



Meeting Notes

Tuesday, August 12, 2025
4:00-5:00 pm
Paso del Norte Health Foundation
221 N. Kansas, Meeting Room C

Welcome and Introductions:

Enrique Mata convened the meeting at 4:05 pm and called for brief introductions. Organizations represented include EPISO, Reckers Outreach, El Paso Independent School District, El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center, El Paso Center for Children, El Paso Child Guidance Center, Child Crisis Center of El Paso, El Paso Children's Grief Center, NAMI El Paso, Paso del Norte Health Foundation, PdN Center at Meadows Institute

Special Presentations:

"El Paso Child Crisis Center's 45th Anniversary," Andrew Castañeda, Licensed Child Care Administrator (L.C.C.A), Director of Operations provided reflections of the contributions to the health of children and families in need that the El Paso Child Crisis Center has provided. He responded to questions from the group. PowerPoint slides are included with these notes. For more information contact Andrew Castañeda at: acastaneda@childcrisiselp.org

"El Paso Human Services' Youth and Women's Transitional Shelter (YWTS) and Winchester shelter, Martha Anchondo and Luis Carlos Terrazas, Program Coordinators provided a thought provoking and informative presentation on the need for a YWTS in El Paso and how since it was opened, they have served over 20 women in need. They also reflected on the work with men in need through the Winchester House project. They responded to questions from the group. For more Information Contact Martha Anchondo marthaanchondo6565@gmail.com or Luis Carlos Terrazas rtjkd@hotmail.com .

Presentation slides are included with these notes.

Updates:

Maria Carrillo called for the group to share community updates. Highlights include:

- [The Child Crisis Center of El Paso](#) will have a Golf Tournament in September.
- [El Paso Child Guidance Center](#) is offering parenting classes and therapy services including services for Targeted Case Management, and other programs. They also have a new program called "Attachment Vitamin." The program is unique in the country, and they are beginning to partner with schools and other agencies.
- [El Paso Children's Grief Center](#) is offering a range of services to address grief. They will be moving from the eastside to a just purchased forever home – they will be expanding their services. They also have their annual gala coming up in September.

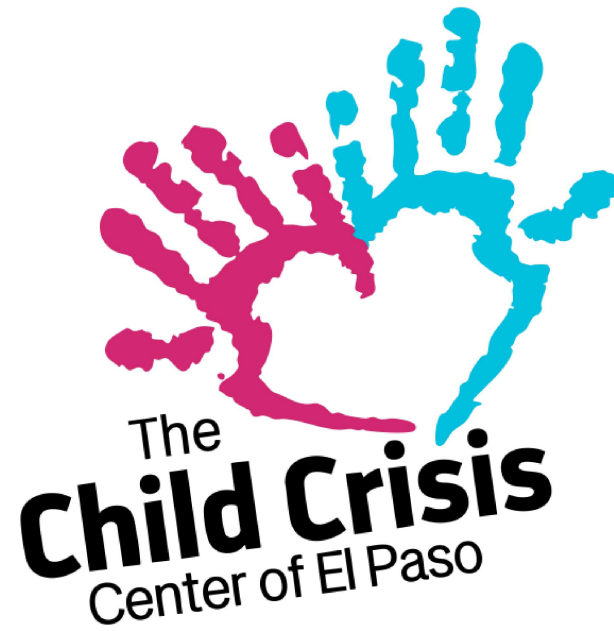
- EPISO is planning to offer Mental Health First Aid through churches. They are also planning an event entitled “reimagine El Paso” highlighting programs they have to offer. The target date for the event is October 12th from 3-5 pm.
- [El Paso Center for Children](#) shared information on programs and services they offer.
- Sandra Day announced that Paso del Norte Health Foundation will be releasing a Funding Opportunity in the next few weeks for programs to be considered under the Healthy Kids initiative. For more information [click here](#).
- Melissa Acosta announced that NAMIWalks El Paso 2025 is set for Saturday, October 18th. This year’s NAMIWALKS event theme is “Mental Health for All, here we come.” There is a Brain Trust Network Team for those who would like to participate. This event is now the region’s largest mental health awareness event and NAMI El Paso’s biggest fundraiser. In addition to the opportunity to learn about community service and support providers, activities at the event include a 5K walk that brings the community together to support mental health in the borderland. NAMIWalks El Paso 2025 is FREE and open to all. The 5K walk will be 2 loops around Ascarate Park Lake Registration Opens: 8 a.m. Opening Ceremony Starts: 9 a.m. Walk Begins: 9:30 a.m. for more information or to register [click here](#)

Flyers or other information may be included below as part of these notes.

