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Open Hands Lists Building for Sale

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Santa Fe, NM — Open Hands, a local nonprofit organization established in 1977, has listed their main facility at 2976 Rodeo Park Drive East, Santa Fe, with Branch Realty of Santa Fe. The listing price is \$2.9 million.

The organization has drastically cut expenses in recent years and has made every effort to avoid the need to sell, according to Michelle Dube, who has been Open Hands' executive director since spring 2009. Dube said that she and the board of directors have thought long and hard about what the community wants and needs from Open Hands, and concluded that the organization's top priority must be to continue its programs and services without interruption. Our sole mission is to provide services for elderly, frail and economically disadvantaged people in New Mexico," Dube said. "We have explored every possible avenue for funding sources and we just know that the community needs our services more than it needs us to be in this building."

"We have tried everything we can to not have to sell the building," Dube said. "We've tightened our budget and reduced spending in every area possible. The organization has reduced staff hours by placing employees on unpaid furlough leave, and directors have voluntarily taken salary cuts. But due to the recent economic downturn and substantial budget cuts, it has become more and more difficult to provide services for our clients. Over the past two years, we've experienced a 36 percent reduction in the government funding that has long helped support our programs, and we've also seen a drop in contributions from private donors and foundations."

The facility was built for the organization and paid for through a capital fundraising campaign in the late 1990s.

Assets from the sale will be transferred into the purchase of a smaller facility that is more financially manageable, and Dube says proceeds left over from the sale of the current building will be used to create an endowment fund to ensure the continuation of Open Hands' vital programs and services.

"We want to thank the community of Santa Fe for all its support, and want them to know Open Hands shall continue its mission no matter where we are located. The community needs our services – and we are here to serve," said Dube. "We realize how lucky we are to have been given an alternative. Whereas other nonprofit organizations and small businesses, are forced to close their doors, Open Hands has the opportunity to start fresh in a smaller building and continue to live up to our mission."

Open Hands, founded in 1977, now serves more than 10,000 New Mexicans each year. Programs include an Adult Day Service for senior care during the day, a medical equipment loan bank, and a Home Safety Department that assists people statewide with home modifications to accommodate disabilities. The Home Safety program was recognized by the National Council on Aging in 2007 as being one of the Top Ten in the U.S., and Open Hands was a 2010 finalist for the New Mexico Ethics in Business Award. For more information about Open Hands' programs and services, visit www.openhands.org or call (505) 428-2320.