

# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

For immediate release  
Oct. 21, 2004

Contact: Marsha Catron  
(Santa Fe) 505-476-2248

### **First Lady Barbara Richardson opens first domestic violence shelter for northeastern New Mexico**

SANTA FE- First Lady Barbara Richardson cut the ribbon today to officially open the doors of the first domestic violence shelter to serve northeastern New Mexico.

“Today, we're taking the first step in breaking the cycle of violence that traps so many of these victims,” said First Lady Barbara Richardson. “This is an historic day for northeastern New Mexico. But it's also a bittersweet day. We finally have a shelter like this in Colfax County. But we also regret that there is such a critical need for it.”

The First Lady has been the key advocate to ensure that victims and their children in the northeastern part of New Mexico have access to adequate care. The shelter will accommodate the communities of Colfax, Union, Harding, San Miguel and Mora Counties. Alternatives to Violence, a CYFD-funded domestic violence program, will operate the shelter in rural Colfax County.

“It's unbelievable to think that domestic violence victims in that part of the state have had to travel all the way to Trinidad, Colorado to find the protection of a shelter,” said Dr. Mary-Dale Bolson, Cabinet Secretary for the Children, Youth and Families Department.

The shelter is located in rural Colfax County in a CYFD-owned building recently renovated with capital outlay money provided by the state legislature and approved by Governor Richardson.

#30#