Next Meeting:

The Brain Trust now has a standing in person meeting time of 4:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month.

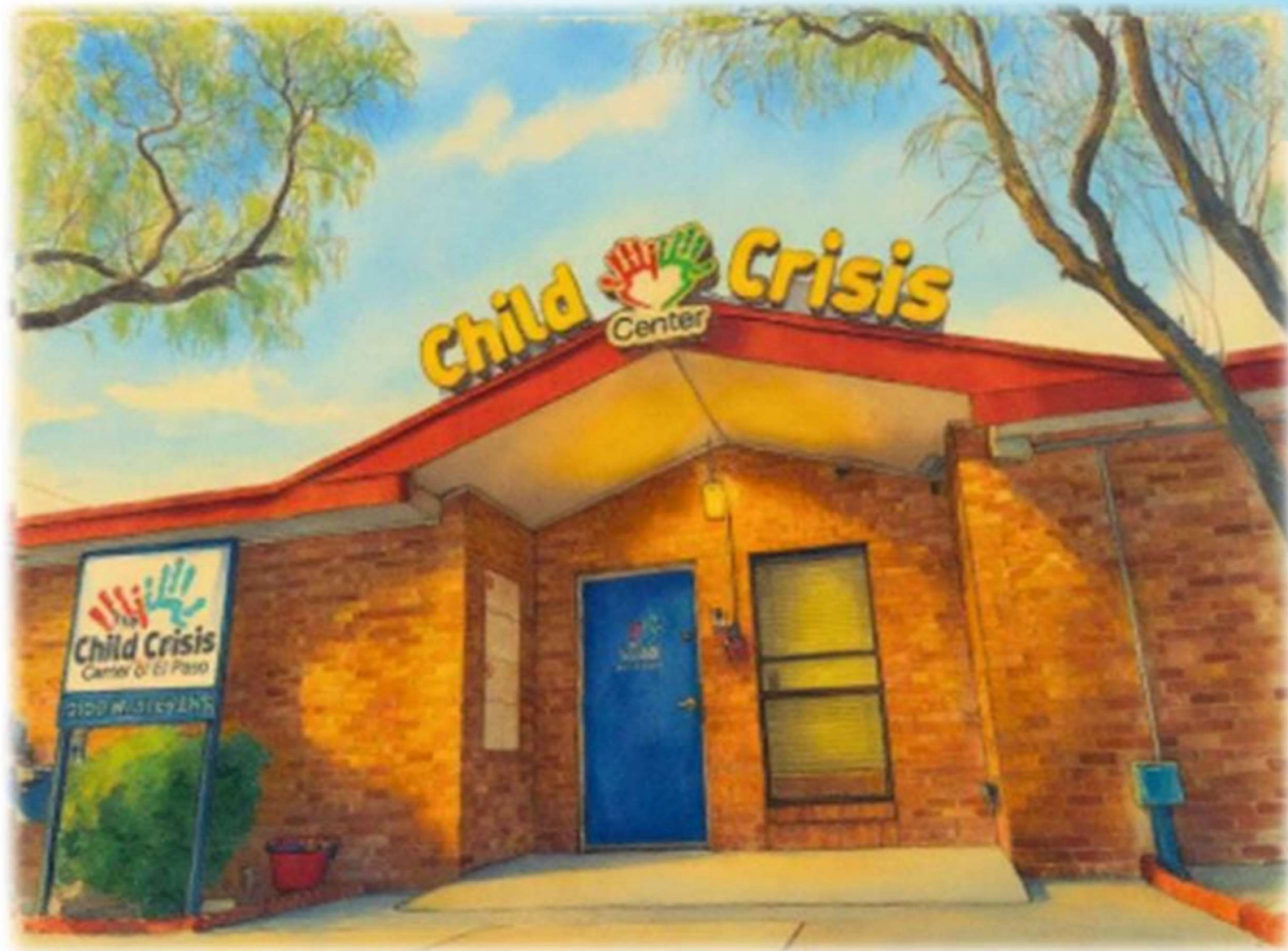
The Next Brain Trust Network meeting is scheduled for 4:00 pm, Tuesday, October 12th at Paso del Norte Health Foundation, 221 N. Kansas, 19th Floor Meeting Room C. For more information contact Enrique Mata at 915-253-0287, emata@mmhpi.org, or Josue Lachica at jlachica@mmhpi.org .



