

A TRIBUTE TO OUR AMAZING COMMUNITY • NOV. 27, 2020
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It's rough out there; let's keep our heads and hearts

By RICHARD COLTHARP Las Cruces Bulletin

When Ron Cavill of Cavill & Company suggested a "Thank You, Las Cruces" section, the Bulletin was eager to to help give Las Crucens a shot of encouragement during the pandemic. It came out Sept. 11.

He did a follow-up in October, "Stay Strong, Las Cruces."

When the sections were published, many were hopeful. Covid numbers were slowing, and some businesses were emerging from the economic setback.

Thanksgiving is traditionally a time to be grateful, to be hopeful.

But now, during a governor-mandated lockdown, soaring Covid numbers and overstressed healthcare workers, being hopeful is harder.

That makes being hopeful even more important.

"Remain resilient" is the theme for this third edition, but remaining resilient has to be more than a slogan. It has to be a way of life.

We also need to look at things differently.

If we look at our world fretfully because "we can't do things the way we innovations that could change our lives in both the short and long terms.

Back in February, very few of us had ever been on Zoom calls. Now, for many, they have become a regular way of life, one that will likely last past the pandemic. We've proven we can learn new ways.

Many businesses are offering products and services that didn't exist for them before Covid.

Creativity can be a hero.

But what about that most creative of endeavors, the arts?

Pre-pandemic, one of our great life balancers was the arts. We could go to a play, a concert, to the movies, attend a gallery opening, or catch some local live music to

unwind and let our minds wander. Most of that is gone now, and the creators and vendors face an uphill struggle to survive. Local community theater, movies and events can never make up the revenue lost during the pandemic. Can a movie theater, a gallery or playhouse go an entire year paying rent on a dark stage? Unfortunately, we're about to find out.

Maybe there will be some angels out there to help out some of these folks. Maybe the artists can find new creative ways to entertain and raise funds. If anyone can find hope through creativity, it is them.

We can also find hope through science. We are learning of successful vaccines, though it will be more grueling months before they are widely available enough to make a difference. So, we must remain resilient.

It is difficult as we learn of more friends and family members getting sick, some fatally.

Doña Ana County had as many Covid-related deaths in the first 18 days of November as we had in the previous eight months combined. If that is not motivation to resiliently wear our masks and be safe, nothing can be.

Yet we have seen other areas of used to," we can miss out on creative the country face those grim periods and make it through. That is another ray of hope.

> No. we can't do things the way we used to do. But not everything we used to do was necessarily all that good. Maybe we can find hope in doing things a new way, a different wav. a better wav.

Our city, our state, our nation and our world have continually faced one struggle or another. Struggles will always be with us.

Las Cruces can find those better ways to deal with the struggle. Through hope. Through creativity. Through hard work. Through persistence.

Remain resilient, Las Cruces. And, as Ron Cavill said, "Above all else, remember to be kind."

REMAIN RESILIENT LAS CRUCES

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LAS CRUCES BULLETIN

These are just some of the many businesses and organizations all over the Mesilla Valley that have struggled and suffered in lots of different ways during the pandemic. Creativity and innovation, says local business owner Ron Cavill, are key to Las Cruces' recovery, but also a resilience to fight through our fatigue during the coming months. "Above all else," Cavill said, "remember to be kind."

Mexico • Truly Nolen Pest Control • Truth or Consequences Chamber of Commerce • Tuff Shed • Turning Point of Las Cruces • Vescovo Toyota • Vigil & Associates Architectural Group, P.C. • The Village at Northrise • Virgin Galactic •

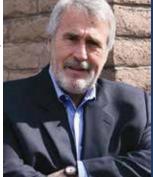
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ow can you help those who are helping others?

The global pandemic has opened wide the many cracks in our society. Unfortunately, those cracks have always been there. Many New Mexicans have stepped forward to help others in need in a variety of ways during the Coronavirus.

Have you found yourself wanting to help, but not knowing where to start? Below is a list of some of the local and regional organizations where you can donate

your time, your equipment, your unique abilities or your money during the crisis and beyond.

Many have found their lives changed by the work they do for others.

What can we do?

It's simple: Support all businesses and nonprofits in our community.

Here are some local nonprofits that would benefit from your support:

Toys for Tots collection boxes are out. Nearly 100 **U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots collection** boxes are out and waiting for toys throughout Doña Ana County. From left with some of the toys collected so far are U.S. Marine PFC Sean De La Cruz, Las Cruces Toys for Tots Coordinators U.S. Marine (retired) Joe Montoya and Patty Groth and Marine Lance Cpl. Antonio Chavez. Donations of new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages newborn to 14 are welcome, along with cash donations so Toys for Tots can buy locally and in bulk. Contact Groth at 575-202-6185. Visit las. cruces.nm@toysfortots.org. Send cash donations to Toys for Toys of Las Cruces c/o Rotary Club of Las Cruces, P.O. Box 1912, Las Cruces, N.M. 88004.



