

# 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

MARCH 2009

from Steve's



EVERY YEAR there is a deadline for the Annual Report to the membership of Westside CARES to be ready for the spring meeting, this year on March 10. This means that I have been crunching a lot of numbers, and a number of our staff and volunteers have been similarly engaged.

In 2008 we saw a persistent theme, and that theme was "INCREASE." The numbers of neighbors coming to us grew in one year by 20%. Households seen in 2008 were approximately 4,973. This figure can be compared to 1,818 households in 2002. Our income increased by 24% over last year, ending with a new record of \$275,455. Food pantry orders (our single largest activity) increased by 28%, serving over 18,000 people with four days of food. Our proverbial bottom line, the value we brought into the community through cash, goods, and services was up by 17% to \$1,212,718.

In balance, this feels like good news; it is astounding that we can continue to grow our services in a climate of economic recession. This growth is built on some very durable relationships with our member churches and many faithful friends in the community. We are adding numbers of new relationships as well. We have increased our base of individual donors from 72 in 2007 to 135 in 2008. We are also just starting to build visibility and relationships with businesses in our service area. Please see the article about several emerging relationships in this newsletter.

In summary, Westside CARES has weathered the current storm, so far. We will continue to work at building relationships in our community and seeking to find faithful ways of serving our neighbors in need.

**Steve Brown**, executive director

## Westside CARES Welcomes PPMCC How We Gained our New Member Church

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Westside CARES has long believed that one essential way this organization needs to grow is in active member churches. About six years ago we urged two churches that were then members, but essentially inactive, to withdraw and they did.

In order to gain more active members, we hosted an open house on a Friday in September. We sent out at least 30 invitations to churches that reside in our membership area, but are not yet members. The open house was attended by between 30 and 40 people, but only one from a church that was not a member. Rev. Wes Mullins, the newly installed pastor of Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church (PPMCC), attended and expressed definite interest in pursuing membership.

A few weeks later I attended worship at PPMCC and spoke briefly about what Westside CARES is, and what membership means. Still more weeks later (shortly after Thanksgiving) we received a letter from PPMCC requesting membership. At the next regular Board meeting a vote was taken and the application for membership was approved.

We are still in the process of fully incorporating PPMCC into the life of Westside CARES, but we have made a good beginning.

PPMCC was founded 30 years ago, in 1979. As one of the first organizations to reach out to help gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in our city, PPMCC has always had a strong focus on a variety of social justice issues. This interest in social justice is primarily what drew PPMCC to Westside Cares.

*(continued on next page)*

“We have long wanted to be a partnering member church,” says Rev. Wes Mullins, “but it now feels like the time is right for us to join. It seems other churches are now ready to accept PPMCC as a partner, even if we disagree on some issues. Especially in this economic time, it seems coming together to help those who are marginalized or in need in our community is more important than our differences. After years of being on the west side and being supportive of Westside CARES as a non-member, we are thrilled to now be welcomed as a full partner in the important work of helping our neighbors who are in need.”

Indeed, the need in our community is great. We welcome the generous hearts and willing spirits of the members of Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church as we work together to ease the hardships of our neighbors and expand our love and compassion for each other in these difficult times.

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*A Call for Volunteers*  
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- **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. Please contact executive director, Steve Brown at 398-0759 ext. 101.
- **Neighbor Advocates** — We are currently in need of neighbor advocates to help staff the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Please contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext. 108.
- **Repackaging Station** — Volunteers 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 Information Table** — Volunteers needed to staff the Westside CARES information table during the wrap up of Old Colorado City CARES week on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29. Please contact Deb Mitguard at 398-0759, ext. 108.



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*Reporting Back*  
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**2009 Annual Dinner**

*by Steve Brown*

**T**HE ANNUAL MARCH BANQUET is now history. About 120 people attended to share in a lovely ham dinner, topped off with a brownie-based ice cream sundae. The news of Westside CARES was shared, the roll of member churches was called (14 of 22 were represented), dozens of our volunteers were recognized and thanked, our Founders Award was presented, and the Children’s Chorale sent us out with some beautiful songs.

