



March 11, 2021

Tadeo Azael De La Hoya
City of San Luis City Manager
1090 E. Union Street
San Luis, AZ 85349

Mr. De La Hoya;

Amberly's Place has been a proud partner with the City of San Luis for many years as we continue to work on providing more advanced services to the victims living in your community. Recently we were able to hire a dynamic Crisis Response Advocate who is a San Luis resident. Joanna Rojas attended school in the San Luis and learned of Amberly's Place from school presentations, which sparked in her the ultimate goal of working with this agency to provide services to her own community. Ms. Rojas is graduating soon with her Masters in Social Work. Joanna is proud to be the Crisis Advocate assigned to the City of San Luis. She has been doing an excellent job, as reported by the officers and victims alike. I believe bringing on qualified hometown professionals will aid in spreading the word of services as well as encourage others to gain the needed education and skills and apply.

We have seen a dramatic drop in calls for help due to the COVID outbreak. People were more concerned with the impacts of the pandemic than living with the abuse. The schools closed down and the reports of child abuse cases dropped more drastically than ever. The abuse reports that have come in were from law enforcement, not teachers. Meaning it had reached a higher level of trauma for the child. At the end of 2020 we only saw a 5% drop in reported incidents of abuse from San Luis (242). While the first two months of 2021 we have seen a 65% drop (42) in calls. These same large drops are reported statewide and nationally as schools and businesses continue to close or adjust due to the pandemic.

Amberly's Place Family Advocacy Center never closed or stopped providing crisis advocacy, medical exams, court escort, food, clothes, diapers, etc. throughout this pandemic. In 2020 we assisted San Luis families with Thanksgiving groceries (8) and Christmas gifts and clothes for 12 families. A computer was installed in the San Luis office making it possible for domestic violence victims to go online and apply for Orders of Protection. This reduced the number of necessary trips to court.

Schools have only been reopened a short time and we have already seen a dramatic increase in reports of suspected child abuse. This sharp increase was expected once schools reopened, and we preplanned for the increase with added support.

We will be requesting the same amount in support from the City of San Luis as we did last year, which is \$42,000.00. These funds go towards the program in the City of San Luis. It is so important for our grant funders to see our local municipalities support us, as this helps us to maintain the grants we have. This agency has not requested a significant increase in years. We work hard to keep our costs down and to find outside grants to pick up any increase we experience. Thank you for your ongoing support of this agency and the victims we serve.

As you have heard I will be retiring May 14th 2021. The relationship with the City of San Luis will live on at the agency and continue to be valued by staff and the new Director. I would like to thank Mayor Sanchez and Council for their support over the years. It has been a strength that I appreciate more than words can express. I am honored to have worked with you and your Police Department.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call me at 928-373-9691.

Respectfully;

Diane Umphress

Diane Umphress
Executive Director
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