

# 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

JAN./FEB. 2010



## Executive Board

APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

### Chair

**Rev. Ann Smith**

Gateway Presbyterian Church

### Chair-Elect

**Rev. Rick Carpenter**

Pikes Peak United Methodist Church

### Past Chair

**Alan Agee**

Wilson United Methodist Church

### Secretary

**Zoe Lance**

St. Paul Catholic Church

### Treasurer

**Thelma Peck**

Broadmoor Community Church

### Clergy-at-Large

**Rev. Don Emanuel**

Bethany Baptist Church

### Lay Person-at-Large

**Georgia Thompson**

Gateway Presbyterian

**Bob Smithwick**

Holy Rosary Chapel

### Community Representatives

**Rich Strycker**

Greccio Housing

**Bill Lucas**

First Presbyterian Church

### Executive Director

**Steve Brown**

from  
Steve's



ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS of conversation in the community these days is about the homeless camps that are so visible near the interchange between Interstate 25 and U.S. highway 24. Major meetings in the community are taking place, the Colorado Springs City Council is trying to decide what to do with a "no-camping ordinance" that has been on, then off, the books. Some wag (or wags) hung a banner near the camps indicating this has been caused by the current federal government. It took me a while to realize that banner was almost certainly NOT produced by the campers, I doubt they could afford it.

The banner does point toward a prevalent attitude in many of the conversations and freely aired opinions about the campers. Many folks are quite ready to declare "the reason" why there are suddenly so many campers. Many folks are also quite vocal about "the solution" to this problem. Many of these vocal declarations are based in very simplistic, unrealistic views. There is not just one reason for the proliferation of camps, there is not just one solution for the hundreds of God's children who are living in such temporary quarters. The issue becomes even more complex when we include those many more hundreds of people in El Paso County who are technically homeless, but not living in tents by the creeks; motels, garages, storage units, cars, boxes are all forms of residence the community considers to be inadequate or inappropriate.

According to the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) of the Colorado Springs Police Department, there are at least three significant factors that push people into the camps: mental health issues without adequate treatment; substance use/abuse issues; and economic issues. It is quite true that these factors co-exist in the lives of a number of people.

One of the leading agencies in trying to address this issue is vigorously advocating the withholding of any services to people who are not willing to enter into some kind of program that will help them move toward a more "normal" life. We always hope for a full and complete life for all of our neighbors, but I hold the view that it is not our place to dictate to another what they must do with their lives. If we are to respect the autonomy of our neighbors then the best we can do is to welcome, support, and encourage. It does mean that the culture of Westside CARES will cause us to stand apart from some of the efforts in the city. I hope that it will also allow us to help our neighbors in a way that embodies the same grace that blesses us and gives us life.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Brown".

**Steve Brown**, executive director

.....  
*Ongoing Events*  
.....

### Used Candle Collection for the Homeless

**W**ESTSIDE CARES will be conducting an ongoing collection of used candles to give to local couple **Mike and Brenda McCartney**. With the help of some homeless men, they will then manufacture new candles to be handed out in the homeless camps along Fountain Creek. These candles not only provide light to read by but, amazingly enough, help to moderate the freezing temperatures inside of the tents.

Westside CARES will be a collection point for these items and will then deliver them to Mike and Brenda for manufacturing.

Ways you can help:

- 1.) **Donate candle wax** (old burned down candles, new likely never to be used candles).
- 2.) **Donate rinsed out soup cans** to use in the manufacturing of new candles.
- 3.) **Write a personal note** to the anonymous recipient(s) of your candle wax or cans.

### Westside CARES Vehicle Donation Program

**W**ESTSIDE 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. For more information contact Steve Brown at 389-0759.

### Mason Jar Restaurant

**S**PECIAL 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 and thank them for their support. For more information contact 632-4820 or [www.masonjarcolorado.com](http://www.masonjarcolorado.com)

### Old Town Guest House

**O**WNERS **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! For more information contact 632-9194 or [www.oldtown-guesthouse.com](http://www.oldtown-guesthouse.com)

.....  
*A Note from the Neighborhood*  
.....

**T**HE FOLLOWING SENTIMENT was sent in a card to Westside CARES at the end of last year. It's always wonderful to hear from our neighbors!