Thanks to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for again hosting, cooking, serving, and cleaning up.

**Pantry Volunteer Luncheon**

*by Joan Corder*

**R**ECENTLY REPRESENTATIVES FROM every church which runs a Westside CARES pantry met to share ideas and a delicious lunch. Attending were volunteers from Sacred Heart, Trinity United Methodist Church, Bethany Lutheran, Christ the King Lutheran, Gateway Presbyterian, Church in the Wildwood and the Congregational Church in Manitou.

Executive Director Steve Brown opened the meeting by expressing his deep gratitude for the hard work of all attendees. He also introduced Deb Mitguard, the new Community Resources Coordinator of WSC. Dave Hunting, pastor of the host church in Manitou welcomed the group.

Pantry workers shared potential sources of non-perishable food, frozen meat, bread products, fresh produce and dairy products. They also considered a proposed “handbook” to be given to our neighbors who have food vouchers along with their groceries. Such a book would include a 5 day meal plan and recipes — ways to use the food that is given in a usual food order. It would also suggest money saving shopping tips, ways to use powdered milk, how to cook dry beans, cleanliness suggestions, and nutritional education.

Everyone brought a dish to share and WSC provided meats and beverages. During lunch the sharing of ideas continued. The consensus was “We should do this more often”.

# Our Donors

Thank you for these financial gifts, received in November.  
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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|--|--|
| Barbara Baker                                | Edward Klein                                     |
| Bella Studios                                | Lucille Lamb                                     |
| John Bentrup                                 | Daniel and Sandra Lampe                          |
| Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church          | Charles and Zoe Lance                            |
| James and Phyllis Bowman                     | Dorothy J. McGowan                               |
| Broadmoor Community Church                   | M. Jane Merritt                                  |
| Chapel of Our Saviour                        | Alfred and Joan Norris                           |
| Chapel of Our Saviour Episcopal Church Women | Osborne Trust                                    |
| Chinook Foundation                           | Pikes Peak United Methodist Church, UMW          |
| Church in the Wildwood                       | Elizabeth Platts                                 |
| Central Christian Church                     | Presbytery of Pueblo                             |
| The Dammann Family Fund, Pikes Peak          | Sacred Heart Catholic Church                     |
| Community Foundation                         | Francis and Nancy Schott                         |
| Anonymous                                    | Alan and Patricia Severn                         |
| Victor and Diana Eckland                     | Herbert and Beulah Shaw                          |
| Cal and Donna Elder                          | Jessica Sparks                                   |
| El Pomar Foundation                          | Kenneth and Ann Smith                            |
| First Evangelical Free Church                | St. Andrews Episcopal Church Women               |
| Mary and Larry Furda                         | St. Monica's Guild of St. Luke's and St. Aiden's |
| Gateway Presbyterian Church                  | Anglican Churches                                |
| Michael and Barbara Gilliland                | Eric and Elizabeth Swab                          |
| Dr. Leonard and Esther Halling               | Trinity United Methodist Church, UMW             |
| Carol Harfert                                | Gayle Trumbo                                     |
| Christine and Robert Heinrich                | Thomas and Cynthia Wacker                        |
| Willard and Janet Hinkley                    | Keith and Mary Ann Watson                        |
| Horrigan Foundation                          | Mary Sue Wildman                                 |
| Carolyn Keenan                               | Murlene Williams                                 |
| Kittie Kerr                                  | Wilson United Methodist Church                   |
| Stephen and Margaret Kiernan                 | Joseph and Linda Woodford                        |



