

# the Westside CARES

C O N N E C T I O N

Uniting religious fellowships of Colorado Springs' Westside in care and compassion towards those in need

JULY 2009

from Steve's



IT WAS ROUGHLY 25 YEARS AGO when a spirit of cooperation moved through a number of the churches on the west side of Colorado Springs. Some poor people were being evicted from the county poor farm, and some of the people of faith came together to try and meet some of the basic human needs of their neighbors.


Legend has it that not more than a dozen of these churches put together a steering committee, solicited support, gathered resources, and then helped some needy neighbors get resettled into what was hoped to be some form of stable living.

The legend continues that these same churches gathered in November of 1983 to have a shared Thanksgiving service at Bethany Lutheran Church on S. 8th Street. Afterward there was a pie social. At some point a number of voices were heard saying, "we ought to keep doing this." It wasn't clear whether they meant eating pie or helping neighbors, so we have continued doing both.

In 1984 Westside CARES was incorporated with the State of Colorado. It will be the 25th anniversary of that formation that we will celebrate at Bear Creek Park in September. We have an active committee working diligently to pull a number of elements together. It will be a great time and we hope that many of the friends of Westside CARES will come and share in this special event.

Please plan to save the date; it will be a splendid time.

Steve Brown, executive director



WESTSIDE CARES

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APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

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*Executive Director*  
**Steve Brown**

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*A Call for Volunteers*  
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● **Backpack Distribution**

Volunteers are needed to distribute backpacks on site at Westside CARES **July 27–August 6** and to distribute backpacks to participating schools **August 3–6**. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759 ext.108.

● **Nurses Needed**

One of the finest gifts that Westside CARES offers to our neighbors in need is nursing care. Our current pastoral nurse, Linda Anderson, is almost always busy, and we routinely have to turn away people who would benefit from her attention. Our hope is to find three to five registered nurses who are willing and able to volunteer up to three hours a week, working as an adjunct to our pastoral nurse. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please contact executive director Steve Brown at 398-0759, ext. 101.

● **Pikes Peak United Methodist Church Clothing Closet**

In need of volunteers to help sort and distribute clothing on Tuesdays (sort and organize), Thursdays and Saturdays (sort and distribute). For more information contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext. 108.

● **Trinity United Methodist Church Food Pantry**

Able bodied volunteers are needed to help unload food trucks on Tuesday mornings. For more information contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext. 108.

**Current Pantry Needs:**

- Beef Stew
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meat (Tuna, Spam, Chicken)
- Peanut Butter
- Shampoo
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Toothpaste
- Used Plastic Grocery Bags

*Thank you!*

**How Westside CARES Makes a Difference ... and How Our Neighbors Give Back!**

**S**UFFERING FROM NUMEROUS medical conditions, “Sam” and “Doris” have visited Westside CARES to consult with pastoral nurse, Linda Anderson, frequently this past year.

According to Linda, ‘ “Sam” is one of these *pull yourself up by the bootstraps* kind of guy — a little gruff, but sweet at the center. Doris’ is really his help-mate, making sure he’s taken care of before we talk about her. Both were embarrassed to be here, but really didn’t know where else to turn.”

During a recent visit, “Doris” was helping one of the Westside CARES’ Neighbor Advocates fix a pot of coffee when she noticed the sad condition of the coffee maker. That worn out old appliance had definitely seen better days. The coffee station is the first stop for hospitality at Westside CARES and its constant use had resulted in a broken lid and an uncertain future.

Wanting to help the agency that had so often helped them, Sam and Doris took it upon themselves to contact Angela and Eric at Colorado Coffee Merchants at 302 E. Filmore Street. After hearing of the inevitable demise of the Westside CARES’ coffee maker, Angela and Eric jumped on the band wagon with “Sam” and “Doris” and headed over to Westside CARES to see if they could help. And, boy did they! In no time Eric had installed a restaurant quality coffee maker complete with water line (thanks Dean!). No more trips to the restroom for jugs of water, no more struggling with the weary lid, no more worrying about how many more mornings the ol’ coffee maker had left in it!

