

# Westside CARES

Uniting religious fellowships of the Westside in care and compassion towards those in need...

November 2008

## Westside CARES April 2008 – March 2009 Executive Board

### **Chair**

Alan Agee  
Wilson UMC

### **Chair-elect**

Rev. Ann Smith  
Gateway Presbyterian

### **Past Chair**

Rev. Dave Shaw  
Church in the Wildwood

### **Secretary**

Vacant

### **Treasurer**

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Broadmoor Community Church

### **Clergy-at-Large**

- Rev. Keith Watson  
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- Rev. Don Emanuel  
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### **Lay Person-at-Large**

- John Scharrer  
Sacred Heart
- Bob Smithwick  
Holy Rosary
- Zoe Lance  
St. Paul Catholic Church
- Georgia Thompson  
Gateway Presbyterian

### **Community Representatives**

- Patricia Severn  
First Congregational Church
- Rich Strycker  
Greccio Housing

### **Executive Director**

- Stephen Brown

## From Steve's Keyboard The Position of Westside CARES

One of the very special gifts we have at Westside CARES is our member churches. 21 faith communities share in the governance, guidance, and support of our ministry. We are arguably the most divergent collection of faith communities in our county. (There may be others, but after six and one-half years I feel pretty confident in that claim.) Our supporting communities range in size from parishes that regularly worship less than 20 people per week, to some that see hundreds.

Westside CARES is designed to be operated by our faith communities: all but three of our Board members must come from our member churches, our primary pool of volunteers comes from our member churches, all of our food pantry activities are designed, led, and staffed by our member churches. Even the Lord's Dinner, which is older than Westside CARES, is primarily provided and staffed by our member churches.

Our churches are our primary (although not the largest) source of funding. In our current funding crisis, our first line of appeal is to the 21 churches that are our members.

Every Thanksgiving we provide 40 baskets to families, and all of the contents are provided by our member churches. Last July we asked for, and received almost all of the school supplies needed to stuff 500 new backpacks. For our food drives, our immunization fairs, our Adopt-a-Family program, we always look first to our member churches for support, and they always come through in good fashion.

One of the things that works quite well at Westside CARES is that a wide diversity of types of believers come together to work together. We cannot claim doctrinal uniformity, we cannot claim practical uniformity, but we do claim and live out a shared desire to be of service to our neighbors in need. This desire, and the actions that grow from it, is what brings us together and keeps us together.

Westside CARES functions as a place where many different

1930 West Colorado Avenue ♦ Colo Spgs, CO 80904 ♦ 719-389-0759  
Hours: Mon-Thurs—9:30am - 12:30pm ♦ Thursday evenings—5:00pm - 7:00pm  
[www.westsidecares.org](http://www.westsidecares.org)

parts of the body of Christ can come together. It always encourages me to see people from very different branches of the Christian family tree work together to ease human needs. We are functional Christian unity in action. I see this as one of the less obvious gifts that Westside CARES member churches give to each other, the gift of unity. It is a gift for which many of us can give thanks.

*Steve*

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## Program News

### **Thanksgiving Baskets**

Just a friendly reminder to please have your donations of food to Westside CARES by November 20. Some of our larger member churches have asked about setting a goal above and beyond what we have requested. If your church can or wants to do this, go for it! Additional food donations are used in our on-going Food Pantries' offerings to provide food that is more fitting for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thank you for your support of this annual project!

### **Christmas at Westside CARES**

#### **Christmas Adopt-A-Family**

Our west side schools refer families in need to Westside CARES to apply to be "adopted" for Christmas. Last year, 48 families were adopted by friends and supporters of Westside CARES. This year, we anticipate helping 60 families in need. It is not too early to let us know if you are interested in helping make someone's Christmas a bit brighter. Please leave a message at 389-0759, ext 103, if you are interested in adopting a family.

#### **Christmas Unlimited**

Westside CARES also partners with Christmas Unlimited in helping needy families with children 12 and under get gifts for Christmas. Many organizations throughout town process very detailed applications of families in need. Once the applications have been sorted, verified, and checked for duplications, the parents then are able to make an appointment to "shop" for presents for their children at the Christmas Unlimited warehouse.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Fall Coat Drive**

Thank you to St. Paul Catholic Church's Parish School of Religion for kicking off our Fall Coat Drive, collecting over 50 new and gently-used coats in sizes for men, women and children. These donations are then distributed to neighbors in need over the cold months yet to come. Thank you also to our dedicated volunteer, Joyce Scheiner of Gateway Presbyterian who has been coming every Thursday to help keep our donations of coats and clothing sorted and sized.