## Upcoming Events



### ● ON-GOING

#### **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!

### ● ON-GOING

#### **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.

### ● MARCH 23–29

#### **Old Colorado City CARES Week**

Businesses in Old Colorado City have banded together to support their neighbors in need during Old Colorado City CARES week, March 23–29. Both Pizzeria Rustica and the Laura Reilly Gallery have partnered with Westside CARES during this week of giving in Old Colorado City. Dave Brackett, a member of Sacred Heart Church and owner of Pizzeria Rustica, is well acquainted with Westside CARES' food pantry and the Lord's Dinner programs and so chose Westside CARES to be his partner charity. In support of the interfaith philosophy of Westside CARES to help our neighbors in need, Laura Reilly, painter and owner of the Laura Reilly Studio Gallery has also partnered with Westside CARES during this week of giving. A percentage of all artwork purchased at the Laura Reilly Studio Gallery (2616 W. Colorado Ave, #4) and all dine-in meals purchased at Pizzeria Rustica (2527 W. Colorado Ave.) during Old Colorado City CARES week will be donated to Westside CARES.

The Attic at 2421-½ W. Colorado Avenue is also donating \$2 from every purchase of one dozen wood roses to Westside CARES. Be sure to mention Westside CARES when making your purchase of these beautiful roses. Perfect for any occasion.

Take some time with family and friends during the week of March 23–29 to support the mission of Westside CARES as well as our generous west side business partners. Enjoy a delicious meal at Pizzeria Rustica, shop for some fabulous artwork at the Laura Reilly Studio Gallery and pick up a dozen roses at The Attic.

### ● FIRST FRIDAYS, APRIL–DECEMBER, 5–8:00 P.M.

#### **First Friday ArtWalk**

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. Take time to visit and thank each of the "ArtWalk Cares" galleries (located between 23rd Street & 27th Street) for their generous partnership. Participating galleries include All that Glitters, Arati Artists Gallery, Artist's Lair, Calabash, Chrystina's Gallery, Cucuru Gallery Café, Hunter-Wolff Gallery, Laura Reilly Studio, Pine Creek Art Gallery, The Flute Player, The Squash Blossom, and Western Winds Gallery. For more information contact 520-9494 or visit [www.shopoldcoloradocity.com](http://www.shopoldcoloradocity.com).

#### **Interesting Food for Thought**

In their book "The Externally Focused Church," Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson define such a church as:

- Inwardly strong, but outwardly focused.
- They integrate good deeds and good news into the life of the church.
- They value impact and influence in the community more than attendance.
- They seek to be salt, light, and leaven in the community.
- They see themselves as the "soul" of the community.
- They would be greatly missed by the community if they left.
- They don't just *tell* of God's love. They *show* God's love.

# Donating to Westside CARES through the Enterprise Zone

**Y**OUR DONATIONS OF \$250 or more to Westside CARES gives you a 25% Colorado income tax credit in addition to federal itemized income tax deductions. Depending on your tax bracket, gifts may cost you as little as fifty cents for each dollar given while providing much needed help to our community.

Please make your check payable to the "El Paso County Enterprise Zone" noting Westside CARES in the memo line of your check. You may call Steve Brown with questions about this valuable benefit. Please contact your tax advisor about your specific tax situation.

Here are some El Paso County Enterprise Zone sample benefits for Colorado residents:

## Single taxpayers

<i>Marginal federal tax bracket</i>	<i>Annual taxable income</i>	<i>Donation</i>	<i>Deduction &amp; Credits</i>	<i>Net cost</i>
25%	\$ 32,550 – \$ 78,850	\$ 250	\$ 137	\$ 113
25%	\$ 32,550 – \$ 78,850	\$ 1,000	\$ 546	\$ 454
28%	\$ 78,850 – \$164,550	\$ 1,000	\$ 576	\$ 424
28%	\$ 78,850 – \$164,550	\$10,000	\$ 5,763	\$4,237
33%	\$164,550 – \$357,700	\$ 1,000	\$ 626	\$ 374
33%	\$164,550 – \$357,700	\$10,000	\$6,263	\$3,737

