

**Susi Perry, Quota International of Santa Fe on Leaping Leprechaun Dinner Fundraiser
[The Richard Eeds Show](#) - March 21, 2019**

Richard Eeds (RE): 41 minutes after 1 o'clock on a windy Thursday afternoon, the first full day of spring. This is springtime in New Mexico. It blows dust like crazy. Winds blowing 25 steady gusting, 46 degrees right now, rain around town, snow on the mountaintop, 54 degrees as a high.

Alright, so Susi Perry is here from Quota International and she is not related to Susan Perry who will be here later unless you just turn around and go change your, put some glasses on and come back in disguise. Nice to meet you.

Susi Perry (SP): Nice to meet you. I'm glad to be here.

RE: Alright. Quota International is new to me. It's a non-profit. I know it's been around a long time reading your literature but it is new to me. So first of all, what is it?

SP: Quota International is an organization, a service organization, that is in 14 different countries around the world. It was started a hundred years ago. This is our hundredth-year anniversary...

RE: Congratulations!

SP: ...in upstate New York, thank you, and we work with people that are deaf and hard-of-hearing and disadvantaged women and children.

So what that means here locally since we have a club in Santa Fe and have since 1950 so our local Club is 69 years old is, we have done very many things. Currently we are delivering food, buying and delivering food, to the Street Outreach arm of Youth Shelters so that they can distribute it to the homeless teens that are in town or passing through town. We also, every other month, buy and deliver food to Adelante for the 1700, which was the last number I heard, homeless children in the Santa Fe Public School System so. And we are also currently giving scholarships, college scholarships, to two deaf students who are going to Gallaudet University in Washington DC.

RE: Fantastic. What is your local website?

SP: Our local website is quota, that's q-u-o-t-a, quotasantafe.org.

RE: Alright, Leapin' Leprechauns!

SP: Yes!

RE: Tell us about that.

SP: That's what we're doing this Saturday. This is our annual fundraising dinner. And where the money has been going lately, in the last few years, has been to the scholarships for deaf students. So this Saturday, March 23rd from 5 to 7 at the New Mexico School for the Deaf dining hall, we will be serving corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and all the fixin's.

RE: You got me right there.

SP: Desserts and beverages.

RE: Oh my God - my favorite meal.

SP: It is good corned beef.

RE: Where's New Mexico School for the Deaf?

SP: That is on Cerrillos Road just a little bit south of the intersection of Cerrillos and Saint Francis drive.

RE: This side of the tracks, this side of the railroad tracks.

SP: Yes, yes, yes. I had to think about that for a moment. Yes, yes, and New Mexico School for the Deaf interestingly enough, is the oldest school in New Mexico.

RE: So this is to benefit the school and primarily those scholarships?

SP: Correct.

RE: Two scholarship per year.

SP: Well it depends on how many scholarship recipients we have. We currently have two, I'm glad to say, and sometimes we have one and sometimes kids go to school for a semester and decide it's not for them and drop out, so it varies.

RE: This is higher education? This is like college?

SP: This is for college, yup.

RE: And they decide where they go?

SP: We have a scholarship recipient form that they need to fill out and we also expect their grades to be at a certain level so we go through the scholarship application forms and decide to whom the scholarships will be awarded.

RE: But they can attend any university?

SP: Correct.

RE: And these are students only at New Mexico School for the Deaf?

SP: At this point that has been where most students have come from and the first scholarship recipient was in the year 2000. He graduated from the university and came back to New Mexico School for the Deaf to be a teacher.

RE: Really.

SP: Which is a really neat story of full circle.

RE: Alright, stupid question, Susi. Is it possible for deaf students to go somewhere else besides the school for the deaf? Can they succeed in public schools? Can they succeed at a university that is not tailored specifically to, to deaf students?

SP: There are students who like to be mainstreamed which is go into the hearing world and um, I don't know what the rates of success for that are. I know that our student, one of our students that's going to college, has an interpreter with her to help so I know of situations like that that have worked.

RE: It's possible but it's probably a whole lot more difficult, right?

SP: One of our current scholarship recipients started off at the Santa Fe Community College so she had an interpreter with her in all of her classes so it's a little challenging.

RE: How many students at New Mexico School for the Deaf?

SP: I don't know how many students there are.

RE: Alright, you don't represent them. You just help them out, right?

SP: Correct.

RE: So Leaping Leprechauns. People can get tickets if they like some corned beef and cabbage and taters and beverages this Saturday. People can purchase tickets where?

SP: They can just show up at the door any time at 5 p.m., between 5 p.m. and 7.

RE: Where is the dining hall? You pull in like you're going to the James A Little Theater show with a lot of people. Is it the same entrance?

SP: It's not the same entrance. That's the entrance that's closest to the intersection of Cerrillos and Saint Francis.

RE: This side of that?

SP: Correct. So going further south there's another entrance which is a gate, has a little security kiosk there, and you go through that gate and turn left and it's very close to that.

RE: A sign there says "dining hall" – look for leprechauns dancing around, right?

SP: Correct. Look for Quotarians dancing around.

RE: We'll be back with Susi Perry from the Quota Santa Fe International, quotasantafe.org, their website if you want to purchase tickets. We'll be right back. Forty-seven minutes after 1 o'clock.

