

# 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

SEPTEMBER 2009

from  
Steve's



AT THE RISK OF MAKING a premature announcement, I want to let you know of a couple of exciting new developments that are emerging at Westside CARES. We are one of the agencies selected to help deploy federal stimulus funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. These funds, administered through the City of Colorado Springs, will fund a part-time case worker who will work with households that have been particularly hard hit by our economic downturn. This program also provides additional funds for supplemental support of these households.

In addition, we have been appealing for registered nurses who might be willing to volunteer to help our pastoral nurse, Linda Anderson. Linda gives very compassionate, thoughtful attention to people who very seldom see any kind of health care professional. This is a most generous gift, but it also limits the numbers of people Linda can see in a day. Our hope is that with additional nurses working with Linda, we'll be able to give more of this valuable service. We currently have five RNs who are just waiting for our partners at Penrose/St. Francis to polish off a training program so we can adequately equip these volunteers to share in this fine ministry.

So, we're going to have some rather significant changes here at Westside CARES, including the addition of more new staff, both paid and volunteer. It will tax our physical resources even more, but we will do our best to fit these extra activities into the space so generously provided by Bethany Baptist. It will also make us even more intent upon developing Westside CARES' position in the community so that we can obtain our own, more adequate facility.

Westside CARES is in a relatively stable financial condition, certainly much better than this time last year. As always, we are dependent upon the generous support of many friends, member churches, and philanthropies. Thank you all for your support.

**Steve Brown**, executive director



## *Executive Board*

APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

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Gateway Presbyterian Church

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### *Community Representatives*

**Rich Strycker**

Greccio Housing

**Bill Lucas**

First Presbyterian Church

### *Executive Director*

**Steve Brown**



# September and October Events



## Fall Food Drives

- **Safeway**

Friday, September 11  
Saturday, September 12

- **King Soopers and Walmart**

Friday October 23  
Saturday, October 24

**T**HIS FALL WE ARE BLESSED with an additional opportunity to collect food during our fall food drive. Of course, this opportunity creates a challenge as well. We will need double the volunteers to man the doors and transport and sort food this fall. The timing couldn't be better for our stressed pantries! We are happy to report that we have recently added the west side Safeway stores to our food drive locations in addition to King Soopers and the 8th Street Walmart. Because of these additional locations, we have added a second weekend to our fall food drive efforts.

These drives are critical to stocking our shelves for the winter. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the following people.

- **Food collection** at grocery store sites: Ann Smith, 520-9510, [adyers@earthlink.net](mailto:adyers@earthlink.net)
- **Transporting food** from the stores to Westside CARES: Steve Brown, 389-0759 ext. 101, [wecares@qwestoffice.net](mailto:wecares@qwestoffice.net)
- **Sorting and inventory** at Bethany Baptist gym: Joan Corder, 687-6925, [jcorder@aol.com](mailto:jcorder@aol.com)

## Westside Cares 25th Anniversary Celebration

- Sunday, September 20 at Bear Creek Park

**T**HIS YEAR MARKS THE 25th anniversary of Westside CARES. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the 25th anniversary committee has planned a fun, family oriented day. Join us at pavilion #1 (the large pavilion) located on the west side of 21st street in Bear Creek Park on **Sunday, September 20**.

Member churches and business partners have been encouraged to cook up their best pot of chili to compete in our **"Chili Challenge"** event. Picnic attendees will be asked to taste each entry and vote for their favorite in the categories of "Best Overall," "Best Vegetarian," "Most Kid Friendly," and "Best Spicy" (and flavorful).

Lunch will consist of; you guessed it, chili, hot dogs, hamburgers, Boca burgers, and baked potatoes (chili optional), salads, and dessert.

In the true collaborative spirit of Westside CARES, Liz Kochis from Bethany Lutheran Church has coordinated a "Community Choir" for our listening pleasure the day of the picnic. Liz chose three songs for the choirs to work on independently. (Might there be a bean song on that list, Liz?) Two full choir practices have been scheduled at Bethany Lutheran Church on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, September 19 at 3 p.m.