AGENCY OVERVIEW



*The Child
Crisis Center
of El Paso*



“The Child Crisis Center of El Paso Protects Children from Abuse and Neglect by providing shelter, advocacy, and family support services”.



*The Child
Crisis Center
of El Paso*

AGENCY

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Founded in 1980 by Mary and George Russell, following an investigation into abuse involving their grandson.
- Leading Child Abuse Prevention Agency in El Paso.
- Honored to hold the distinction of being Texas' first Crisis Nursery, setting the standard for care and protection.
- In 2025, the center celebrates **45 years** of protecting children & preserving families.



KEY POINTS

- The Children's Shelter is a Crisis Nursery and Emergency Shelter for children, ages newborn through age 13, who are victims of abuse and/or neglect, or who are at high risk for abuse and/or neglect.
- The Center's programs are licensed under Texas laws and regulations governing child-care facilities and emergency shelters.
- Our center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to families in the El Paso community and surrounding area.
- The Crisis Center is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization



CENTER SERVICES



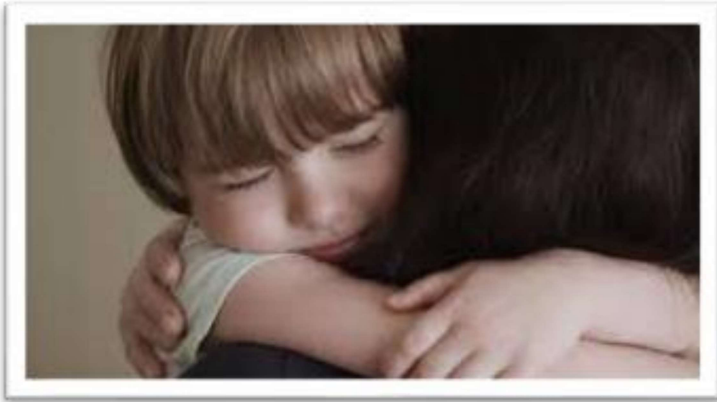
Community Programs

- STEP Parenting Program
- Military Service Members, Veterans, and Families (SMVF)
- Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)
- Basic Needs / Food Pantry

Emergency Shelter

(16) Beds Crisis Nursery-Children ages 0-4

(20) Beds Emergency Shelter Children ages 5-13



REASONS FOR PLACEMENT

“Prevention”

- Deployment
- Field Training
- Physical Health
- Medical Emergency of a Sibling, parent or family member
- Birth of a Sibling
- Mental Health Support
- Respite Care

“Protection”

- Child Abuse or Neglect (Suspected or Confirmed)
- Domestic Violence
- Homelessness
- Victim of Human Trafficking
- Parent is Incarcerated
- Parental Drug or Alcohol Abuse
- Abandonment / Relinquish Custody



SHELTER SERVICES

Respite Program Overview

- Available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week
- Temporary Relief from the Stresses of Caregiving
- Providing an immediate, safe, and supportive short-term living environment for children ages 0–13.

Specialized Skills

- Providing high-quality, compassionate care
 - Delivering crisis intervention and medication management
 - Utilizing Trauma-Informed approaches to manage behavior
 - Supporting each child's connection to their home school - Educational Tutoring Services



All of these services are available free-of-charge to every family in the Fort Bliss/El Paso community.



*The Child
Crisis Center
of El Paso*

SERVICES RECEIVED



Individualized Services

- Medical
- Mental Health
- Transportation
- Case Management

Group Services

- Community Outings
- Recreational Activities
- Trauma Aware Group Care
- Age-Appropriate Socialization

“Our services are carefully designed to nurture children’s healing and development in a way that meets their individual unique needs”.