Thank you “Sam” and “Doris” for your thoughtful advocacy and for ensuring that the hospitality of Westside CARES carries on!

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*Looking Ahead*  
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● **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009**

**Westside CARES’  
25th Anniversary Celebration Event**

This year is the 25th anniversary of Westside CARES and we want to celebrate! Please mark your calendar now and plan to join us in Bear Creek Park this September. More details will be shared later this summer.



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*On-Going Events*  
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● FIRST FRIDAYS, APRIL–DECEMBER,  
5–8:00 P.M.

**ArtWalk CARES**

First Friday ArtWalk, hosted by the largest group of individually operated galleries in Colorado Springs, is carrying a new tagline, “ArtWalk Cares” and reaching out to Art-Walkers to help fill the pantry shelves at Westside CARES. In a collaborative effort on behalf of Westside CARES, all the galleries are encouraging patrons and visitors to bring a non-perishable food product to any gallery on the evening of ArtWalk.

Not only will you be treated to an evening of spectacular art but you will also be lending a hand to your neighbors in need. Take time to visit and thank each of the “ArtWalk Cares” galleries (located on west Colorado Avenue between 23rd Street & 27th Street) for their generous partnership. Mark your calendars now before the year gets away from you: **August 7, September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4.**

Participating galleries include; All that Glitters, Arati Artists Gallery, Artist’s Lair, Calabash, Chrystina’s Gallery, Cucuru Gallery Café, Got Groovy Goods, Hunter-Wolff Gallery, Pine Creek Art Gallery, The Flute Player, Simpich Showcase, The Squash Blossom, Nirvana and Western Winds Gallery. Questions? Call 520-9494 or e-mail [www.shopoldcoloradocity.com](http://www.shopoldcoloradocity.com)

● **Pizza Card Fundraiser**

Want to know a delicious way to raise funds for Westside CARES? Ann Smith has the answer. Papa Murphy’s Take and Bake Pizza discount cards! Each card, sold for \$5, represents more than \$30 in savings. Of the \$5 purchase price, \$4 goes directly to Westside CARES. Now there’s a good excuse to pick up a Papa Murphy’s Take and Bake Pizza! They are quick, delicious and baked fresh in your own oven. Ann Smith reports that “WSC has already received \$500 in profits from the sales, and is still going”!

Pizza cards will be available from each member churches’ Lay Representative or from the church office and are redeemable at all area Papa Murphy’s locations except the Woodland Park franchise. Questions? Call Ann Smith at 520-9510.

● **The Mason Jar Restaurant**

Special thanks to The Mason Jar Restaurant in Old Colorado City for their ongoing support. They have made a pledge to donate a percentage of their gross receipts to Westside CARES. This gift is not contingent on any activity by Westside CARES supporters and there is no deadline. Please help us raise funds for Westside CARES by dining out at The Mason Jar restaurant and thank them for their support. Questions? Call 632-4820 or e-mail [www.masonjarcolorado.com](http://www.masonjarcolorado.com)

● **Old Town Guest House**

Owners, Don & Shirley Wick, provide a collection basket in the lobby of their Old Town Guest House, encouraging locals and visitors to contribute non-perishable food items to Westside CARES. Thank you Don and Shirley! Questions? Call 632-9194 or e-mail [www.oldtown-guesthouse.com](http://www.oldtown-guesthouse.com)

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**Heartfelt Thanks!**

**A** LONG OVERDUE thank you to **Tracy Manzi** and the **PSR kids** from **St. Paul’s Catholic Church** for the 100 kid’s care kits assembled and delivered to Westside CARES in February. The healthy snacks, coloring books, crayons and toys are a real treat for the children who pass through our doors. These fun care kits have transformed many unhappy children into happily occupied kids which makes waiting with their parents for services more pleasant for every one.

To **Broadmoor Community Church** for creating, packaging and delivering the first batch of bean soup mix to the Westside CARES’ pantries in April. Thanks especially for sharing the recipe so we can continue to package and share this delicious and nutritious meal with our neighbors all year long.