Steve Brown will talk a bit about the history and the future of Westside CARES and acknowledge our founders. Kids games will be available as well as an opportunity for our member churches and business partners to mingle and get to know each other better.

We hope to see many of you at Bear Creek Park on September 20 to help us celebrate how far we have come in the last 25 years!

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

### Anniversary Celebration Schedule of Events

- 12:30 p.m. • Event Begins
- 12:45-1 p.m. • Chili Tasting and Voting
- 1 p.m. • Blessing of the Meal
- Lunch Begins
- Kids Games Begin
- 1:30 p.m. • Presentation by Steve Brown, Westside CARES' executive director
- 1:45 p.m. • Recognition of Our Founders
- Community Choir Concert



## “Nunsense”

### Musical and Silent Auction Fundraiser

- Saturday, October 3, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, October 4, 2 p.m.
- Location to be shared at a later date

**M**ARK YOUR CALENDARS for **Saturday, October 3** and **Sunday, October 4** because you won't want to miss this year's fall fundraiser for Westside CARES! Liz Kochis, courtesy of Attitudes Regional Theatre, is busy coordinating the wacky musical production, “Nunsense.” A silent auction will run in tandem with the theater production. Not only will you have the opportunity to satisfy your love of musical theater, but you will also be able to bid 'till your heart's content for any number of spectacular silent auction items. (It's never too early to start that holiday shopping!)

The suggested donation will be \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors and kids (not recommended for children under 6). We're also asking that each person attending bring a non-perishable food item for the Westside CARES' food pantry.

### “Nunsense” Volunteers Needed

- Volunteers (youth groups?) to bake and sell goodies and beverages during the intermission of each performance.
- Two ticket table volunteers for each performance.
- Two or three volunteers per day to help set up and break down the silent auction on **Thursday, October 1; Friday, October 2; and Sunday, October 4.**
- Volunteers to build, set-up, and dismantle sets for the production.

### Theme Baskets Needed for “Nunsense” Silent Auction

We would love to have our member churches participate in the silent auction. Consider creating and donating a “Theme Basket” for the event. Some theme ideas to jump-start those creative juices include: kitchen, garage, BBQ, pets, camping, gardening, seasonal, books, movie night, night-on-the-town, tea, coffee, wine, etc. The ideas are endless.

To volunteer for this event or to donate a silent auction item, please contact Liz Kochis at 385-0182.

## Community Announcements

### Ivywild Community Church Closing

**I**vywild Community Church, a long-time member of Westside CARES, is closing. On **Sunday, September 13** the church will conduct its final worship service, followed by a luncheon including guests and friends who wish to come together to bid farewell to this faithful community that has been a Christian witness to the Ivywild neighborhood and the world.

Westside CARES thanks Ivywild Community Church for the many ways we have partnered in service to our neighbors over the years. Well done, good and faithful servant!

### Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

**P**EAK VISTA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House and El Pomar Foundation, now operates the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile to provide medical and dental care to children up to age 21. The Care Mobile is able to bring a dental clinic and a medical clinic to a site that has a level parking lot. Peak Vista has approached Westside CARES seeking connections with underserved populations in our community, as well as sites where the Care Mobile can be parked and accessed. This is an exciting new opportunity to provide important resources for our neighbors.

### Change A Life Forever!

**B**RING HOPE into the lives of very special children. Consider becoming a foster parent. The El Paso County Child Placement Agencies and Foster Hope Program invite you to an informational meeting to learn about Foster Care. This special event will take place on **Thursday, October 8**, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 2021 Pikes Peak Avenue, Colorado Springs. For additional information contact Gwen or Dorothy at 227-7571.

### Flu Shot Schedule

**W**E DON'T HAVE ACCESS to the final flu shot schedule at this time but will share it as soon as we do. Be sure to watch for flu clinic schedules at individual member churches.

# Our Donors

Thank you for these financial gifts, received in June and July 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.



