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# Umoja Abq 2019 Annual Report



*Our Mission: To Empower Refugee Women*



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## UMOJA ABQ VISION

Vision: Gather refugee women from the community and provide them with support and resources. Mission: Our mission is to empower refugee women with tools and resources to enhance and develop their skills through education to successfully integrate, self-sufficient and independent, into American society while still maintaining respective cultural values.

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## Umoja Abq Accomplishments:

### Women's Health:

- 6 Family Health Education classes were offered
- Family Planning
- Monitoring blood pressure and blood sugar
- Family and home hygiene and food storage (3 sessions)
- Domestic Violence recognition and prevention

### DRIVE Program:

17 St. Tim's Women stepped forward to develop and implement the DRIVE program. Pr Rachael met with NM MVD officials to address challenges non-English speakers face when obtaining a driver's license. 12 DRIVE classes helped students explore the language and rules of driving Our first student has attained her driver's license!

### Computer Practice:

12 Computer Practice sessions introduced novices to computer use and provided free tech support



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## Support from Volunteers and donors:

- \$6,500 cash donations
- 22 Laptop computers donated
- 1 Desk-top computer donated
- 283 hours of volunteer prep and participation
- 218 hours of student participation in DRIVE and Computer Practice sessions
- 12 hours of professional health-related instruction provided



## Umoja Abq's Location and contact information:

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St. Timothy's Lutheran Church: 211  
Jefferson St. NE  
chantalmuhumure@umojaabq.org  
www.umojaabq.org

## Goals for 2020:

- Increase the number of donors and volunteers
- Increase the number of participants in Women's Health offerings
- Increase the number of DRIVE participants to take and pass the written NM Driver's exam
- Increase opportunities for English language development and job skills



# Umoja Abq's Executive Director

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**Thank you to Chantal Muhumure, our executive director for all the work she has done to make this program possible. Through Chantal's efforts and determination, we are able to say we are an official 501c3 Non-Profit Organization! Chantal builds relationships with the community, translates for drivers ed, health and computer classes, and creates the vision and direction for Umoja Abq!**



**Chantal Muhumure was raised in Rwanda and obtained her Bachelors Degree in Computer Science and Information Technology from Kigali Institute of Science and Technology. She earned her post-graduate degree in Higher Education from the Kigali Institute for Education. Before coming to the USA in 2013 she trained women in computer basics and work skill development. Currently she is a wife and mother of three, an educator, and an interpreter in six languages, she also works at APS as a Refugee Student Specialist. She is driven by the passion of welcoming and supporting refugee women as they enter their new culture.**



# Umoja Abq Board Bios

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## *Umoja Abq President*

Deborah Morrell is a retired educator with eleven years of teaching experience and nineteen years of administrative experience throughout the Albuquerque area. She is active in her faith community and seeks to support refugees, immigrants, and asylum seekers on their journeys. Deborah grew up in Southern California where she worked at Disneyland and decorated Rose Parade floats.



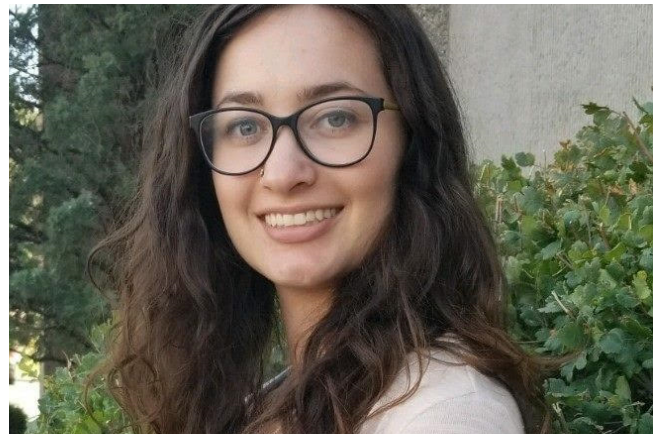
## *Umoja ABQ Treasurer*

Michele Benton was born and raised in Richardson, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. She graduated from college with a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas. After she married her husband, Neill, she moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. She worked in Healthcare, first as an auditor at Blue Cross Blue Shield, then at University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) as a Financial Analyst. She retired from full time work in 2013, and returned part time at UNMH in 2014.



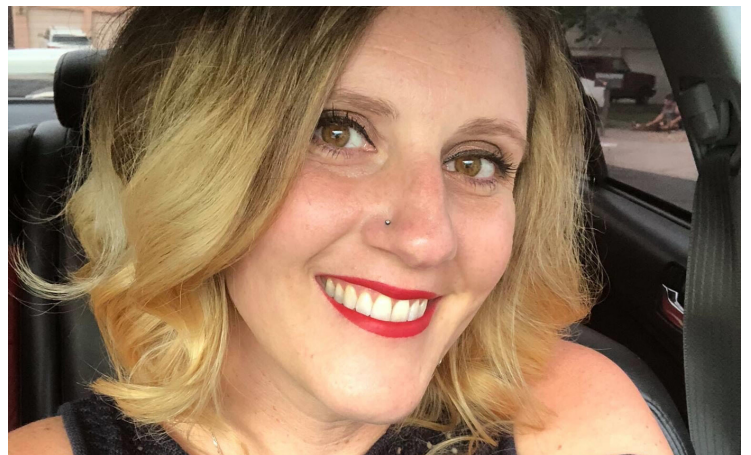
## *Umoja Abq Secretary*

Hannah Royer is an Albuquerque transplant from Denver, Colorado. She was an AmeriCorps Public Ally and connected to this group through the desire to give back to the community and support refugee women. She is currently working at United Way of Central New Mexico as a Project Associate and believes in the power of nonprofits to make a difference in the lives of everyday people.



## *Umoja Abq Board Member*

Elizabeth Bradford is a native Albuquerque resident, she is passionate about teaching throughout her community. She is currently supporting refugee students in APS as a Newcomer Teacher Support Specialist. Her ESL career has taken her all around the world and has given her the opportunity to learn from others' cultures, religions, and languages. She believes that education empowers people for a better and more fulfilling life.



**Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers for making this work possible!**

**Donors:**

**Christ Lutheran Church, Albuquerque  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Albuquerque  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamos  
White Rock Presbyterian Church, Los Alamos  
Dick and Ann Heaton, Los Alamos  
Andrew Young, Albuquerque  
Los Alamos Interfaith**

**Volunteers:**

**Chantal Muhumure  
Ana  
Daniella  
Nathan  
Andy Young  
Barbara Blackwell  
Vicki Towne  
Shavaughn Towne  
Grace Bousek  
Mona Sherrell  
Jean Eickhoff  
Debbie Golden  
Hannah Thigpen  
Hannah Royer  
Elizabeth Bradford  
Michele Benton  
Rachael Powell  
Elaine Solimon**

*We are grateful for our partnership with St. Timothy's Lutheran Church where all of our programming is currently held*

*Thank you to Marla Brose for the wonderful pictures she took for our website and report!*

**Pictured: Chantal translating a drivers ed class**

