

## NEWS RELEASE

### ST ELIZABETH SHELTER IS IN (SOLAR) HOT WATER!

June 10, 2005

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Local Energy and the Saint Elizabeth Shelter announce the dedication ceremony for the solar hot-water heating system recently installed at Sonrisa Apartments, an eight unit housing facility operated by the Shelter. The system was donated to the Shelter under Local Energy's *Local Energy Assistance Program* (LEAP), which focuses on helping reduce the burden of high utility bills on low-income residents and nonprofit organizations in Santa Fe. The expected cost savings to Sonrisa is about \$550 per year, but if natural gas prices continue rising at the average rate seen over the past five years, Saint Elizabeth could save more than \$220,000 in utility costs over the thirty-year life of the system.

This first LEAP project was made possible through the collaboration of a number of community members: McCune Charitable Foundation (grant funding); Local Energy members (donations); Dankoff Solar Products (four solar panels, storage tank, controls and mounting brackets); Cedar Mountain Solar (design and installation); R.C. Greene & Co. (Mark Kaltenbach – construction of shed for the hot water tanks); Althouse, Inc., (insulating the shed with 100% recycled cellulose); Joel Olson Plumbing & Heating (connecting solar hot water tanks to existing water heater); Dahl Plumbing (plumbing materials); and Big Jo True Value Hardware (building materials for the shed).

In addition to the solar hot water system, and with the help of Monte Del Sol Charter School (student volunteers) and Samon's Electric and Plumbing (discounted price on bulbs), Local Energy replaced 89 incandescent light bulbs at Sonrisa Apartments with compact fluorescent bulbs. The compact fluorescent bulbs are more efficient – typically consuming 75 percent less electricity – which results in an energy and cost savings. The lighting upgrade is expected to save Sonrisa \$470 per year in electricity costs.

Sonrisa Apartments is located at 6321 Jaguar Drive in Santa Fe. The dedication will be held on June 21, 2005 at 10 a.m. For more information contact Pattie Ravenheart, Operations Manager for Local Energy, at (505)982-9800 ext. 22, or email [pravenheart@localenergy.org](mailto:pravenheart@localenergy.org)

Attached is a more detailed project description, a list of the project collaborators, and a one-page summary of the LEAP program.