Contact Information

Andrew Castañeda – Director of Operations

acastaneda@childcrisiselp.org

(915) 562-7955

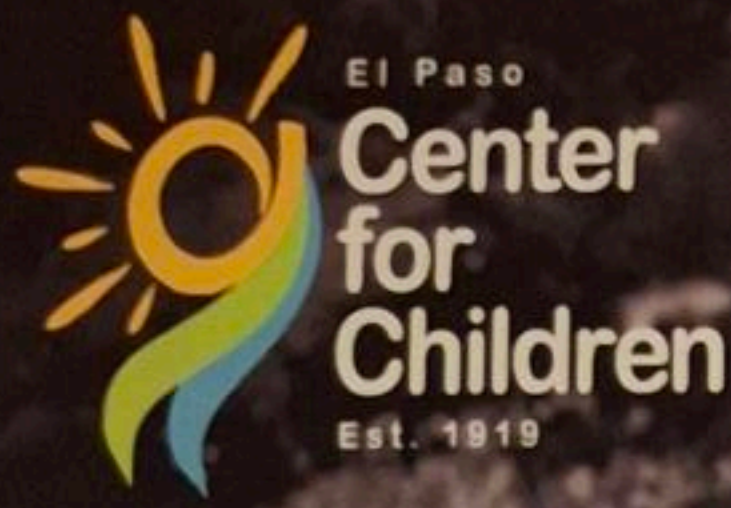
2100 N. Stevens, El Paso, TX 79927



www.childcrisiscenterofelpaso.org



The Child
Crisis Center
of El Paso



Scan me!



FREE SERVICES FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES



COUNSELING & LIFE SKILLS

Support, counseling, and skills training to school-age children and youth ages 6-17 and their families.

915-565-5021



EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

Counseling, case management, basic needs, school readiness, and early childhood or attachment education to expectant parents and families with children up to age 5.

915-500-4105



YOUTH OUTREACH & HOUSING

Help for young adults between 18-24 years who are experiencing hardship. We can help with basic needs, case management, housing for those who qualify, etc.

915-330-9513



EMERGENCY SHELTER

A safe place to stay for youth between the ages of 11-17 years.

915-330-9513



FATHERHOOD

Building social connections, mentoring to increase financial security, and fatherhood education services for fathers & father figures with children up to age 18.

915-259-6382



PARENT CAFÉS

Fun and positive small group gatherings that empower families, and encourage social connections and resilience.

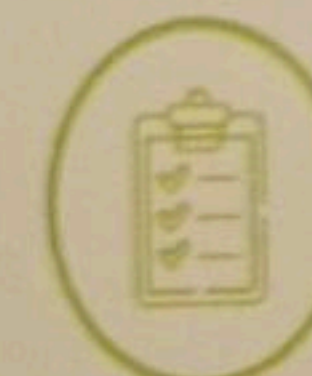
915-307-8043



VICTIMS OF CRIME

Counseling services for any person of ANY age who has been a victim of a crime, witnessed a crime, or was indirectly impacted by a crime.

915-565-5021



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

Parent education, child development activities, resource library, basic needs for families, events, etc.

915-565-5021

ALL FREE, ALL THE TIME • EPCCINC.ORG • INFO@EPCCINC.ORG • @EPCCINC

Last updated December 2024

We're committed to making a positive impact on the lives of homeless Veterans in the local El Paso area.