RE: Alright big opportunity here if you like to eat and did not get enough corned beef and cabbage for St. Patty's day, there'll be an opportunity this Saturday at New Mexico School for the Deaf up on Cerrillos in their dining hall, and it's called Leaping Leprechaun fundraising dinner. Organization called Quota International started in New Mexico in 1950, over a hundred years old and now they're going to raise money to support scholarships for deaf students at New Mexico School for the Deaf. You can get tickets once again, Susi, Susi Perry is here. Susi, the website again is...

SP: [Quotasantafe.org](http://quotasantafe.org). You can also buy tickets at the door which are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 12 and under.

RE: Does 12 bucks get you corned beef and cabbage?

SP: Twelve bucks gets you corned beef and cabbage and even seconds. And it is the best corned beef cabbage I think that I have ever eaten so it is well worth the trip. We're also having a diaper drive which we have collected thousands of diapers over the last couple of years to give to the Food Depot because we understand that some of the clients that they serve in northern New Mexico don't have money to buy food and diapers and therefore reuse diapers which is not a very healthy thing to do for your babies. So one thing that I love about our organization is the networking that we do and we also have a lot of support in the community for this.

RE: Before we go on, diaper drive, so you bring diapers Saturday night to the school?

SP: Correct. Just bring a package or two.

RE: Are we talking about like, uh, cloth diapers er?

SP: Disposable diapers. So bring those and we'll make sure we get 'em to the Food Depot and they will distribute them.

RE: So twelve bucks and some diapers get you all the corned beef and cabbage.

SP: You can eat, yes, and desserts, yes, and beverages, green lemonade - no alcoholic beverages of course. I'd like to just give a shout out to all of our sponsors for this event like *Just the Best*, who supplies all of the vegetables which is hugely generous of them because the

more we can get for of in-kind donations of course the more money we will have to give out in scholarships so Just The Best. Of course New Mexico School for the Deaf superintendent Rosemary Gallegos, their staff, the parents, and the students all at New Mexico School for the Deaf who support the event by attending. Albertsons, Trader Joe's, Sam's Club, and Builders' Specialty Service.

RE: Fantastic. This is probably not the only event you sponsor every year. What other causes or other organizations do you support?

SP: We work with the Youth Shelter and Family Services organization. We work with their Street Outreach arm which is the office and the staff that actually goes out on the street to find homeless teenagers and lets them know of the facilities that they have. They can go to their office for food for instance, take a shower, use a computer, hangout.

RE: Spend the night.

SP: They can't spend the night at the Street Outreach but Youth Shelters does have that facility way out on Airport Road but the kiddos sometimes don't want to be in a closed place so but they do want to eat so it's good for them to be able to get food and water, maybe take a nap there because living on the streets can be a little dangerous. You can't really relax if you're sleeping in your car. So we do that. Every holiday we get together 75 or 80 bundles of items to give to the kiddos so what we might have in an item is new socks, because that's always a big thing, warm clothing like hats, gloves, scarves, first aid kits, lip balm, toothbrush, toothpaste - the list goes on and on. And where we have so much support here, and what I love about our community, is the networking. The Women's Council of Realtors has supported us in this project for the last I don't know how many years by donating gift card so the kiddos can go to the CVS or somewhere and buy cough syrup or aspirin since Street Outreach cannot give such things out to the kiddos. But women's Council of Realtors has given us money so we can go shopping for all of the items that go into these packages. We have warm clothes that we give to the kids as well little snack packs with a granola bar maybe and some hot chocolate packets or tea - stuff like that. It's a huge, it's almost an armload of stuff to give to each child and Street Outreach is so so thrilled that they have this to give out.

RE: I'm sure there's mothers and fathers for all those kids that are grateful for organizations like you even though they don't know it's happening. How many members are there in in Quota Santa Fe?

SP: Eight.

RE: Total – eight of you?

SP: Yes.

RE: You've been a member for 35 years.

SP: Yes. And that's why I say, "we are small but mighty!"

RE: I'll say you are!

SP: And that's not all we do. We buy food every month either for the homeless teens or for the kiddos served by Adelante and Adelante works with the 1700 plus kiddos that are homeless in the Santa Fe Public School System so we buy food for them. We've gone to Adelante to help stuff backpacks with school supplies. When they ran out of food one time last year it's like, of course we wanted to go grocery shopping and deliver food to them. So those are our current projects - the scholarships, food to Adelante kids and food for the homeless teens is what we're currently doing regularly.

RE: And the diaper drive. So do your by-laws limit membership to 8 or would you allow more members?

SP: No, we would absolutely allow more members, yes. We're not limited to 8, that's just the state of affairs at the moment.

RE: People go to the website go to quotasantafe.org if they want to come do a meeting or join?

SP: Absolutely.

RE: Susi - thank you, thanks for coming by.

SP: My pleasure. Thank you so much for the opportunity.

RE: Corned beef and cabbage, Leapin' Leprecorns Saturday, School for the Deaf, quotasantafe.org for tickets.

Be right back, one minute before 2 o'clock. Sheriff Adan Mendoza when we come back. Santa Fe county sheriff is here.

For more information about this podcast, visit: <https://santafe.com/radio/ktrc>

Transcription of the Podcast by Susi Perry and Hope Bakker with the assistance of Google Docs speech-to-text.