
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

MAY 2009

from

Steve's



WHILE MUCH OF OUR SOCIETY'S energy and creativity is driven by the engine of competition, there is another segment of our community that is marked by cooperation and collaboration. Much of the strength of our work at Westside CARES is marked by the partnerships and our interest in working together, rather than against each other.

Collaboration has a long-standing, time-honored place in the hearts and lives of many people of faith. Westside CARES is enriched by this spirit, shared by so many of our supporters and member churches.

Beyond our member churches, one of our more durable relationships is with Goodwill Industries. For at least the past nine years, Goodwill has allowed Westside CARES and other agencies in the area to give vouchers for clothing or other goods. These vouchers have had a number of different formats, but they have consistently given us the means to give much-needed clothing to our neighbors in need.

For the past several months, Goodwill has allowed our office to issue vouchers each month that add up to \$5,000.00 worth of their clothes. This is of enormous value to our neighbors in need and being able to give something of such value means a lot to our Westside CARES staff.

We have recently learned that Goodwill Industries is experiencing a significant decline in the quality and quantity of the donated clothes they receive. This comes as no surprise considering the shape of our economy, but it may be something that our friends and supporters can begin to address. Please consider giving your gently used clothing and household goods to Goodwill Industries. Not only does this benefit our work at Westside CARES, but it provides much-needed support to the work of Goodwill. These folks not only run thrift stores, but they operate a number of programs that make life better for thousands in our community. In 2008 Goodwill helped over 4,400 people find work that provided a combined benefit of more than \$16,000,000 dollars in welfare costs averted and taxes paid. Goodwill also provides invaluable employment opportunities for nearly 1,000 citizens of Colorado Springs who might otherwise have a difficult time in the more competitive community.

I encourage you to consider making your clothing donations to Goodwill. It helps to expand the good we can all do for our neighbors in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Brown, executive director

Program Updates

Spring Food Drive

THE SPRING FOOD DRIVE was a huge success bringing in over \$11,533 worth of food and over \$1,000 in cash donations! Despite the decrease in available door hours and the drizzly weather, westsiders once again rallied to support the mission of Westside CARES. Over a three day period of time, 111 volunteers from 18 of our 22 member churches, one Boy Scout troop and one Girl Scout troop worked to collect, sort and inventory food donations. Bob Smithwick, stationed at the 8th Street Walmart, was struck by the number of people who donated food items during the food drive because, they said, "You (Westside CARES) helped us in the past."

According to Joan Corder, who recuperated from her recent knee surgery in time to oversee this spring's sorting, volunteers ranged in age from 5 to 87. "You'd be amazed at how well the five-year-old could put like things with like things — soup with soup, tuna with tuna, etc", shared Joan.

A special thanks to **Ann Smith** who coordinated volunteers to staff the food drive collection sites and to **Joan Corder** who organized volunteers to sort and inventory food donations. These two women commit an enormous amount of time and energy to help make sure the Westside CARES' pantries are well stocked. We are grateful for their dedication and richer for the spirit they bring to the agency.

Thanks, also to the **100 plus volunteers** who chose to spend some of their weekend supporting the Westside CARES' Spring Food Drive effort. Our success would be impossible without your help. Your generous donation of time will go a long way to feed those trying to make ends meet during these difficult times.

Food collected through the Westside CARES' bi-annual food drives are distributed between pantries located at Sacred Heart Church (Monday and Thursday afternoon pantries), Trinity United Methodist Church (Tuesday afternoon pantry and commodity distribution), Bethany Baptist Church (Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening pantries) and Manitou Springs Community Church (Friday afternoon pantry).

Immunization / Health Fair

A VOLUNTEER STAFF OF 21 medical professionals and lay people came together on Saturday May 9 for this year's Westside Cares' Health and Immunization Fair. Located at the West Intergenerational Center at 25 N. 20th Street, this year's event provided immunizations and physicals to children ages 4–18. Throughout the morning twenty-nine children received a total of 67 immunizations and 15 children received physicals, preparing them for summer camp programs and fall school registration.

"Several families were anxious to find a resource for required immunizations that their children needed to be able to stay in school", said Linda Anderson, R.N. "We are so glad we can help with the Vaccines for Children program that offers free vaccine for those who are uninsured, on Medicaid or are American Indian or Alaskan Native. Keeping children healthy is a goal we can all support!"

