

S P R I N G 2 0 2 2

East Mountain Womenade Newsletter



Board Members

President: Shelbi Stoerner

Vice President: Stacy Sesnie

Treasurer: Suzanne Lutz

Secretary: Ellen Cromer

Board Members at Large:

Leslie Porter

Paula Michel

Kim Linder

Valerie Denton

Donna Gillingham

Webmaster:

Cyndi Atcitty

East Mountain Womenade Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary

This year will mark the 20 year anniversary for East Mountain Womenade.

In August 2002, I saw an article in Real Simple Magazine, detailing how a group of women formed an organization to help families who struggle financially. They hosted a potluck, asking guests to bring a dish and a check. The money earned was put in a no fee checking account and used to help needy families. The article suggested how others could start an organization such as this in their community. With the help of

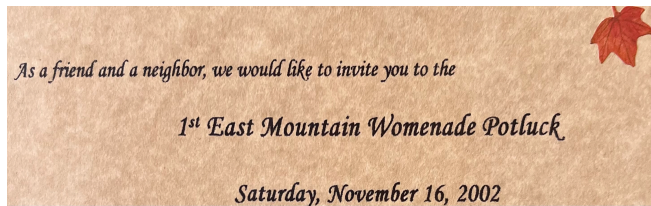
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East Mountain Womenade Fundraising Potluck Coming This September!

We will once again be hosting our East Mountain Womenade Potluck this Fall. This event is something the Board looks forward to every year, and we hope you look forward to it as well. It's a wonderful opportunity to visit with others in the community, share a little food and drink, learn more about East Mountain Womenade and possibly make a donation. Look for details coming in August.



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502 c3 Non-profit



The First Womenade Invitation in 2002!

Thank you East Mountain Garden Club!

We would like to extend a special thanks to the East Mountain Garden Club for their continued support of East Mountain Womenade over the years. Your contributions have helped make a difference in the lives of many families. Thank you!

Thank you Pam!

Many of you know Pam Ruppenthal from San Antonio as well as through East Mountain Womenade. After many years of dedicated service to EMW, Pam has decided to resign from the Board. Since retirement she has taken on a major role in working as a docent with the Albuquerque Museum. She, of course will still be helping with our potlucks. We truly appreciate everything she has done to support the families in the East Mountains over the years!

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Darlene Fattorusso, Yvette Stoor, Chris Acklen and Brenda Wilson, East Mountain Womenade was born. In November of 2002, our first potluck was held. Since then, we have provided \$204,479 to help families in crises.

I cannot help but feel extremely proud of this accomplishment and want to express my gratitude to: 1) all the women who have served on the board and have kept this organization going all these years, 2) the people who have hosted potlucks, 3) foundations and other groups who have contributed money, and 4) all the counselors, school staff members, and social workers who work tirelessly with the families. And finally, thanks to everyone who has donated to this organization! Womenade has introduced me to so many wonderful people in the community and I hope that it continues to provide assistance to families in need and encourages us all to connect as a community in the next 20 years. Thanks again!!

Leslie Porter

2021 Potluck

We were delighted to be able to have our annual potluck in September of 2021, as the year before was the first year since 2002 we were not able to hold one. The lovely event was held at Shelbi Stoerner's home in her backyard. The weather was perfect and everyone seemed so happy to see each other again. Laurie Blackwell from Sheehan Winery was there to provide a wine tasting. The appetizers and desserts were wonderful as usual. Thank you Shelbi for hosting this wonderful event.

Changing Needs

The Pandemic truly affected everyone, and as we know it was especially hard for children and families. During that time, the needs of the community we support changed. While still needing help with things like propane, families needed much more support with technology and internet services. We are so grateful to our donors who made it possible for us to be able to adapt and help with student needs in this way.

Welcome New Board Members



Stacy Sesnie

Stacy has lived in the East Mountains for 10 years with her husband and three daughters. They spend much of their free time outdoors and are involved in many 4-H projects. Stacy enjoys volunteering at school functions and making connections with community members through school events. Several of her friends have been active in Womenade over the years and inspired her to join this amazing organization that supports families in our East Mountain community.



Donna Gillingham

Donna Gillingham has been an East Mountain resident since 2001 and loves living out here! She is married to a retired Air Traffic Controller and has been blessed with a wonderful daughter who is about to be a freshman in high school. Her daughter attended San Antonito Elementary school and Donna decided to start working there since she loved the school and its staff. She is still an Educational Assistant at San Antonito Elementary School and loves working with the kiddos! She's excited to work with East Mountain Womanade to assist in getting help to families in need within the community.

The East Mountain Food Pantry Updates

If you know of families that are in need of support with getting food, you might want to let them know about the East Mountain Food Pantry (EMFP). The EMFP has served over 1500 households in the east mountain area. They are open five days a week for 21 hours a week, and are closed on Fridays and Sundays. Their goal is to elevate the status of clients from a hand out to a hand up in order to be able to provide food for their families.

EMFP is starting a new program, Seed to Supper, which will be run by NM State University and Masters Gardeners in the Cedar Crest area. This program will help people learn to garden in order to provide healthy food for their families. So far 10 families have signed up to participate and there is a waiting list.

EMFP is also looking into starting a co-op type system as an option for families. Each family would pay a fee of \$5.00 every two weeks or volunteer if that is too expensive. EMFP would work with large grocery stores to supplement this program, so the value of the items would be quadrupled. They have applied for grants in order to get this off the ground, and are waiting to hear if they will be awarded funds.