

UVNR NEWSLETTER

Wrapping Up 2025 Together

As 2025 comes to a close, we want to thank you for walking alongside UVNR throughout the year. Your partnership has helped create moments of care, connection, and stability for newcomer families during a time of great uncertainty—and that impact cannot be overstated.

While many families in our community continue to face fear, grief, and the lasting effects of displacement and violence, we also witness extraordinary resilience every day. Even amid tightening immigration policies and ongoing instability, families are finding strength in community, hope in trusted relationships, and courage in taking each next step forward.

In times like these, community is powerful. At UVNR, we remain deeply committed to ensuring that no newcomer faces these challenges alone. Through emotional support, resource sharing, and creating spaces for healing and connection, we help families regain a sense of grounding and possibility, and we continue to help open pathways toward safety, dignity, and belonging while building capacity of newcomers to be agents of social change.

None of this would be possible without you. We are profoundly grateful to our partners, donors, volunteers, and community members who continue to show up with compassion, generosity, and hope. Your support reminds families that they are not alone—and that brighter days are possible. As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with determination and perseverance. With your continued partnership, we will keep building a community where newcomer families can heal, thrive, and envision a future filled with opportunity.

With gratitude and hope,
The UVNR Team

Happy Holidays - Donate to UVNR



DECEMBER PROGRAM UPDATES

In the first week of November, we kicked off our first Learning Circles of the 2025–2026 cohort. As part of the Refugee and Immigrant Well-being Project (RIWP), Learning Circles begin each year in November, bringing together UNM students and newcomer families for cultural exchange and one-on-one learning.

By December, families and students had begun building deeper, more meaningful relationships through shared activities such as the River of Life, where participants reflected on and shared their life experiences.

The group also engaged in cultural exchange sessions exploring how winter holidays are celebrated around the world. In addition, families learned more about Know Your Rights and discussed recent changes in immigration policies.



Tea Circle | New Mexico Immigrant Workforce Study

During November's Tea Circle, UVNR partnered with the UNM Health Sciences Center on the New Mexico Immigrant Workforce Study, an effort spearheaded by the Department of Workforce Solution's Office of New Americans. The study aimed at understanding and improving the workforce experiences of newcomers across the state. As part of the New Mexico Immigrant Workforce Study, UVNR held focus groups during our Tea Circle to better understand participants' professional journeys. Community members shared their work and training experiences before arriving in the U.S., the challenges they face in finding employment or using their skills upon arrival, and the types of support that would help them continue in their chosen fields. The insights gathered will inform future programs, partnerships, and policy efforts aimed at strengthening workforce pathways for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers across NM.

YCAC

In November, YCAC hosted a session centered on Thanksgiving and gratitude, where participants made gratitude jars, talked about how gratitude is linked to mental health, created cards for their families and friends, and took part in a Gingerbread Team



Holiday Cheer and Community Connection at the Rail Yards Market

On December 13 and 14, UVNR hosted a gift-wrapping booth at the Rail Yards Holiday Market, and it was a great success thanks to our dedicated volunteers. The event provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with new community members, share information about UVNR's work, and engage in thoughtful conversations about supporting newcomers. Operating on a donations-only basis, the booth raised over \$260 to directly support UVNR's programs and services. The weekend also strengthened our relationship with the City department that manages the Rail Yards, and we are excited to be invited back for future events, including the Rail Yards Valentine's Market this February. Thank you to our volunteers, donors, and community supporters for helping turn holiday generosity into lasting impact.



Supporting Families Through The Diaper Project

UVNR is proud to partner with the Junior League of Albuquerque to help support families with young children through our Diaper Project. Thanks to their generosity, our organization can distribute diapers to families who may need a little extra support during the month.

Families who would like to be added to our diaper distribution list are encouraged to contact their Community Advocate and share the ages and diaper sizes of their children. While we cannot guarantee that diapers will be available every month or that distributions will last the entire month, this project provides meaningful assistance to families during times of need.

We are grateful to the Junior League of Albuquerque and our supporters for helping us meet practical, everyday needs that make a real difference for families.





UNITED
VOICES FOR
NEWCOMER
RIGHTS.

What We Do

We strive to provide essential services and supportive programming to individuals and families who have recently arrived in our community. Most newcomers face challenges as they settle into a new environment, and your donations play a crucial role in helping us offer the assistance they need.

How Your Donation Helps

1. **Funding Programs:** Your contributions enable us to fund educational community gatherings, workshops, translation & interpretation, and cultural orientation sessions that ease the transition for newcomers.
2. **Providing Essential Services:** Donations help us offer referrals to healthcare, translation support, and educational resources, ensuring that newcomers have the necessary support to thrive.
3. **Fostering Community Integration:** With your support, we can organize community events and mentorship programs that promote social inclusion and build strong networks for our newcomers.

Join Us in Making a Difference

Your donation can make a profound impact. By contributing to UVNR, you are supporting our programs and participants





UVNR Staff New Years Resolution!

My new year resolution is....



Madhu: to take care of my body and mental health



Dilara: to spend time with love ones and try a new hobby.



Cassandra: to develop a strong community outreach program for UVNR.



Danielle: to be present in every moment and give 100% of myself fully to whatever is happening in that moment.



Ryeora: to stay grounded.



UVNR: to increase financial sustainability, deepen partnerships, and cultivate a strong, connected team grounded in our mission.

Employee of the Month: Madhumita Santhanam

Madhu joined UVNR in November 2024 through the UNM Public Allies Program, a 10-month nonprofit apprenticeship focused on leadership development and community engagement. Born and raised in Albuquerque and of Indian descent, Madhu brings a strong local connection and a deep commitment to learning from the community she serves.

Madhu was a former RIWP student from 2023-2024 and got more involved with the RIWP+ Study and UVNR's work.

As a Public Ally at UVNR, Madhu has contributed to advancing the organization's mission while building leadership and professional skills. Through her work, she has demonstrated a collaborative spirit and a thoughtful approach to community-centered work, including evaluation and Learning Circle support.

Madhu hopes to pursue a career in Sociology, with plans to obtain a PhD in the future, and to remain engaged in this field as she continues to grow as a scholar and community advocate.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, dancing, practicing yoga, and listening to music.

Thanks Madhu for your hard work at UNVR!