Information and outreach was also provided by representatives from 211, Child Health Partners Plus, Peak Vista Community Health Centers and Westside CARES. This wonderful part of our Health Ministry Outreach is conducted in partnership with Penrose/St. Francis Health System.

A big thank you to all who helped make this year's Health and Immunization Fair a great success. Specifically, **Liberty Ebright, Ada Torres, Kay Folan R.N., Vicki Sagrillo N.P., Jeannine Kidwell R.N., Randy Hensler R.N., Shirley White R.N., Steve Brown, Louise Renfro, Liz Cuerra, Terry Johnson R.N., Susan Alexander R.N., Jackie Sward R.N., Cyndy Wacker R.N., Jeanne Ballard R.N., Lorraine Stejskal R.N., Dr. Matt Murray, and Cathy Swab.** Special thanks to this year's event coordinators **Patsy Loveland, Marilyn Bradish, R.N.,** Westside CARES' pastoral nurse **Linda Anderson, R.N.,** and to **Penrose/St. Francis Healthcare.**



Westside CARES Clothing Closet at PPUM

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, ten volunteers from Pikes Peak United Methodist Church have been sorting and sizing new clothes donated from Walmart since the opening of the Westside CARES Clothes Closet at Pikes Peak UMC in March. The purpose of this clothes closet is to supplement the Goodwill clothing vouchers (\$5,000 per month, which usually run out after two weeks) and continue to meet the work and school clothing needs of our neighbors — adults, families and children.

Westside CARES' Program Associate, Dorothy Alvarez, had nothing but praise for the agency's latest satellite program. "The PPUM clothing closet has been a great benefit to so many of our neighbors. They are thrilled with the new clothes, especially when they need items for work. So far the clothing closet has filled over 50 requests for clothing representing clothes for 66 adults and 28 children." Joyce Kunkle, on-site coordinator for the PPUM clothing closet adds, "Since we pull a selection of items before pick-up, it can get a bit busy. All in all, it is going well and everyone seems pleased with the arrangements."

Neighbors receive clothing vouchers from Westside CARES during the third and fourth weeks of each month, and exchange them on Thursdays from noon until 2 PM, and Saturdays from 10AM until noon. As the need grows, the hours may fluctuate.

A Note from One of our Neighbors

WE RECEIVED ANOTHER beautiful note from one of our neighbors this month. We are happy to have the opportunity to share it with all of you. Your support touches the lives of so many. Thank you!

"To Everyone Who Helped — Thank You!

I applied for help back in December for rental help and I can't thank you enough. Please convey to all of the people responsible how very grateful I am. I am back on my feet again and working full-time. Because of a medical issue it seemed like I couldn't quite catch up. So a sincere thank you! And God bless!"

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Heartfelt Thanks!
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Old Colorado City CARES Week

WE WOULD LIKE to take a moment to thank the Old Colorado City Merchants Association who worked so hard to organize the first ever Old Colorado City CARES week in March. Merchants throughout Old Colorado City partnered with area non-profits to raise both awareness and donations for a long list of local charities. These generous businesses pledged to donate a percentage of all sales made during Old Colorado City CARES week. This year over \$700 was raised by these businesses for Westside CARES. Thank you so much!

Our business partners for this event are listed below. Please, take some time to stop by these wonderful establishments to shop, dine or sign up for classes and to say "thank you". This is a fabulous partnership that we would like to see continue and grow well into the future.

- **Laura Reilly Studio Gallery**, 2616 W. Colorado Avenue, #4, 650-1427 (www.LauraReilly.com)
- **Pizzeria Rustica**, 2527 W. Colorado Avenue, 632-8121 (www.pizzeriarustica.com)
- **Studio 101**, 2609 W. Colorado Avenue, 227-9ART (www.studio101.biz)
- **Dine Old Colorado City** (www.dineoldcoloradocity.com)
- **Old Colorado City Merchants Association** (www.oldcoloradocityshopping.com)

King Soopers and Wal-Mart

A BIG THANK YOU to the 8th Street Wal-Mart store and the Cheyenne Meadows, Centennial and Uintah Gardens King Soopers stores. We appreciate their willingness to allow our bi-annual food drives to take place outside their doors. As you know, these food drives are critical to stocking the shelves of our pantries. The next time you shop at one of these establishments make a point to thank them for supporting Westside CARES.

