

Get to know Karen Cosio
Crossroads Safehouse Bilingual Advocate

1.) What brought you to Crossroads Safehouse?

After graduating college, I wanted to get reconnected with my main goal in life - helping people and my community. However, immediately after graduating college is not always the easiest time to make connections. After looking searching for jobs in the community, I found out that Crossroads Safehouse was looking for a bilingual advocate. I applied for the job, came to my interview and got the job. I guess Crossroads Safehouse wanted me to work here as much as I did. Now I will be completing my first year of working for Crossroads Safehouse and I could not be prouder to be part of such a wonderful team of people that care and work hard to help victims of domestic violence.

2.) Describe your roll at Crossroads Safehouse.

I serve as the Bilingual Outreach Advocate at Crossroads Safehouse. My job consists of helping Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence get the resources and help they need in their own language. We have also partnered with SAVA to run a Spanish-speaking support group for our victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Along with this, like every other advocate at Crossroads, I have my shelter caseload. I work at the shelter providing resources and support to clients receiving shelter, respond to crisis calls, and help with the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) team.

3.) What is one of your most fond work-related memories?

Working at crossroads has been the best thing that has happened to me. I work with a great team that is always supportive and always happy to help. I would say that my most fond memories are when at the end of the day before we all go home, we try to come out with a positive or funny thing that happened to us that day. No matter how bad the day was, those few minutes always makes is better. Sometimes it makes us laugh so hard that we cry. Sometimes it makes us feel proud of what we do. No matter how hard and sometimes frustrating our job is, there is always something positive that comes out of it.

4.) What do you like to do in your spare time?

It all depends on the weather! If it is cold outside you will find me watching movies cuddled up with my cats. If it is sunny and beautiful day out, I could either be outside taking my cats for a "walk" or working on my garden. But sometimes nothing beats a good air-conditioned room and a good TV show. I also paint and do a lot of arts and crafts.

5.) If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

I would love to see new places like Ireland or India. But, if I had the opportunity to go to a place right now, I would go to my hometown in Mexico where I grew up. I do not believe there is another place more beautiful or calming to me than my childhood home. Nothing can replace the feeling of waking up in the morning and looking out the window to see green hills and fields covered with pink and purple cosmos. Or the feeling you get when you smell the rain right before a big storm. Or being woken up by the song of a rooster instead of an annoying alarm clock!