## Married filing joint taxpayers

<i>Marginal federal tax bracket</i>	<i>Annual taxable income</i>	<i>Donation</i>	<i>Deduction &amp; Credits</i>	<i>Net cost</i>
25%	\$ 65,100 – \$131,450	\$ 250	\$ 137	\$ 113
25%	\$ 65,100 – \$131,450	\$ 1,000	\$ 546	\$ 454
28%	\$131,450 – \$200,300	\$ 1,000	\$ 576	\$ 424
28%	\$131,450 – \$200,300	\$10,000	\$5,763	\$4,237
33%	\$200,300 – \$357,700	\$ 1,000	\$ 626	\$ 374
33%	\$200,300 – \$357,700	\$10,000	\$6,263	\$3,737



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
- 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

## Looking Ahead



● FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 1 & 2

### Spring Food Drive

As the dates for the May food drive move ever closer, we'd like to encourage as many of you as possible to lend a hand in this critical volunteer effort. Our food pantries are central to the mission of Westside CARES and our bi-annual food drives essential to stocking our pantry shelves. These drives are also a fun and effective way to share the Westside CARES mission with the greater community. To volunteer for a 2 hour shift collecting food in front of local grocery stores on May 1 or 2 or for sorting food collections on May 2 or 3, contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext. 108.

● MAY 9

### Immunization / Health Fair

This year's Health Fair will take place on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. at the West Intergenerational Center at 25 N. 20th. This wonderful part of our health ministry outreach is conducted in partnership with Penrose/St. Francis Health System. If you are a nurse or other health care professional or a non-medical volunteer interested in assisting throughout the morning, please contact our pastoral nurse, Linda Anderson, RN at 389-0759, ext 104.

● IN THE PLANNING STAGE

### Westside CARES' 25th Anniversary Celebration Event

Everyone likes a good celebration and 25 years of Westside CARES is worth celebrating! While no official date has been set at this time, we are currently looking for volunteers who have experience and an interest in planning this very special event. Don't miss out on this opportunity to indulge your creative side. Please contact Deb Mitguard at 389-0759, ext 108.

*“We don't need the entire road  
before we begin the journey,  
only enough to take the next step.”*

## Spotlight

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

### Royce Gipson, volunteer

**T**HIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT shines brightly on the 2009 Westside CARES' **Founder's Award** winner, **Royce Gipson**. The foundational measure of the Founder's Award is based on a volunteer's long standing service and his or her embodiment of the principles of the founders of Westside CARES.

A long time supporter of the mission of Westside CARES, Royce has logged in some seven years of volunteer hours. After a conversation with fellow Wilson United Methodist parishioners, Joan and Al Norris, Royce proceeded to investigate the numerous volunteer opportunities available at Westside CARES. The rest is history. Royce's years of involvement began with a two year term as the Lay Representative from Wilson United Methodist Church to the Westside CARES Board of Directors. Shortly thereafter, Royce began volunteering every Wednesday as a Westside CARES' Neighbor Advocate and continues to volunteer in that capacity today.

Royce has always understood the importance of Westside CARES maintaining a strong connection with member churches and has consistently advocated strengthening those relationships. He is committed to educating members of his own church community about the mission of Westside CARES which in turn, has inspired others to become more involved in the agency. He was instrumental in recruiting outgoing board chair, Alan Agee, as well as the current Lay Representative from Wilson United Methodist Church, Terry Piddington.

The true heart of Royce's service rests in the relationships he has developed with the neighbors, staff and other volunteers at Westside CARES. "Welcoming, patient, gracious, gentle, calm, even tempered, and reassuring" are all terms used to describe Royce. His service to others grows out of a "deep well of thought" while his ability to touch the lives of those in crisis is nurturing and accessible. Royce's contributions to all of us at Westside CARES run deep and steady: a gentle anchor in turbulent times.

