

Victim Turns Advocate with Help of Case Management

Positive Stories / Lessons Learned from HPRP: *Individual Success Story*

HPRP Grantee:	City of Albuquerque
CoC Name and Number:	NM-500 – Albuquerque CoC

Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	658	Total persons in TH:	594
Total persons in Safe Haven:	0	Total unsheltered persons:	387
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	1,639		

Margarita* raised six children in ten years, and her husband abused her for each of these years. His violence escalated at a rapid pace last year, and when he threatened to kill her one night, she believed him. The Albuquerque Police Department arrested him at their home and referred Margarita to Enlace Comunitario, Inc.

Enlace is a Latina-driven domestic violence intervention program that uses HPRP funds to provide case management, supportive services, and linkages to the Spanish-speaking community. When Margarita arrived at Enlace, her immediate needs were legal protection, secure housing and emotional healing. For the first, Enlace connected her with Catholic Charities for the VAWA petition process and with a pro bono lawyer who won her a year-long order of protection and a divorce. She agreed to testify in a domestic violence case against her ex-husband and her Enlace legal advocate came to every hearing with her.

Her case manager also helped her move into temporary county housing. They worked together to identify and address her housing barriers, and her case manager coached her on her rights as a tenant.

Margarita moved to the top of the Section 8 waiting list due to her participation in the case against her ex-husband, and when she exited HPRP, it with a Section 8 voucher.

Intensive case management lasted throughout her participation in HPRP, and Margarita attended additional parenting classes and individual and group counseling. The change in her self-esteem was visible as she came to accept that she did not bring on her own abuse. After exiting HPRP, she was nominated for a year-long position as a promotora in Enlace's award-winning Promotora Leadership Development Program. She is now trained as a community leader to reach out to vulnerable members of the Spanish-speaking community, teach them about healthy relationships, and through her own example, empower them to break the cycle of domestic violence.

**Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

For more information, contact Elizabeth Luevano, Enlace Comunitario, Inc. at 505-246-8972.