To **Fellowship of the Rockies** for transforming 1200 pounds of dry beans and spices into 735 bags of bean soup mix in June. You amazed us all with your speed and good nature. *And* you looked great in those hairnets. A Kodak moment for sure!

To **Colorado Coffee Merchants** for their donation of a restaurant quality coffee maker that provides great coffee with the push of a button. Offering a fresh cup of coffee is the first step in extending a helping hand. We love it and so do our neighbors!

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*Spotlight*  
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*on the special contributions of a dedicated volunteer  
or one of our member churches*

**T**HIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT shines brightly on **Delma Payne** and **Edie Walters**. This dynamic duo has been coordinating both the food pantry and the commodities program at Trinity United Methodist Church for three years. Although Delma insists that she is not in charge, all eyes seem to turn to her when any pantry related questions arise. The first time I visited the pantry and asked to speak to the pantry coordinator, everyone pointed to Delma. "No, no, I'm not in charge", she insisted before launching into an in-depth explanation of the pantry and commodities operation.

Though Delma is often the point person, it's the combined efforts of Edie and Delma that make the world turn in the Trinity pantry. Garry Garrison refers to Delma and Edie as the "whip and the co-whip" adding that they are "two dedicated Christian ladies with their hearts in the right place who are determined to help their neighbors no matter what! Delma and Edie put into practice exactly what we are all supposed to be doing." Rev. Jerry Boles adds that he'll often see Delma and Edie heading to the pantry to package food commodities after Sunday service. Whether it's coming in on their days off to package dozens of boxes of food commodities, diligently organizing and rotating the food in the pantry, or finding creative ways to squeeze every last penny out of their food dollar at Care and Share, these two dedicated women are the heart and soul of the TUMC pantry program. According to Susie Cheeseman, "Delma and Edie work their tails off keeping the pantry clean and well organized. They care so deeply for the needy and the hungry and take great pride in their work".

Obviously, it takes the efforts of many volunteers to run the pantry each Tuesday but no one would argue that it's Delma and Edie that make it run like a well oiled machine. "Delma and Edie provide unique leadership in the Trinity pantry by respecting and listening to all of the pantry volunteers" shares Rev. Boles. "Everyone has a voice in how the pantry is run which creates a wonderful sense of camaraderie. This sensitive, grass roots approach makes each volunteer feel valued and appreciated".

For touching the lives of so many in need and for committing their hearts and actions to the service of others, Westside CARES is honored to spotlight Delma Payne and Edie Walters.

## **Beth Haven Partnership**

**J**IM JOHNSTON, president and C.O.O. of Beth Haven Incorporated, contacted Westside CARES in May wanting to explore volunteer opportunities for some of the residents at their assisted living facility. Located in two beautiful Victorian houses in downtown Colorado Springs, Beth Haven is a residential program providing structure, community, programming and support for adults living with mental illness that aren't able to live on their own.

After a tour of the agency and a meeting with staff it was quickly concluded that the Westside CARES repackaging program would be a perfect fit. Many residents living at Beth Haven enjoy the structure and challenge of volunteer positions in the community and appreciate the opportunity to contribute in whatever way they can. Since Westside CARES is always looking for dedicated volunteers to assist in meeting the various needs of our west side neighbors, the Beth Haven partnership seemed to be a natural.

When asked why Jim chose to explore a relationship with Westside CARES, he replied, "Westside CARES works with a number of churches and individuals to provide food and other services to those in need, and this has always been a crucial ministry! It was very impressive to meet the staff and realize how hard they work to supply the needs of others. Everything there is about giving. Residents at our Assisted Living Facility are looking for ways to serve and give back to the community. Westside CARES is the perfect opportunity! I am proud to be associated with you folks!"

Ditto, Jim! We look forward to a long and fulfilling partnership with Beth Haven.

