

## **Your action is needed immediately!** **Kitchen Angels needs your help!**

**House Bill 219** funds capital projects throughout the state. It was passed unanimously by both the House and Senate this past legislative session and has gone to the Governor for her signature. The bill contains an item that supports Kitchen Angels and our ability to expand and improve our facilities to serve more and more clients.

*Please take a few minutes and tell the Governor you support this important funding item. Here's all you need to do:*

Call the Governor's Constituent Services Office at 505-476-2200. Tell them you support **Item #199 of Section 22 of House Bill 219**. Tell them that the item was sponsored by Senator Nancy Rodriguez. It appropriates "230,000 to plan, design, renovate, construct, improve and equip a facility for a meals program serving homebound and special needs individuals in Santa Fe in Santa Fe county."

*or*

Go to [Governor Martinez's website](#), click on the **Contact & Constituent Services** tab, click on the **Contact the Governor** menu item and fill in the on-line form. *Make sure you specify House Bill 219, Section 22, Item 199. Tell them the item was sponsored by Senator Rodriguez.*

The Governor's staff is already looking at each item to determine which will survive her veto pen. Governor Martinez has until March 9, 2016, to make her decisions. That's why your immediate support is vital. Help make sure Kitchen Angels receives this critical funding.

Some points you may wish to emphasize:

- Kitchen Angels has been in operation for nearly 24 years, serving more than 5,000 low-income, homebound and chronically or terminally ill individuals.
- Client enrollment grows by more than 18% annually and last year we served 409 clients.
- 98% of Kitchen Angels clients live on less than the federal poverty level. Without KA services, most would not be able to afford their medications or visits to their doctor.
- Close to three-quarters of clients report they would end up living in nursing homes were it not for Kitchen Angels services. Comparing the \$1,700 it costs to feed a KA client for a full year to the more than \$75,000 cost each year for a nursing home, the savings to publicly funded health care programs such as Medicaid is 44-to-1.
- More than half of KA clients are over age 60 because the local Meals on Wheels program does not provide meals tailored to clients' specific dietary needs. Within the next 15 years, nearly one-third of New Mexicans will be over age 60, meaning that programs such as Kitchen Angels will become even more critical in helping to conserve limited health care resources and funding.
- Kitchen Angels has never had a waiting list for our services. Expansion of our present facility is desperately needed to make sure we can keep pace with the growing demand for service and never have to implement a waiting list.

***Time is of the essence! Contact Governor Martinez now and register your support.***

**Thank you for supporting our mission to provide free, home delivered meals to our neighbors in Santa Fe living with chronic or terminal illnesses.**