<https://fresh-start-llc-pboxa.zensmb.com/>

Reckers Outreach LLC

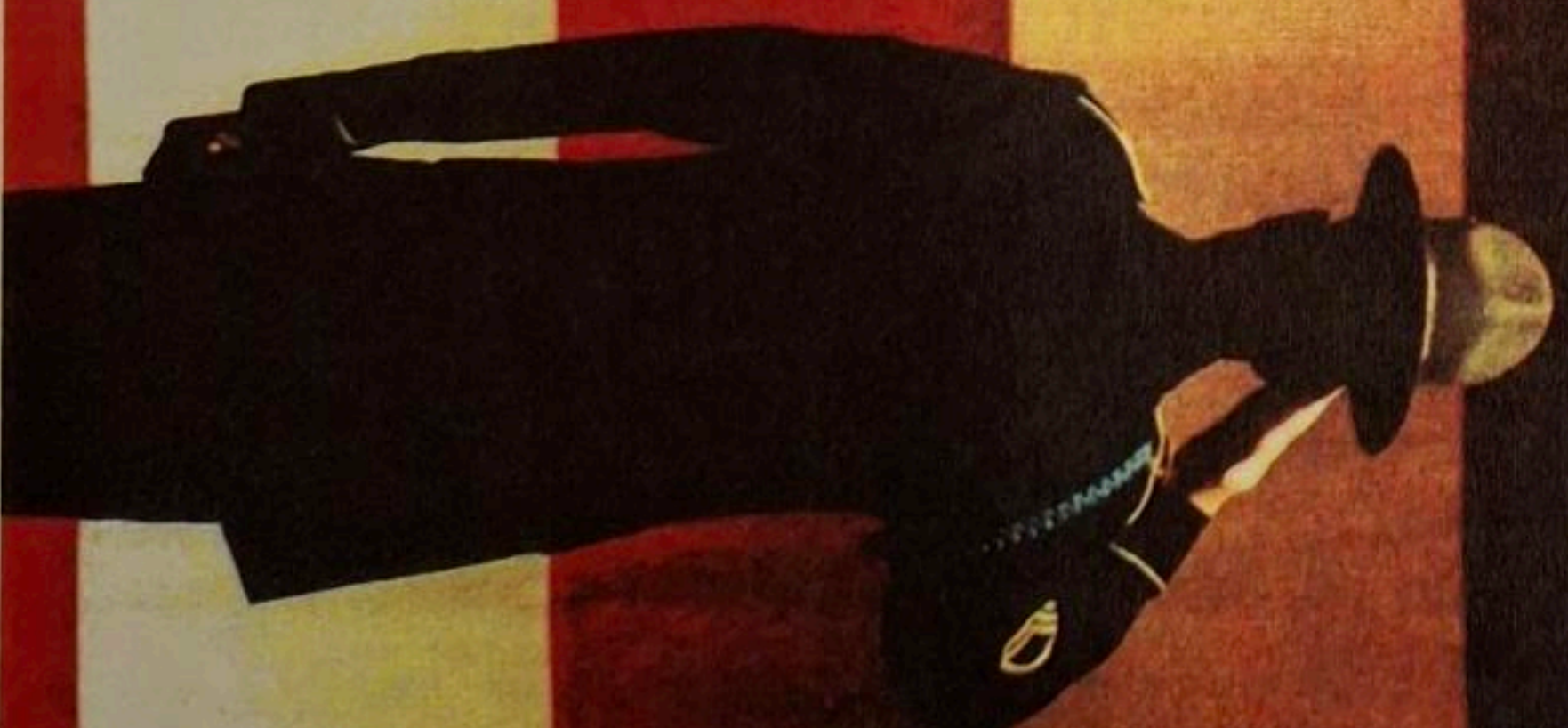
**Helping Veterans
Re-Transition into
the**

Civilian Sector

'Providing our residence with the medication and motivation to be successful.'"
- Reckers Outreach