## **Food for Thought**

**F**rom Barbara Ehrenreich's book, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* — When someone works for less pay than she can live on ... she has made a great sacrifice for you ... The "working poor" ... are in fact the major philanthropists of our society. They neglect their own children so that the children of others will be cared for; they live in substandard housing so that other homes will be shiny and perfect; they endure privation so that inflation will be low and stock prices high. To be a member of the working poor is to be an anonymous donor, a nameless benefactor, to everyone. (p. 221)

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*Program News*  
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### 2009 Back-to-School Backpack Project

ONE OF WESTSIDE CARES favorite projects is just around the corner with our annual Back-to-School Backpack Project. Thank you in advance for participating in this important outreach project. Our goal this year is to collect stuff and deliver 500 backpacks with new school supplies for school-aged children in need on the west side.

All supplies need to be delivered to Westside CARES by **Tuesday, July 21**. Please mark your delivery with the **name of your church** and a **count of supplies** donated (i.e., "Gateway, 240 packages of two glue sticks").

*Note:* Individuals are encouraged to donate school safety scissors, packages of ballpoint pens, or colored pencils and bring to Westside CARES by **Tuesday, July 21**.

Questions? Contact Deb Mitguard, at 389-0759, ext. 108.



*Each member church has been asked to collect the following items:*

- **Bethany Baptist Church** —  
220 WIDE RULED spiral notebooks  
(70–80 pages each)
- **Bethany Lutheran Church** —  
125 packages of Crayons (24 per package)
- **Broadmoor Community Church** —  
300 packages of COLLEGE RULED loose leaf paper  
(150 sheets each)  
150 packages of WIDE RULED loose leaf paper  
(150 sheets each)
- **Central Christian Church** —  
220 WIDE RULED spiral notebooks  
(70–80 pages each)
- **Chapel of our Saviour** —  
310 plastic school boxes, approx. 6" x 10"  
(gender neutral colors)
- **Christ the King Lutheran Church** —  
225, #2 pencils  
(24 per package or two packages of 10–12)
- **Church in the Wildwood** —  
450 packages of WIDE RULED loose leaf paper  
(150 sheets each)
- **Fellowship of the Rockies** —  
325, 4 oz. bottles of Elmer's school glue
- **Gateway Presbyterian Church** —  
240 glue sticks (packages of two)
- **Ivywild Community Church** —  
150 COLLEGE RULED spiral notebooks  
(70–80 pages each)
- **Manitou Community Congregational Church** —  
225, #2 pencils  
(24 per package or two packages of 10–12)
- **Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church** —  
220 WIDE RULED spiral notebooks  
(70–80 pages each)
- **Pikes Peak United Methodist Church** —  
300 colored two-pocket folders (8" x 11")
- **St. Aidan's Anglican Church** —  
150 COLLEGE RULED spiral notebooks  
(70–80 pages each)
- **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church** —  
300 colored two-pocket folders (8" x 11")
- **St. Paul's Catholic Church** —  
240 glue sticks (packages of two)
- **Holy Rosary Catholic Church** —  
225, 12" rulers
- **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** —  
225, 12" rulers
- **Sacred Heart Catholic Church** —  
475 packages of pink erasers (two per package)
- **Trinity United Methodist Church** —  
300 colored two-pocket folders (8" x 11")
- **Wilson United Methodist Church** —  
325 wide washable markers  
(10–12 per package)

**Westside CARES**  
1930 West Colorado Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

**PRSR** STD  
U S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 745  
COL SPRGS, CO

## *Our Donors*

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Thank you for these financial gifts, received in May 2009.  
We want to thank our donors in the way that you wish to be thanked.  
You may note "anonymous" in your check memo line or  
give us guidance at 389-0759, ext. 101 or ext. 108.  
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### *Churches*

Broadmoor Community Church  
Chapel of Our Saviour  
Gateway Presbyterian Church  
Pikes Peak Metropolitan Church  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Women  
St. Paul's Catholic Church  
Trinity United Methodist Church UMW

### *Businesses/Agencies*

Colorado Coffee Merchants  
Lexis Nexis

### *Clubs*

Pikes Peak Post VFW 4051

### *Individuals*

Rev. Robert Andrews  
Donald Emanuel  
Purrz and Margaret Hobson  
William and Iris Lucas  
Velma M. McGaugh  
William P. Nelson  
Larry and Faye Shill  
Murlene Williams