## *Churches*

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Broadmoor Community Church  
Chapel of Our Saviour  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Fellowship of the Rockies  
First Congregational Church  
Ivywild Community Church  
Presbytery of Pueblo  
St. Paul's Catholic Church  
Trinity Baptist Church  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Wilson United Methodist Church

## *Businesses / Agencies*

Lexis Nexis/Nancy Bergeson Joerger  
Mason Jar  
Papa Murphy's Take and Bake Pizza  
United Way

## *Foundations*

Carl Bjorkman Foundation  
Denver Foundation  
Inasmuch Foundation  
The Marson Foundation

## *Individuals*

Patsy Adams  
Stephen and Jana Bohmen  
Laura Corder  
Mark and Carol Duster  
Victor and Diana Eckland  
Willard and Janet Hinkley  
Augusta Kinkade  
Dorothy and Richard Lirette  
William and Iris Lucas  
D. or M. Markwalder  
J. A. and W. H. McCrary Jr.  
Oliver and Gerda Nickels  
Thelma Peck  
Terry and Carol Piddington  
Elizabeth P. Platts  
H. Paul and Linda Roberts  
Harriet and William Sanderman  
Betty and Dorraine Schipper  
Alice and Don Shartran  
Bryan and Cyndy Sherwood  
Robert and Helen Smithwick  
Murlene Williams  
Yates and Susan Williams

## Neighbor Spotlight

*How Westside CARES makes a difference*

### Navigating the System

*by Dorothy Alvarez*

**B**OB CAME TO US in April asking for help enrolling for unemployment. He had just been laid off from the job he held for two years. OSHA had made a site visit a few months earlier and had recommended some equipment to safeguard Bob's health. In response, the company fired him. Bob is one of those people who had always been able to get work, so when he was fired and could not find another job right away, he did not know how to file for any assistance.

Bob doesn't have a phone or a computer, so we filed his claim on line and served as a place of contact for his request. About a month after he filed for unemployment we received a letter saying that his claim was denied; his company said that his work was unsatisfactory and so he had been fired and was ineligible for benefits. This was the opposite of what Bob had been told on a regular basis as work. He had received excellent ratings on his job reviews for two years and his work had never been returned by the buyers.

By the time Bob contacted OSHA, they were no longer able to help because their visit to his site had been too long ago. When he filed an appeal with unemployment he was told he was too late with the appeal. So he filed an appeal of the appeal. In August he received a letter saying that his appeal had been upheld and he would receive information about a court date. This was the first glimmer of good news he had gotten, but we still have not heard when that date will be.

In Bob's personal life things have not gotten any better. At the end of May Bob's girlfriend moved out. In June he was evicted from his place. He still cannot find work, and he has not received any unemployment insurance. By the time he does receive any insurance, we doubt that it will be enough to get him back into a place of his own with the deposits that are required in advance. He has been receiving some medical attention from Peak Vista for his high blood pressure. The pain in his legs and back is not helped by sleeping in a bed roll in a camp ground.

Bob comes in about once every other week. We can get him food, we can let him use the phone and try to help keep track of the paperwork. Mainly, though, we feel that we are just watching him slide down into increased helplessness.

## Heartfelt Thanks!

**T**O ALL OF OUR **member churches**, thank you for coming to the aid of our Westside school children again this year! We are so grateful for your generous response to our call for school supplies. Thanks to you we collected enough supplies to stuff and distribute 500 backpacks to elementary, middle and high school children. Your generosity helped to level the playing field for Westside children heading back to school while also lifting a heavy burden from the lives of Westside parents during this difficult economic time.

To **Fellowship of the Rockies** for bringing in their incredibly energetic and hard working Youth Group to stuff backpacks in July. In a two hour period of time, this crew managed to stuff all 500 packs, carry them to our storage rooms, clean up the gym where the stuffing took place, carry leftover supplies back downstairs to the Westside CARES' office area *and* indulge in a few snacks. This group was amazing. We never could have done this without them. Thanks to Maureen and Randy who coordinated and organized the kids, and to the parents who both encouraged their children's participation and who helped with the packing.