*"The world is a better place because of people like you! Everyone at Westside CARES has a place in my heart, especially you Linda – your caring has make me want to be a better person and I am proud that my church is part of your group. God bless."*

— SIGNED BY A NEIGHBOR

*"Love is the threshold  
where divine and  
human presence ebb and  
flow into each other."*

— from Anam Cara by John O'Donohue

.....  
*Upcoming Events*  
.....

**Westside CARES' Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

**T**HE COLORADO SPRINGS stake of the Church of Jesus Christ, LDS, a Westside CARES member church, will host our March annual meeting, followed by our annual volunteer appreciation dinner. The annual meeting begins at 5 p.m. Member churches are reminded that each church is encouraged to have their clergy and lay representative attend to vote on the new board of directors; receive the annual report; and hear updates on the business of Westside CARES. At 6 p.m., following the annual meeting, we begin our annual volunteer appreciation dinner.

Highlights of the evening include live entertainment by the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale and a wonderful homemade meal. We also take this opportunity to present The Founder's Award, where we honor the churches, pastors and lay leaders who founded Westside CARES 25 years ago by recognizing one of our leading volunteers.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tickets: **\$10 each at the door.**

Date: **Tuesday, March 9**

Annual Meeting: **5 p.m.** (board members and lay representatives)

Dinner/Volunteer Appreciation: **6 p.m.**

Location: **150 Pine Avenue** (off of Roanoke and adjacent to Old Broadmoor Road)

RSVP By: **Thursday, February 18,**  
to Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext. 108 or [dmitguard@qwestoffice.net](mailto:dmitguard@qwestoffice.net)

**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.

To schedule an appointment call Westside CARES at 389-0759, ext. 104.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile upcoming schedule is as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

Date: **Thursday, February 25**

Time: **8 a.m.–5 p.m.**

Location: **Pikes Peak United Methodist Church**

2927 W. Pikes Peak Avenue

Services provided: **Pediatric, dental**

CLIP FOR SHOPPING! ✂

**Current Pantry Needs:**

- Beef Stew
- Canned Meat
- Cereal (hot and cold)
- Coffee
- Crackers
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Pork and Beans
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti-O's
- Syrup
- Tea

CLIP FOR SHOPPING! ✂

*Thank you!*

## Spotlight

*on the special contributions  
of dedicated volunteers  
or one of our member churches*

**T**HIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT shines brightly on the husband/wife team of **Barb and Howie Firestine**. Members of Christ the King Lutheran Church, both Barb and Howie are retired teachers; both volunteered first in the food pantry for five plus years; both trained as Westside CARES' Neighbor Advocates in August 2008. Are you beginning to notice a pattern here? These two are a great team!

Barb's and Howie's keen sense of organization, tireless dedication, and easy natures have been a welcome addition to the busy food pantry at Bethany Baptist Church. "Barb can work circles around me," says pantry coordinator, Joan Corder. Barb also graciously volunteers to maintain the computer program that tracks the inventory and yearly food donations for the Bethany Baptist Pantry. We are all grateful for that!

When signing up for the neighbor advocate positions, Barb and Howie offered to be floaters, filling in when other neighbor advocates are on vacation or out ill. Program administrator Carol Keenan is very appreciative of the way Barb and Howie "take the initiative to review the neighbor advocate schedule on a regular basis and sign up to fill in as needed without being asked to do so." And according to Dorothy Alvarez, Westside CARES' program associate, "Barb and Howie are great with our neighbors. Their soft spoken, good humored and gentle approach helps to create a calm, safe, warm and helpful environment here at Westside CARES!"

And let's not overlook Howie and Barb's most impressive work. Don't tell the little ones but both Santa and Mrs. Claus volunteer at Westside CARES! Not only do they give tirelessly of themselves all year long but at Christmas time they don their red suits and share, on a broader scale, the kind and loving spirits shared so freely with neighbors and coworkers at Westside CARES throughout the year.

Every day is Christmas at Westside CARES with Barb and Howie Firestine on the team!

## Heartfelt Thanks

### First Friday Artwalk

**T**HANKS TO **Sharon Wolff** at Hunter-Wolff Gallery in Old Colorado City for coordinating a year long food collection for our pantries in conjunction with First Friday Artwalk. Sharon's efforts and the donations of food from west side art lovers were greatly appreciated.

