

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

NOVEMBER 2009



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



I FIRST TOLD THIS STORY to some volunteers from First Presbyterian Church who were repackaging powdered milk for our food pantries on October 19th.

Some time ago a church gave me the privilege of speaking to their worship services about Westside CARES. One of the men there came to our offices the next week seeking some sort of assistance and happened to learn that our nurse might be able to help him get teeth. (It seems his had been gone for some time.) Our Penrose/St. Francis pastoral nurse, Linda Anderson arranged for Westside CARES to pay Dr. Rodriguez \$45.00 for a preliminary exam. The results of the exam and an application were forwarded to the Trimble Fund that agreed to pay for this man's dentures.

Some weeks later this man, who would not stand out in most crowds, came to our offices several times. Mostly he wanted to say thank you, but he also kept smiling, grinning is probably a better description.

The story is in the connections: a church let me speak and information was shared; Penrose/St. Francis has put a nurse in our offices; Dr. Rodriguez is willing to accept our reduced payment; the Trimble Fund pays for the work. Through all these connections, this man now has a vital component for health and good nutrition. And he now has the ability to share a bright smile.

These connections, these resources, this improvement in a man's health and dignity are made possible because our member churches and many other supporters are generous with money, time, and goods, we are able to make life a bit brighter. Thank you for your support.

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

Steve Brown, executive director

Thanksgiving Events

Thanksgiving Service and Pie Social

PLEASE NOTE that this year our annual **Thanksgiving Service** will be held on **Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m.** at the **Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st Street.** We hope many of you can join us!



Thanksgiving Baskets

The leaves are falling and the frost is on the pumpkins. You know what that means. It's time to start shopping for the Westside CARES annual **Thanksgiving Basket** distribution.

As in the past, each member church has been asked to collect specific items for Thanksgiving baskets. These items will then be assembled into baskets by pantry coordinator Joan Corder and Boy Scout Troop #187, then distributed by Christ the King OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans). Families will be identified by west side elementary schools and given vouchers to pick up baskets with all the fixings for a hearty Thanksgiving dinner.

Please deliver these items to the Westside CARES' office no later than 12:30 p.m. Thursday, November 19.

Listed below are the items requested for this year's Thanksgiving Baskets:

<i>Church</i>	<i>Quantity / Item</i>
All Churches	1 or more — frozen turkey or ham
Bethany Baptist	40 packages of stuffing
Bethany Lutheran	40 spiritual gifts
Broadmoor Community	40 — 64 oz. containers of juice
Central Christian	40 bunches of fresh celery
Chapel of Our Saviour	80 cans of fruit
Christ the King Lutheran	40 — 5 lb. bags of sugar
Church of Jesus Christ, LDS	80 cans of corn
Church in the Wildwood	80 — 3 oz. boxes of Jello
Fellowship of the Rockies	40 cans of yams
Gateway Presbyterian	40 — 5 lb. bags of fresh potatoes
Manitou Community Congregational	40 bags of 6 fresh oranges
Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community	40 cans or envelopes of turkey gravy
Pikes Peak United Methodist	40 — 1 lb. packages of butter or margarine
St. Aidan's Anglican	40 packages of brown and serve rolls
St. Andrew's Episcopal	40 tubs of frozen Cool Whip
St. Paul's Catholic	40 bags of 6 fresh apples
Tri-Community Catholic	40 frozen pumpkin pies
Trinity United Methodist	40 cans of cranberries
Wilson United Methodist	40 jars of jelly or jam
Food Drive surplus	80 cans green beans



November and December Events

Ronald McDonald Care Mobile



PEAK 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 for either clinic, call Westside CARES at 389-0759, ext. 104.

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile upcoming schedule is as follows:

Date: Wednesday, November 4
Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Location: Central Christian Church, 2002 W. Pikes Peak Avenue
Services provided: Medical

Date: Thursday, December 3
Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Location: Pikes Peak United Methodist Church, 2927 West Pikes Peak Avenue
Services provided: Dental

Westside CARES Seasonal Flu Shot Clinic

IMMUNIZATIONS PROVIDED at this clinic will be seasonal flu shots, pneumonia shots, and tetanus shots. For more information contact Linda at 389-0759, ext. 104.