To all the other **volunteers** who helped with the sorting, packing and distribution of the backpacks. Too numerous to list by name, you know who you are and we will be forever grateful for all of your help!

Special thanks to **Lisa Dearborn** at **Colorado College** for graciously donating her time to layout the Westside CARES' newsletters. We would be lost without her professionalism and incredible skills! Also, a big thank you to **Mary McGinnis** and **Broadmoor Community Church** for printing our newsletters. We'd be hard pressed to share our good news with all of you without the assistance of these two amazing women!

## Ongoing Events

### Pizza Card Fundraiser Update

THE PAPA MURPHY'S pizza card fundraiser is going great. To date we have raised \$1,200+ for Westside CARES simply by eating pizza!



Thanks to all of you who have purchased Papa Murphy's Take and Bake Pizza discount cards this summer. Each \$5 card 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 easy, delicious, and baked fresh in your own oven.

There is no set end date for this fundraiser so we will continue to make these cards available until we are satisfied that everyone who wants a pizza discount card has had ample opportunity to purchase one (or more). 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.

### 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 by contacting them at 632-4820 or at [www.masonjarcolorado.com](http://www.masonjarcolorado.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 by contacting them at 632-9194 or at [www.oldtown-guesthouse.com](http://www.oldtown-guesthouse.com)

### ArtWalk CARES Update

ARTWALK PARTICIPANTS continue to donate generously every first Friday to the Westside CARES' food bank. To date we have received numerous baskets full of canned food for our pantry program. 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.

So, round up your friends and family and 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. 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. Mark your calendars now before the year gets away from you:

**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. For details contact (719) 520-9494 or [www.shopoldcoloradocity.com](http://www.shopoldcoloradocity.com)

### Westside CARES Vehicle Donation Program

WESTSIDE CARES is now able to accept car donations. Whether the car is running or not, we can accept the donation of a used car. The donor will receive a tax credit for the value of the car and Westside CARES receives the major portion of the sales price. Contact Steve Brown at 389-0759 for further information.



## Spotlight

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

**T**HIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT shines brightly on **Alison Zarlingo**. A volunteer for the last year, Alison has brought a delightful level of enthusiasm and caring to the Neighbor Advocate position at Westside CARES. Her vast knowledge of real estate, housing resources and the community at large has provided a wealth of invaluable information to staff and neighbors alike. Carol Keenan, Westside CARES' Program Administrator describes Alison as "an incredibly responsible and compassionate person, who is always ready with a smile". Westside CARES' Program Associate, Dorothy Alvarez adds that "Alison is a can-do kind of person who has the ability to make things happen!"

Though Alison has only been at Westside Cares for the past year, she has endeared herself to all who have had the pleasure of working with her. It is with deep gratitude and a pang of sadness that the Westside CARES' family says good bye to Alison as she moves on to full-time employment with a local school district. Her unshakable dedication and youthful energy (*and her notorious shoe fetish*) will be missed greatly. We wish her well as she moves forward to share her skills with a new segment of our community. Though we will miss her weekly presence at Westside CARES, she has touched the hearts of many leaving a permanent ray of light in each of our lives. Thank you, Allison!

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

## A Call for Volunteers

### Neighbor Advocate

**W**E ARE IN NEED OF two volunteers to help staff our office at Westside CARES both on a regular weekly (one morning per week) or job share (one morning every other week) basis. Responsibilities include: interviewing neighbors; assessing their needs and determining which WSC services they are eligible for; providing referrals to outside agencies; maintaining an atmosphere of hospitality; and answering phones. Training will be provided. If interested contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext. 108.



## Prayer for Our Neighbors

"Lord, help me to respect all life today.  
Help me to see the beauty of your creation in everyone I meet.  
Especially, let me be concerned for all those who are helpless, sick, weak, or ignored by others.  
Help me to remember that they are especially dear to you.  
Let your love reach through me to them in their time of need.  
Amen."

— Unknown

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

**PRSR STD**  
U S POSTAGE  
**P A I D**  
PERMIT 745  
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