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Horizon Healthcare Nursing Center resident Emma Carter claps her hands and sings along to the music of "Old Friends" which performed at the center Wednesday.

## Performances lighting up institutions

► Outside In organizer looking to put on performances, perhaps with national headliners, for those who are institutionalized.

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Bennie Vigil did a little picking in his day, but a stroke robbed him of the joy of strumming a guitar.

But on Wednesday, Vigil remembered the fun of working over a six stringer as he listened to "Old Friends" perform country-and-western standards of the 1950s.

"I can't play any more, but I make every music program," Vigil said of the concert at Horizon Healthcare Nursing Center.

Sandy Vieth, one half of "Old Friends," said she and her partner Ron Hale like to get out every couple weeks to perform for free at nursing homes, homeless shelters and detention centers.

"You can really see them light up when you play an oldie. They know them all," Hale said of Wednesday's audience.

"Old Friends" came to Horizon as part of a series of concerts organized by Outside In, a new group seeking non-profit status.

Outside In is trying to raise money to bring music and the performing arts to nursing homes, homeless shelters, juvenile delinquency homes and the Penitentiary of New Mexico.

David Lescht, organizer of Outside In, said he hopes to stage bigger events for people who are institutionalized. He even has dreams of bringing in national headliners.

Currently, Lescht, with the help of Hale, whose real job is as a grant writer for Northern New Mexico Community College, is busy working on several funding proposals.

Grant proposals are being finished for funds from the New Mexico Division of the Arts, the Max and Anna Levinson Foundation, the Buckaroo Ball Committee, the Albuquerque Community Foundation and HARPO, Oprah Winfrey's Chicago-based foundation.

Until the paperwork is complete on Outside In's filing as a non-profit group, the Santa Fe Council for the Arts is serving as its fiscal agent, Lescht said.

For its first year of operation, Outside In wants

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David Lescht, left, talks with Horizon Healthcare Nursing Center resident Charles Dennison during a performance by the musical group "Old Friends." Lescht organized the event and is seeking funding to develop a program to bring other events to nursing homes in northern and central New Mexico.

# Performances are lighting up institutions

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to raise \$55,330 for "a bare-bones budget" for four small performances a month, much like Wednesday's at Horizons. Outside In also wants to stage two larger concerts each month, Lescht said.

The money would go to performers and to rent sound systems and stages, Lescht said.

In addition, Lescht said he'll take in-kind donations from musicians and people skilled in various facets of music production like lighting and staging.

The idea for Outside In is based on work done in the Bay Area by Bread & Roses, which is in its 20th year of operation and next week will hold a fund-raising concert on Alcatraz Island with Bonnie Raitt as headliner.

Virginia folk singer Vicki Pratt

Keating performed in June at Outside In's first concert at the Youth Shelters and Family Services emergency shelter in Santa Fe.

Since then, Outside In has provided concerts featuring an assortment of bluegrass, Cajun, folk and blues performers at a number of locations in Santa Fe.

As Vieth broke into the opening measure of "Crazy," a song made famous by Patsy Cline, Emma Carter, a resident at Horizon, smiled.

"Oh, I had all her records," she said.

A country-and-western fan of the 1950s era, Carter said most of her husband's brothers and sisters performed music, and she said her niece and nephew in Campbell, Calif., are carrying on the tradition.

"I just wish I could carry a tune like that. Boy, that girl can sing," she said as Vieth crooned out the love song.