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*"We make a living by what we get,
We make a life by what we give."*
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— WINSTON CHURCHILL

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Ongoing Events
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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.

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.

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. Each gallery will offer a token thank you gift to every donor.

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. So, round up your friends and family and take time to visit and thank each of the "ArtWalk Cares" galleries (located between 23rd Street and 27th Street) for their generous partnership. Mark your Friday calendars now before the year gets away from you: **June 5, July 3, 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, Laura Reilly Studio, Pine Creek Art Gallery, The Flute Player, Simpich Showcase, The Squash Blossom, Nirvana and Western Winds Gallery. Questions? Call 520-9494 or www.shopoldcoloradocity.com.

Old Town Guest House

OWNERS DON AND 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 www.oldtown-guesthouse.com.

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 www.masonjarcolorado.com.

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Looking Ahead
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Back to School Backpack and School Supply Drive

ALL MEMBER CHURCHES will be receiving letters very soon with details about the Back to School Backpack and School Supply Drive. Each congregation will be asked to donate one specific item in bulk. These items will be assigned by the Westside CARES Social Services Committee and communicated in the letters. Our goal this year is to collect, fill and distribute 500 backpacks to children on the west side.

Westside CARES 25th Anniversary Celebration

● **Save the date:** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2009
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.

Volunteer / Member Spotlight

Shining the light on the special contributions of a dedicated volunteer or one of our member churches

Jodie Bennett

IT'S BEEN NEARLY A YEAR since Jodie walked through the doors of Westside CARES enquiring about a volunteer Neighbor Advocate position. Since that time she has endeared herself to staff, volunteers and neighbors alike. Delightfully eager to help address the needs of our neighbors, Jodie often goes the extra mile to find ways to help. When asked to share some thoughts about Jodie, co-worker, Liberty Ebright was quick to respond, "Jodie is a wonderful volunteer to work with. She is extremely patient and always has something positive to share in every encounter. Whenever a neighbor has a need that we cannot meet, Jodie works to find the needed resources in the community. She generates warmth and caring to all she encounters".

Sincere, kind, generous, enthusiastic, faithful, reliable, patient, resourceful, well informed and cheerful are all adjectives used to describe Jodie. Thank you, Jodie, for the skills and comfort you bring to our neighbors and for the joy you bring to Westside CARES!

We treasure all of our Member Churches and all of our amazing volunteers. We can't wait to see where the SPOTLIGHT will shine next!

Neighbor Spotlight

How Westside CARES makes a difference

"CINDY" CAME TO Westside CARES in 2008. She had worked in the security field for many years but was finding it difficult to make ends meet as her hours became increasingly sporadic. Because of the lack of reliable income in her field she depleted her finances and turned to WSC for rental assistance. This one time assistance enabled "Cindy" to pursue her goal of going back to school for her CNA. "Cindy" will finish her training this month and, because of her personal motivation and the availability of a helping hand from Westside CARES, will move forward in her new career. We all wish her well!

A Call for Volunteers

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.



Repackaging Station

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help repack large quantities of food items (beans, rice, etc.) into smaller servings for our pantries. Please contact Deb Mitguard at 398-0759, ext. 108.

Westside CARES Clothing Closet at PPUM Church



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 Food Pantry

NEEDS ABLE BODIED VOLUNTEERS to help unload food trucks on Tuesday mornings. For more information contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext. 108.

Backpack Stuffing and Distribution

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help fill backpacks with school supplies on July 24 and 25. We also need help distributing backpacks on site at Westside CARES July 27–August 6 and distributing backpacks to participating schools August 3–6. If you are interested in volunteering for this project contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext.108.



Our Donors

Thank you for these financial gifts, received from December '08 through April '09.

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.