BULLETIN PHOTO BY MIKE COOK

- Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM): Multiple COVID-19 response programs; helped raise more than \$700,000 during the pandemic and provided benefits to nearly 2,000 families in the region, particularly those in rural areas. Through an additional partnership with the United Way of Southwest New Mexico, there will be a second round of nonprofit emergency funding for fall 2020 focused on the recovery and resiliency of the nonprofit community. And, there are additional dollars and support available through the Thank you Las Cruces Restaurant Fund, which gives \$1,000 to a restaurant partner who will then assist with 100 free meals to the community.
- www.communityfoundationofsouthernnewmexico.com. 521-4794.
- Families & Youth, Inc.: Mayors Meals program, My Friends Place youth shelter and El Crucero transitional living facility. www.dws.state.nm.us/ nmccv/Programs/Families-and-Youth-Inc.
- Las Cruces Public Schools Foundation. Las Cruces internet and virtual learning access. http://lcpsf.org/.
- La Casa, Inc. domestic violence program: housing and emergency shelter operations and supplies. www.lacasainc.org. 526-2819.
- La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services: SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) unit for medical and operating supplies and expanded staff hours. www.lapinon.org. 526-3437.
- · Casa de Peregrinos emergency food program: operating supplies, including food and staff. Helping meet vital local needs during this time, with particular attention to food pantries in the rural areas of our region. www.casadeperegrinos.org. 523-5542.
- Mesilla Valley Community of Hope: rapid rehousing/homeless prevention. With help from funding from the City of Las Cruces, the organization is able to add during this time a focus on rental assistance and eviction support. www.mvcommunityofhope.org. 523-2219.
- Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico (CAA): Thriving Families COVID community assistance program. CAA partnered with CFSNM on the Governor Richardson, Olmos, Trejo, Lopez Covid Response for Southern Colonias in Doña Ana County. The project served almost 300 individuals, which impacted more than 1,000 individuals in 10 colonias in the southern part of our county.
- https://caasnm.org/. 527-8799.
- Fishes & Loaves food pantry: food boxes for the elderly. 575-523-1272.

- Catholic Charities of Southern New Mexico: crime and domestic violence program. Also providing rental assistance, electricity and utilities support during COVID-19. https://catholiccharitiesdlc.org/. 527-0500.
- Revolution 120: supporting local restaurants. http://revolution120.org/.
- United Way of Southwest New Mexico. Currently running a Stamp Out Hunger campaign. www.uwswnm.org. 524-7561.
- El Caldito Soup Kitchen. www.elcalditolc.org. 525-3831.
- Amador Health Center: providing care to the entire Las Cruces community, including dedicated support for homeless, LGBTQ and immigrant populations. https://amadorhealth.org/. 527-5482.
- Mesilla Valley CASA: for direct services to children aging out of foster care. www.mesillavalleycasa.org. 527-0035.
- NMSU Foundation: to support all things Aggie. Particularly critical right now is the Aggie Cupboard food program for students currently on campus. https://support.nmsu.edu/. 646-1613.
- LCPS Foundation: Benefitting the students of Las Cruces Public Schools. http://lcpsf.org/. 527-5888.
- Turning Point. www.pregnancylascruces.com. 522-8378.
- Doña Ana County Humane Society. www.dachslc.org. 647-4808.
- Big Brothers Big Sisters. www.bbbsmountainregion.org. 522-9530.
- Boys & Girls Club of Las Cruces: actively connecting youth to programming via their club to go boxes, meals at least twice a day; now open to 40 to 50 kids. www.bgclascruces.org. 526-1519.
- Jardin de los Niños: caring for children of homeless families; currently supporting 35+ families. Jardin is doing food baskets weekly, supporting families that were once in a home that are back on the street, opening the school back up and keeping staff engaged to support the whole family during the entire COVID-19 timeframe. www.jardinlc.org. 522-2111.
- Mesilla Valley Hospice. www.mvhospice.org. 523-4700.
- East Mesa Baptist Church Food Bank: focusing on the eastern side of the city that is in real need on a weekly basis.

www.eastmesabaptist.org. 382-0386.

- Asombro Institute for Science Education: pivoting their educational elements with to-go packets and online modules completely free for families. www.asombro.org. 524-3334.
- Salvation Army of Las Cruces: assisting with rent, utilities and issues with evictions. www.lascruces.salvationarmy.org. 524-4713.

To our amazing community: Remain resilient!