**If you need help
or want to give your
support,**

Scan the QR Code Above



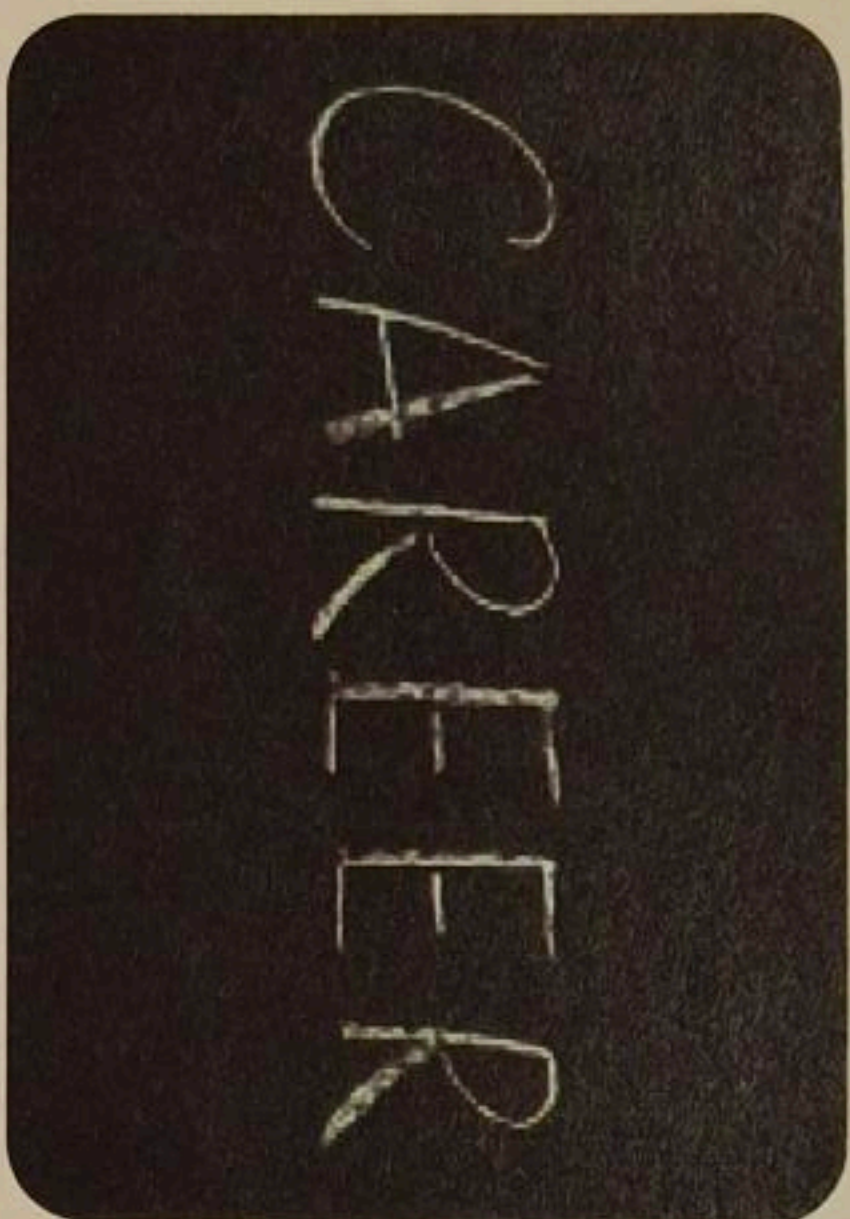
Providing A Home

Providing secure housing



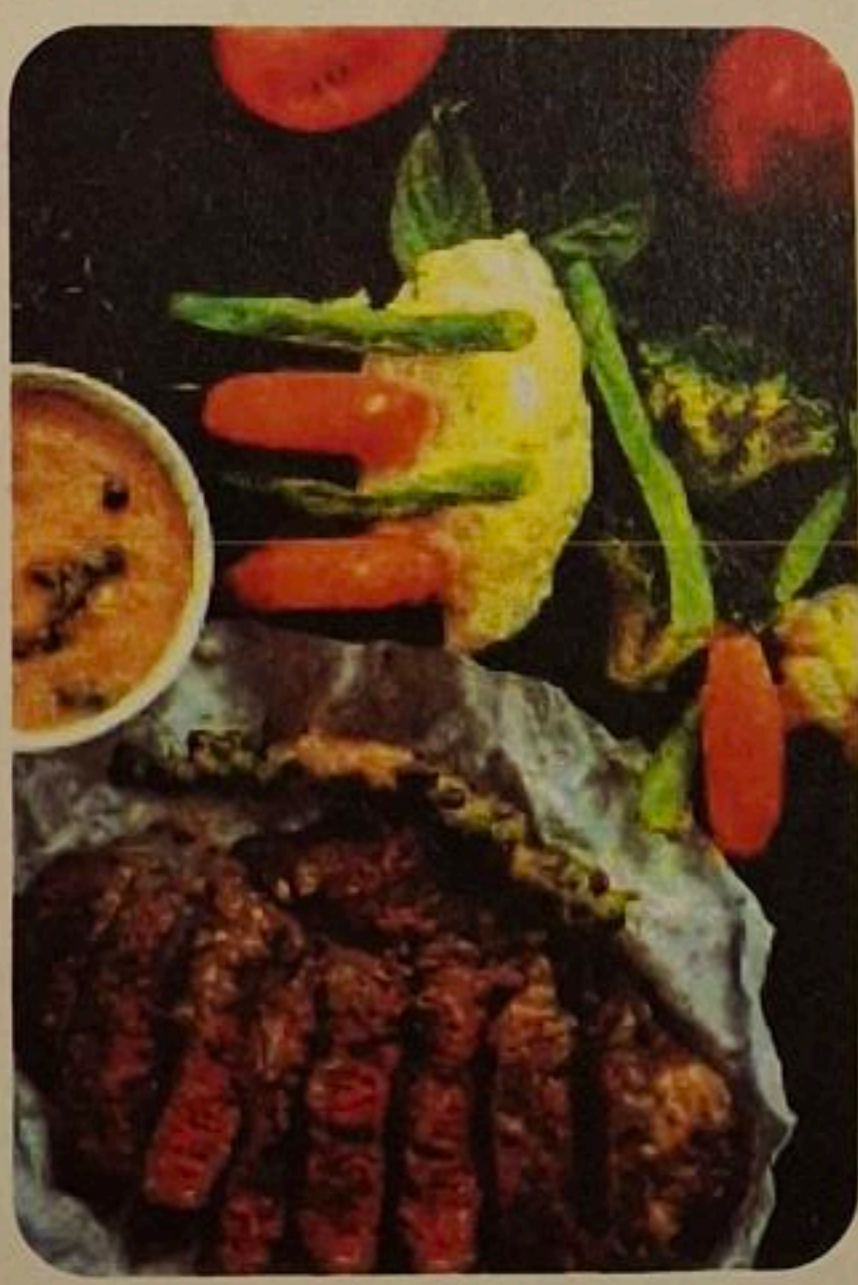
One of our core program, we offer a rehoming service to local homeless Veterans in the El Paso area.

