



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: USMS District of New Mexico
Albuquerque Office Las Cruces Office
(505)346-6400 (575)527-6850

U.S. Marshals in New Mexico Adopt a Family in Annual Holiday Tradition

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.-- The U.S. Marshals Service for the District of New Mexico teamed up once again Dec. 19 with the nonprofit local charity Ojos de la Familia and sponsored two very needy families this holiday season. Staff from the Albuquerque office randomly identified the families through an Albuquerque Public School family liaison, and our chaplain personally visited the homes to confirm they met the requirements and that services were not being duplicated with other organizations.

The Martinez family was a family of six, with four daughters, ages 7, 11, 12 and 17. When U.S. Marshal Conrad E. Candelaria asked the young girls about their future aspirations, the oldest stated she would like to continue her education at UNM and get into a career that "helped people," possibly as an occupational therapist, while her younger sister expressed an enthusiastic interest in law enforcement, and the youngest conveyed she has a vision of becoming a doctor. The parents of these girls have been suffering from a series of health problems which has prevented them from working outside the home, forcing them to sell many of their belongings to make ends meet. Each family selected had their own unique set of unfortunate circumstances, but all deserving of a little extra help this holiday season.

Ojos de la Familia donated food and toiletries while the Marshals Service staff provided the families with an assortment of gifts. Candelaria, Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Alex Ramos, deputy U.S. marshals, and district administrative staff set out to personally meet and deliver the food and gifts to each of the adopted families.

"The Holiday season can be an especially difficult time for the children and families we serve, so the Marshals Service looks toward our local partners each year with a mutual goal to help ease the hardship and financial burden these families face by bringing a little Christmas cheer," Candelaria said.

United States Marshals Service for the District of New Mexico.
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