser such a success! Together, you helped raise more than $250,000 to support Casa Esperanza's mission of empowering women through education, workforce development, and the opportunities to secure livable-wage employment and permanent housing. Every dollar represents an investment in brighter futures for mothers and their children. ***Bakersfield... you are incredible!***

A special shout-out to our stellar 2026 Hearts of Hope Committee, whose dedication, creativity, and hard work helped make this evening possible. We are so grateful to you!

Save the date for the 10th Annual Hearts of Hope: September 16, 2027

COMMITTEE (LEFT): CO-CHAIRS JULIE CESARE AND LAURAINE COOK, AND MEMBERS: KATHY CRAWFORD, MARY FRITZEN, SHEEZA GORDON, NORMA JALLO, ALICIA JOHNSON, LISA KING, JEANNE MAXWELL, MYRNA PELLE, ANN SMART, SANDY TRASK, AND JAN WEBSTER. PHOTO (RIGHT): GORDON REALTY

Be a part of something meaningful.
Join us on social media! @CasaEsperanzaBakersfield

CASA ESPERANZA

Ho Ho Hopeful Holidays

Help make the season festive for moms and their children.

Whatever your budget or time availability, there is something for everyone.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR VOLUNTEER

Thanksgiving	**11/25 or 11/26**	**Provide a Thanksgiving meal for 30.** *This is a great opportunity for a , business, church, or family!*
Winter Festival	**12/13 2-5p**	**Volunteers needed to organize games, activities, or crafts.** *This is a great opportunity for a church fellowship!*
Adopt a Family for Christmas	**12/14**	**Adopt a family** *Email us for details:* info@esperanzabakersfield.org, $400-$1000
Gift Wrap Party	**12/19 5:30-7:30pm**	**Volunteers needed to help wrap gifts!**
Santa's Secret Shop	**Set up 12/20 Shop 12/21 3-5p**	**Helping kids enjoy the magic of giving** • Volunteers for set up 12/20 time TBD • Volunteers to help with shopping • Children will shop for their Mom and their Secret Santa.
Shoes and Storytime	**12/14**	**Help purchase new shoes** for our growing children

Other opportunities could include:

- **Gingerbread Houses**
- **Tour of Lights**
- **Holiday Movie Night**
- **Clothes**

Reach out to info@esperanzabakersfield.org

Growing Greatness

Meet one of the bright young stars at Casa Esperanza! Rian is a dedicated student in the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program.
This talented youth balances academic achievement, musical skills, and a love of basketball. Whether on the court, in the classroom, or at the piano, he is discovering his talents, building confidence, and exploring a world of possibilities. We are excited to see all Rian can accomplish!

With heartfelt gratitude, Casa Esperanza thanks the donors and supporters who make our mission possible.

Volunteers Needed

Have a skill to share? Casa Esperanza needs volunteers like you.

Can you hit the right notes on a piano? Whip up a batch of cookies? Explain fractions so they finally click? Swing a hammer like a pro? Have a knack for gardening?
Casa Esperanza is looking for volunteers, and there is a place for every talent! Our children are full of curiosity, our home is full of heart, and we need you to help it shine. Lead arts and crafts and lively activities; teach piano lessons; tutor history, math, or reading; share your cooking and baking skills; tackle handyman projects; join our quarterly deep cleanings; or help us tame the storage sheds.

Every volunteer hour represents an investment in brighter futures for mothers and their children. Changing lives is at the heart of our story - and theirs!

These activities help expand program funds, help children build understanding, sharpen cognition, develop self-concepts, and develop social skills. Bring your friends, coworkers, a business team, or come on your own. Your support is always needed.
Visit www.EsperanzaBakersfield.org or email info@esperanzabakersfield.org.