

# UPDATES

RE 4-5/97

## CENTER UPDATE

Some of the CAC's loyal and hard-working volunteers gathered at the Center in February to be honored and thanked for their dedicated service. In a program that included song and readings, each volunteer present was personally recognized by a member of the staff for their contributions and given a certificate. Time was also spent socializing and informally networking with other "workers in the vineyard."

Approximately 200 people attended a community hearing on **Welfare Reform and Medicaid** at the CAC on February 24. Sponsored by the Alliance for Immigrant Rights, the purpose of the evening was to hear testimony from people who will be affected by the state's plan to place severe limits on welfare benefits and radically restructure the health care system in New Mexico.

CAC Guest House staff Kim Keller and Jane Mobley gave a presentation on sustainable living based on permaculture principles and ethics to the **Sierra Club** at the University of New Mexico Law School in February. It proved to be an educational networking opportunity for the community at large and a wonderful exchange of ideas and needs for the approximately 40 people in attendance.

CAC Co-Director Wendy Corry and CAC volunteers Jeanne Nelson and Mary Ann Carroll spent February 18 in Santa Fe at the **legislative session** hearing discussion on bills concerning education and gaming in New Mexico.

Forty people spent a very quiet weekend at the CAC February 21-23 as part of the **Encounters of the Heart** contemplative retreat led by Dr. Ruben Habito. CAC's Lenten Interns helped plan and lead the liturgy and all participants helped out by doing "Zen chores" during the course of the weekend.



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