Thank you and congratulations, **Royce Gipson!**

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*Program News*  
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**Westside CARES Clothes Closet to Open  
At Pikes Peak United Methodist Church**



*by Rev. Rick Carpenter, PPUMC*

**T**EN VOLUNTEERS from our Church and one from Gateway Presbyterian have been sorting and sizing new clothes donated from Wal-Mart in preparation for the opening of the Westside CARES Clothes Closet at Pikes Peak UMC. 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.

The Westside CARES Clothes Closet began about a year ago, when John and Gladys Yenter made arrangements to receive free, new clothing donations from Wal-Mart. Since then, several boxes of clothes have been received and distributed from Westside CARES.

The idea for the Westside Clothes Closet moving and being operated out of Pikes Peak UMC came about from several conversations. Pastor Rick Carpenter and a member of Pikes Peak, Joyce Kunkle, were discussing ways to get our people more involved in mission projects. Joyce, who volunteers at Westside CARES, had been in conversation with Steve Brown about organizing and obtaining more space for the Clothes Closet there. Pikes Peak had the space, Joyce was very interested in improving the program, and all agreed we could provide the volunteers and times to make it work.

When will it start? We will begin receiving clothing vouchers from Westside CARES during the third and fourth weeks of each month, and distribute clothes to neighbors with vouchers on Thursdays from noon until 2 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon. Our first distribution day will be Thursday, March 19th. As the need grows, the hours may fluctuate.



*A Note from One of our Neighbors*

**T**HE OTHER DAY, we received this beautiful note from one of our neighbors. 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 the Staff at Westside CARES and *especially* Linda, Steve and Carol:

I never thought I’d find myself needing to reach out to complete strangers for help. You all gave of yourselves when my family was at its lowest, and for that I am so *very* grateful. Without the help and support you offered us, there is only one place we would be today ... homeless.

Who knows that a place like Westside CARES exists until tragedy strikes, your personal resources are gone and you have no where to turn?? Thank God you are there! Thank God you do the work you do ... and help people like me get back on their feet, regain some semblance of normalcy and dignity, and remember that bad things happen in this world to all of us, but there are Lots of Good people everywhere in our world, our community, our Westside, who will reach out their loving hand in Christ’s name to help you ... as you all helped me. I think of you all fondly.

With thanks eternal.”

A “P.S.” on the envelope said, “We came up on the list at the Housing Authority. Thanks for all your help.”



## Directory

### **Executive Board** (APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009)

- *Chair* — Alan Agee, Wilson UMC
- *Chair-elect* — Rev. Ann Smith, Gateway Presbyterian
- *Past Chair* — Rev. Dave Shaw, Church in the Wildwood
- *Secretary* — Vacant
- *Treasurer* — Thelma Peck, Broadmoor Community Church
- *Clergy-at-Large* — Rev. Keith Watson, Wilson UMC  
Rev. Don Emanuel, Bethany Baptist
- *Lay Persons-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

### **Staff**

- *Program Administrator* — Carol Keenan
- *Program Associate* — Dorothy Alvarez
- *Pastoral Nurse* — Linda Anderson, RN
- *Community Resources Manager* — Deb Mitguard

### **Neighbor Advocates and Office Volunteers**

- Jodie Bennett
- Jen Dorff
- Liberty Ebright
- Bill Edmundson
- Norma Eure
- Barb Firestine
- Howie Firestine
- Royce Gipson
- Helen Gress
- Vera Karolick
- Jennifer Kleinschmidt
- Jane Kneis
- Joyce Kunkle
- Dan Lampe
- Ethel Lawless
- Barbara McLain
- Gene Rushing
- Joyce Shiner
- Cathy Swab
- Eric Swab
- Marsha True
- Reggie Van Driest
- Murlene Williams
- Alison Zarlingo

### **Food Pantry Coordinators**

- Patsy Adams
- Susie Cheeseman
- Joan Corder
- Muriel Dunkley
- Pat Enger
- Albert Gonzalez
- Kittie Kerr
- Sandy Lampe
- Delma Payne
- Jerry Payne
- Edie Walters