



# Animal Companions of Las Cruces

Working to bring 24/7 emergency veterinary services to our community

BY RACHEL COURTNEY, CONTENT MANAGER

Your neighbor Miguel Márquez is a retired Army veteran (20 years) and retired IT specialist (25 years) who grew up in Las Cruces. He attended NM State for two years and completed his degree by attending night classes in universities wherever he happened to be stationed during his 20-year Army career.

Miguel moved back to Las Cruces in May 2019 from Falls Church, VA, in order to help his brother care for their aging mom.

Today, Miguel volunteers with Animal Companions of Las Cruces as the treasurer and website manager. “I enjoy working to give back to my community by helping in any way I can.

The work is very rewarding for me and provides a purpose in my life,” he said.

Animal Companions of Las Cruces’ mission is to provide support and resources for establishing and sustaining 24/7/365 emergency veterinary services in Las Cruces, serving a wide community of pet owners in Southern New Mexico and easing the burden of local veterinary staff.

“I became involved in August of 2021 when I read an article by Dawn Duncan, our president and founder, on Nextdoor. Dawn related her story of when her dog began bleeding out after cancer surgery in the early hours of a Saturday, and she and her husband’s

only option was to take their seriously ill dog to El Paso for emergency treatment. The dog survived, but the trauma left a big impression on them both. I had a much less serious experience with my dog, who became dehydrated due to vomiting, also during non-business hours, that necessitated a trip to El Paso.”

Visit the Animal Companions website to make a donation, as well as to volunteer if you are interested in becoming involved in their very important work. You can also find links to their social media on the homepage. Animal Companions of Las Cruces is under the fiscal sponsorship of the



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Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico for its 501c3 nonprofit status.

“Our efforts to establish an emergency veterinary hospital for Las Cruces and our surrounding communities are going to require the support of all of our neighbors, near and far,” Miguel added. “We encourage all pet owners in Las Cruces to visit our website and get involved in our work.”

Miguel lives in Sonoma Ranch with his chihuahua rescue, Miss Barbie. He has adult children (a son and daughter) who are living out of state.

“My neighbors are wonderful people, and I’m very lucky to live in our Sonoma Ranch neighborhood that is so close to everything in town,” Miguel said.

When he isn’t volunteering, Miguel enjoys woodworking, gardening, stained glass/epoxy resin artwork, hiking, plus reading.



Animal Companions of Las Cruces  
[AnimalCompanionsofLasCruces.org](http://AnimalCompanionsofLasCruces.org)  
 Facebook @AnimalCompanionsofLasCruces

Do you have a story to tell about making a difference, or do you want to nominate a neighbor who is focusing on good deeds? We'll make it easy! Send your information to [Tamera.Ahner@n2co.com](mailto:Tamera.Ahner@n2co.com).

Together, our impact grows.

*Giving Tuesday* | Tuesday, Nov. 29

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO | GIVING TUESDAY

The Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico is committed to improving the quality of life in southern New Mexico. Our goal is to serve, connect and support the future needs of our region. With your help, we can continue to drive change and lift up our communities.

This year on Giving Tuesday, your gift will support our efforts to expand our impact in the ten counties we serve while supporting our 46 nonprofit partner organizations.

With up to \$5,000 matching dollars available, we hope you'll join us on Giving Tuesday and help keep southern New Mexico a great place to live and a great place to give.

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