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 more information contact 520-9494 or [www.shopoldcoloradocity.com](http://www.shopoldcoloradocity.com)

### Thanksgiving Baskets

**A** HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the Westside CARES' member churches for once again answering the call for food to fill our Thanksgiving Baskets this past November! Your enthusiastic generosity enabled us to abundantly fill **40 baskets**. Because we were blessed with a number of extra turkeys, many surprised neighbors went home with a turkey from the food pantry as well.

Special thanks to **Joan Corder** for coordinating the food collection, basket stuffing and distribution; **Boy Scout Troop #187** for helping Joan pack the baskets; and the **OWLS** (older, wiser, Lutherans) from Christ the King Lutheran Church for helping distribute the baskets Thanksgiving week.

## Winter Coat Challenge

THANKS TO **Rev. Rick Carpenter** for challenging all the member churches to collect and donate winter coats to Westside CARES over the holidays. Many of you responded generously, significantly boosting our supply of warm winter coats to meet the ongoing needs of our neighbors.

## Flu Shot Clinic

AFTER HAVING TO RESCHEDULE the flu shot clinic a number of times due to a shortage of vaccines, the Penrose-St. Francis faith community nurses held a very successful clinic at the Bethany Baptist Church on December 14th. By the end of the day, 62 H1N1 vaccines and 30 seasonal flu shots were provided to our west side neighbors.

Thanks to **Linda Anderson**, Westside CARES' faith community nurse; the **nursing departments at UCCS and Penrose Hospital**; and **St. Francis Mission Outreach**. Thanks also to **Christina, Gene, Fran, and Bill** for assisting the nursing team with traffic flow and neighbor sign-ins. Special thanks to **Bethany Baptist Church** for housing the clinic.

## Adopt-a-Family

THIS YEAR'S Adopt-a-Family program was once again a huge success. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our adopters, **52 families** (93 adults and 195 children) were treated to a much nicer Christmas than they would have otherwise experienced. The sense of community and belonging created through this program is by far the most valuable gift of all. Thanks to all who participated in the 2009 Westside CARES' Adopt-a-Family program.

Special thanks to **Vera Karolick** for all of the work she did to contact and verify all of our Adopt-a-Family participants. We would have been hard pressed without her dedication, expertise and the numerous volunteer hours she put into helping coordinate the program again this year!

## Letters from Adopters

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Again this year the adopted families seemed to be in more difficult circumstances than in previous years. These included a mother with four children under the age of six whose husband was in Afghanistan, a single mother with six children, and others in dire circumstances."*

— ZOE LANCE, St. Paul's Catholic Church

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Thank you so much for finding this wonderful family for us. Dr. Peg Bacon and I had a great time assisting them. It was a pleasure meeting each one. What a lovely family! We were able to work out the language barrier. However, my initial conversation with them sounded much like this:*

*'Yo soy Professora Swaby y yo am going to comprar some gifts por su ninos. Yo would like venir to su casa to meet you.'*

*"The 11 year old laughed audibly after I spoke then said that she would translate from then on! We all had a great laugh at my expense. We were able to fulfill all the "wishes" for all four children and to help with some basic needs as well. We hope to keep in touch with them periodically. I also left my number in case they had an emergency. I hope that you can assist Dr. Bacon and myself in finding another family next year. Thank you for all you do for the most vulnerable members of our community. All the best to you and your organization."*

— BARBARA SWABY

\*\*\*\*\*

*"Our Christmas connection with the "Smith" family was beyond successful. Everyone in our lab participated and all family members were blessed with treats and presents for Christmas. Fox the Sox (the mascot for our baseball team) is kin to someone here and came with us to deliver the gifts. Mom was crying tears of joy and the children were shocked and very grateful. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to give!"*

— CHRISTINA M. SIEGFRIED, RDMS,  
St. Francis Medical Center

\*\*\*\*\*

# Our Donors

Thank you for these financial gifts, received in October, November, and December 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.

.....