Individuals

Ernest and Patsy Adams	Sue Frindt	Allee Page
Carol Adkisson	Susan Gerlach	Patricia and Gerald Payne
Bev Agnew	Royce and Shirley Gipson	Thelma Peck
Dorothy Alvarez	Michael and Barbara Gilliland	Nadyne and Joseph Peters
Peggy Annin	Hillary Habeeb	Elizabeth Platts
Richard L. Arnold	Christopher and Mara Hagan	Terry Putnam
Barbara Baker	Jennie Treiban and Barbara Hanson	Steve Saint
John and MaryAnn Baumgardner	Janet Treiben and Ted Harvey	Pamela and T. L. Sanny
D. or K. Bernheim	Donna Hathaway	Beverly and Don Sarton
Stephen or Jana Bohnen	Loretta and Ronald Holladay	Carolyn Saylor
Jerry H. Boles III	Margaret Jergensen	Darrell and Helen Schoenthaler
Paul Bowman	Alex and Jeannette Karolick	Patricia and Alan Severn
Robert and Helen Brockman	Carol Keenan	Bryan and Cyndy Sherwood
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David and Christine Burt	Bob and Mary Kettle	Christine Sonderman
Karen Murphy Burt	Margaret Kiernan	Dallas and Janet Steen
Bruce and Patty Cameron	Stephen and Margaret Kiernan	John Stephens
Larry Candler	Augusta Kinkade	Duncan and Kathryn Stewart
Louis and Barbara Carpenter	Edward Klein	Rich Strycker
David and Janice Clark	Jane Kneis	Eric and Cathy Swab
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Lucille Colson	Sarah Korkowski	May L. Thompson
Joan Corder	David Krall	Thomas and Georgia Thompson
Sue Crawford	Marjory and Fred Kuhlman	Cecil and Mary Ann Topy
Jo and Jack Dammann	Charles and Zoe Lance	Kristen Uveges
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P. or B. Dobey	Bev Martin	Dawn Wayman
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Victor and Diana Ecklund	Kenneth McClelland	Murlene Williams
Donna Elder	Deb Mitguard	Phyllis and H. W. Williams
Randall and Brenda Epperson	Wes Mullins	Joseph and Linda Woodford
Elizabeth Evans	Oliver or Gerda Nickels	Oleta and Douglas Young

Businesses / Agencies

Dine Old Colorado City
Laura Reilly Studio and Gallery
Lexis/Nexis
The Mason Jar Restaurant
The Neuroconnection
Northern Churches Cares
Peak Vista Community Health
Pikes Peak United Way
Pizzeria Rustica
Rock of Ages Child Care Center
SET of Colorado Springs
Studio 101
TOPS No. CO – 151
Women Partnering

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Churches

Bethany Lutheran Church
Broadmoor Community Church
Chapel of Our Saviour
Christ the King Lutheran
Church in the Wildwood
Community Congregational of Manitou Springs
Faith Presbyterian Church
Fellowship of the Rockies
Gateway Presbyterian Church
Gateway Presbyterian Church Deacons
Gateway Presbyterian Church Women
Ivywild Community Church
New Life Church
Pikes Peak United Methodist Church UMW
Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church
Presbytery of Pueblo
Rock of Ages Lutheran Church
Rock of Ages Lutheran Church Guild
Sacred Heart Church
St. Andrews Episcopal Church Women
St. Paul Church
Trinity United Methodist Church
Trinity United Methodist Church UMW
Wilson United Methodist Church

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Clubs

Broadmoor Rotary

Foundations

Castaways Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Gazette Charities Empty Stocking Fund
Giddings Foundation
Helen and Arthur Johnson Foundation
Jerome Bruni Foundation
Joseph Edmondson Foundation
Joslyn Trust
Pikes Peak Community Foundation

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2008 Enterprise Zone Donors

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Westside CARES
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Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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COL SPRGS, CO



Formed in 1983, Westside CARES is an ecumenical and interfaith, nonprofit collaboration of 22 religious fellowships of the west side of Colorado Springs, united in care and compassion for those in need by providing crisis human services.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve our neighbors in need with the love and support we receive from our member churches as well as the greater community.

Specifically, we aim:

- To establish a closer relationship, cooperative spirit and programs among the churches and religious fellowships on the west side of Colorado Springs and its environs.
- To develop a network of outreach and resources to serve the emergency needs of individuals and families and to assist them to become physically and spiritually self-sufficient.

Member Churches

- Bethany Baptist
- Bethany Evangelical Lutheran
- Broadmoor Community
- Central Christian
- Chapel of Our Saviour
- Christ the King Lutheran
- Church in the Wildwood
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Fellowship of the Rockies
- Gateway Presbyterian
- Holy Rosary Chapel
- Ivywild Community
- Manitou Community Congregational
- Our Lady of Perpetual Help
- Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community
- Pikes Peak United Methodist
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- St. Aidan's Anglican
- St. Andrew's Episcopal
- St. Paul Catholic
- Trinity United Methodist
- Wilson United Methodist