### **General Membership Meeting**

Wednesday, November 19, 12:00 noon, at Wilson UMC, 6460 Flying W Ranch Rd. 80919, 598-0407

All Member churches are reminded of the General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, November 19. Voting members (a clergy member and their lay representative) and any other interested church members are invited to attend.

### **Thanksgiving Worship Service**

Wednesday, November 26th, 7:00 p.m., at Gateway Presbyterian, 731 Castle Rd., 80904, 473-3430

Join us for an ecumenical worship service of thanks.

The Annual Pie Social will follow. Bring a Pie, Share a Pie. Whole pies that remain after the Social will be available for purchase to benefit Westside CARES.



### **John Smith Benefit Concert for Westside CARES**

Folk singer and song writer John Smith will be performing a concert on Friday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. at The Historic Community Congregational Church of Manitou Springs. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance at the Church or through Bob@Stellick.net or \$20 at the door. Child-care (\$5 per child) is also available, by reservation. Go to [www.Johnsmithmusic.com](http://www.Johnsmithmusic.com) for more details on John's music.

Call the Church at 685-5255 for details, to purchase tickets or make a reservation for childcare.

## Westside CARES' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in 2009.

Look for special events and programs to help us acknowledge this milestone and consider where we go from here!

Interested in helping make this a year to remember? We are looking for volunteers with experience and interest in planning special events. Please contact Mary Frances Kerr at 389-0759, ext 108.

### Community Outreach

#### Thank you to our Donors

Thank you for these financial gifts, received in October.

- Mr. Paul R. Alderman
- Broadmoor Community Church
- Broadmoor Rotary Club
- Mr. Louis and Mrs. Barbara Carpenter
- Chapel of Our Saviour Episcopal Church
- Dr. Nicholas and Mrs. Beth Christoff
- Church in the Wildwood
- Cougar Press, Mr. Kenneth and Rev. Ann Smith
- Ms. Judith Denbow
- First Congregational Church
- Dr. Richard and Mrs. Gloria Foster
- Ms. Carolyn Keenan
- Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Sandra Lampe
- Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Kristin Larkey
- Mr. Lorn Lee
- NAMI (National Association for the Mentally Ill), Colorado Springs
- Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Gerda Nichols
- Ms. Carolyn Nicholson
- Ms. Janet Norman
- Rock of Ages Lutheran Church
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- Mr. John and Mrs. Barbara Scharrer
- St. Aidan's Anglican Church
- St. Paul Catholic Church
- The Mason Jar
- Trinity United Methodist Church
- Mr. Bryan and Mrs. Cyndy Sherwood
- Ms. Jessica Sparks
- Mr. Rich Strycker

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 108.

## Donating to Westside CARES through the Enterprise Zone

Westside CARES is recognized as an Enterprise Zone Organization. With this designation, Westside CARES can provide significant tax advantages. Any donor who gives a minimum donation of \$250.00 per year to Westside CARES through the Enterprise Zone is eligible for at 25% tax credit on their Colorado State Income Tax. Please contact Steve Brown with questions about this valuable benefit.

### Special Thanks to Bethany Lutheran and Liz Kochis

Thank you to Bethany Lutheran and member Liz Kochis for organizing the benefit performance of the musical "I Do, I Do" and a silent auction over the November 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. Watch this spot for a follow up of generous supporters who helped make this event a success.

### Volunteer News

#### Download a Song and Help Fight Hunger

Check out the Hunger Action Month theme song, "Prayer of a Common Man," available for download at [rhapsody.com](http://rhapsody.com). Country music artist Phil Vassar recorded a special version of this song in support of Hunger Action Month—and a portion of the proceeds will go to Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest). The song is available from September 9 until December 31.

*Editor: Mary Frances Kerr, staff  
Layout: Deb Corder, volunteer  
Send news to [mfkerr@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mfkerr@qwestoffice.net)*

Penrose-St. Francis Healthcare and Westside CARES are offering free flu shot to those who are uninsured or cannot afford the cost.

Westside CARES offices  
Tuesday, December 2, 10 - 12 am

♦ ♦ ♦  
ESM

201 N. Weber

Thursday November 20, 9:30 - 11:30 am

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Adults over 18—no appointment needed.

Westside CARES  
1930 W. Colorado Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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**Help sustain the Ministries of Westside CARES!**

**Yes!**

I want to make a financial commitment in order to  
sustain and extend the ministries of Westside CARES

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Church or Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to contribute:*  \$10  \$25  \$50  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*

*Please return this form with your check to:*

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