## *Businesses / Agencies*

Colorado Coffee Merchants  
Lexis/Nexis  
Mason Jar Restaurant

## *Churches*

Bethany Lutheran Church  
Bethany Lutheran Women  
Broadmoor Community Church  
Chapel of Our Saviour  
Episcopal Church Women of Chapel of Our Saviour  
Fellowship of the Rockies  
Gateway United Presbyterian Church  
Gateway United Presbyterian Women  
Presbytery of Pueblo  
Rock of Ages Lutheran Church  
Sacred Heart Church  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
St. Paul's Catholic Church  
Trinity United Methodist Women  
Wilson United Methodist Church

## *Clubs / Organizations*

Food Industry Against Hunger / Albertsons  
German American Cultural Society  
Kiwanis Club of Manitou Springs  
NAMI  
NARFE Chapter 0241

## *Enterprise Zone*

(September–December 2009)

Barbara Barker  
Joan Corder  
Harold and Barbara Firestine  
Col. (Ret.) Richard and Gloria Foster  
Carolyn Keenan  
Daniel and Sandra Lampe  
Charles and Zoe Lance  
George and Patricia Loveland  
James and Suzanne Marvin  
Alfred and Joan Norris  
Terry and Carol Piddington  
William Edmondson and Barbara Schaefer  
John and Barbara Scharrer  
Kelly and Cynthia Tappan

## *Foundations*

Bohnen Family Foundation  
Castaways Foundation  
Empty Stocking Fund  
Fidelity Charity  
Giddings Foundation  
Mabel Horrigan Foundation  
Osborne Trust

## *Individuals*

Donna Andrews  
Douglas C. Atkinson  
Nancy Swenarton and John Awbrey  
T. K. and K. E. Bachus  
Galen and Bonnie Barnes  
Olivia Bennett  
John R. Bentrup  
Elizabeth Bockstahler  
Rosa Brassart  
Glenda Sue Bryant  
Karen Burt  
Barb and Lou Carpenter  
David and Janice Clark  
Lucille Colson  
Mary C. Crade  
Jack and Jo Dammann  
Kate Deeney  
P. or B. Dobey  
Paula and Ronald Duncan  
C. or D. Elder  
John and Jennifer Ford  
A. M. Foster  
John and Margaret Fuller  
Lillie and Robert Fults  
Susan Rae Gerlach  
Barbara and Michael Gilliland  
Goodwill Employees  
Bruce and Lisa Gosby  
Margaret Griggs  
Dorothy Read Guay  
Brian and Linda Hall  
Mike and Jen Hausman  
Barbara Haywood  
Brian and Sarah Hegarty  
Robert and Christine Heinich  
Steven and Sarah Helek  
L. Jacoba  
Roger and Geraldine Johnston  
Marilyn Kastel  
Deborah Kaufman  
Joanne Keeler-Roberts  
Kittie Kerr  
Edward Klein  
Jennifer Kleinschmidt  
Jane Kneis  
Elizabeth and Marcus Kochis  
Michelle Krenzin

Martha Slonim and Julia Lawrence  
Marsha Lee  
Linda LeMieux  
Dorothy and Richard Lirette  
William and Iris Lucas  
Peter and Lisa Lundquist  
Eleanor McGarry  
Andrew and Brenda McGreight  
Caryl Miller  
David L. and Renee Moorefield  
Sarah Mullenix  
Robert and Evelyn Neilson  
L. Nelson  
Oliver and Gerda Nickels  
John O'Rourke  
James and Hazel Oldham  
Nadyne and Joseph Peters  
Elizabeth Platts  
David and Karen Porwoll  
Emily Rasi  
John and Cindy Reynolds  
H. Paul and Linda Roberts  
Jess Roberts  
Pamela and T. L. Sanny  
Beverly and Donald Sarton  
Darrell and Helen Schoenthaler  
Richard and Kim Schray  
Alice and Don Shartran  
Brian and Maureen Simpson  
Ann and Ken Smith  
Lyle and Mary Smith  
Robert and Helen Smithwick  
Lorraine Stejskal  
Rosemarie Stone  
Tamarah Swain  
Thomas and Georgia Thompson  
Mary and William Tuggle  
Kristen and Joe Uveges  
Jenny Wasil  
Dawn Wayman  
Trudy Welsh  
Murlene Williams  
Donald and Marlys Willis  
R. D. Wilson  
Joseph and Linda Woodward  
Oleta and Douglas Young

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 504  
Colorado Springs, CO



Formed in 1983, Westside CARES is an ecumenical and interfaith, nonprofit collaboration of 21 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
- 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