Job assessment, Training, Placement



Working with the local unemployment services; residents will be provided with the ability to receive job assessment, job training and job placement assistance. To assist the resident with re-transitioning into the civilian sector.

Nutritional Meals



Provide residence with the ability to secure nutritional meals to better meet the needs of a healthy life style.



children's
grief center
of el paso

Volunteer Group Facilitator

★ Training ★

Join the Children's Grief Center of El Paso

Training Dates: **Saturday, August 23rd & 30th 9:00am-3:00pm**

Join our team of Volunteer Group Facilitators and help youth and adults navigate their grief journey.

CGC provides in-depth training and ongoing support for facilitators who will lead biweekly peer grief support groups in the evening from 6-9pm

- ★ Minimum commitment: 1 year
- Age requirement: 18+
- Cost: \$25 for training & background check

For more info or questions, contact
luisa@cgcelpaso.org





The Brain Trust

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Last Name	Full Name	Organization	e-mail	phone #
Borrego	Natalie	Meadows	nborrego@mmbpi.org	915 408 5600
Garcia	Diane	JPD	Lil.garcia@epcountytx.gov	915-549
Robles	Sheila		Sheilarobles23@gmail.com	915-777-236
Narvaez	Olivia	El Paso ISD	oanarvae@episd.org	230-2383
Garcia	Jenny	Child Crisis Center of El Paso	jgarcia@childcrisiselp.org	9155627955
Castaneda	Andrew	Child Crisis Center of El Paso	acastaneda@childcrisiselp.org	-
Cardenas	Mariana	El Paso Child Guidance Center	mcardenas@epcgc.org	(915)562-1999
Delgado	Luisa	Children's Grief Center	lvisa@cgcelpaso.org	915-532-600
Vasquez	Erica	El Paso center for children	evasquez@epccinc.org	91531790
Acosta	Melissa	NAMI El Paso	macosta@namep.org	(915)778-57
Atienzo	Yovanni	Centro San Vicente	Yovanni.Atienzo@centrosanvicente.org	915 85975
Mathis-Ozer	Amanda	EPISO/Border Interfaith	amandamathisozeroiaf@gmail.com	915-920-16
Anchondo	Martha	EPHS, Inc WTS	marthaanchondo@ephsinc.org	915-231-8
SRTJK	Luis Carlos	EPHS, Inc. Winchester House	ES.SRTJK@hotmail.com	915.790.2
ay	Sandra	PAINTF		