Date: Tuesday, November 17
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location: Westside CARES, 1930 W. Colorado Avenue (behind Bethany Baptist Church)

Winter Coat Drive Challenge from PPUMC!

“THIS IS THE second year that our little church — Pikes Peak United Methodist — is doing a coat drive for Westside CARES. Last year we donated 35 nice, clean, but used coats. This year we have an informal goal of 25 new or clean, but used coats. Shopping at Walmart, I purchased two coats — sizes 2x and 3x large — for \$17 (female) and \$20 (male). We would like to issue a challenge to all churches, large and small, to have a coat drive between now and Thanksgiving and try to match us!”



— **Pastor Rick, PPUMC**

Christmas Adopt-A-Family



CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY is right around the corner. Once again Westside CARES will be connecting needy families from the

west side with groups or individuals interested in “adopting a family” for Christmas. Counselors and Social Workers from 12 elementary schools will gather the names of families struggling to make ends meet this holiday season. A Christmas “wish” list (typically a couple of items for each family member) will accompany the family name. This information is then given to Westside CARES to consolidate into a list. From this list, adoptees can choose the size of the family they are comfortable helping.

If you’ve ever contemplated participating in the Adopt-a-Family program in the past but haven’t, please seriously consider taking the step this year. We’re already hearing from west side elementary schools desperately seeking help for the increasing number of families in dire straits this Holiday season. Adopt-A-Family is a wonderful opportunity for Sunday School classes, congregations, businesses, service clubs and individuals to reach out in a very personal way to neighbors in need this Christmas. Please help if you can.

.....
Ongoing Events
.....

Pizza Card Fundraiser, Final Update

ANN SMITH REPORTS that all 450 of the Papa Murphy pizza cards have been sold.

Westside CARES received \$4 from each card for a total of \$1,820! Kudos to Ann Smith and all the pizza lovers out there. A delicious way to raise a bundle!



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, 389-0759, for further information.

ArtWalk CARES

ARTWALK PARTICIPANTS continue to donate generously every **first Friday** to the Westside CARES' food pantries. 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. 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: **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 more information call 520-9494 or visit www.shopoldcoloradocity.com



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. For more information contact 632-4820 or visit 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! For more information contact 632-9194 or visit www.oldtown-guesthouse.com

CLIP FOR SHOPPING! ✂

Current Pantry Needs:

- Beef Stew
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Meat (Tuna, Spam, Chicken)
- Canned Soup
- Peanut Butter
- Spaghetti
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Spaghetti-O's
- Shampoo
- Syrup
- Toothpaste
- Used Plastic Grocery Bags

CLIP FOR SHOPPING! ✂

Thank you!

Our Donors

Thank you for these financial gifts, received in August and September 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 Lutheran Church
Broadmoor Community Church
Central Christian Church
Chapel of Our Saviour
Christ the King Lutheran
Gateway United Presbyterian Church
Ivywild Community Church
Pikes Peak United Methodist Church
Pikes Peak United Methodist Women
Presbytery of Pueblo
Sacred Heart Church
Trinity United Methodist Women
Wilson United Methodist Church

Enterprise Zone

Michael Collins
Joan Corder
Mark and Carol Duster
Matthew and Liberty Ebright
Col. (Ret.) Richard and Gloria Foster
Constance Higgins
Robert and Mary Kettle
Daniel and Saundra Lampe
Charles and Zoe Lance
Douglas and Kristin Larkey
Robert and Debra Leivers
Andrew and Sharon Lewis
James and Suzanne Marvin
Alfred and Joan Norris
Eugene A. Rushing
Barbara Schuster
Richard Strycker
Kelly and Cynthia Tappan
Keith and Mary Ann Watson

Businesses / Agencies

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Lexis/Nexis Cares

Foundations

El Pomar Foundation

Individuals

Joe Bair
John Bentrup
D. or K. Bernheim
Paul and Janet Carpenter
P. or B. Dobey
Jack and Cindy Donavan
Jon and Jan Erickson
Samantha Garrett
John and Mary Garvelink
Harper Family Trust
Carol Keenan
Joyce and William Kunkle
Richard Langstaff
Karen Littlejohn
D. or M. Markwalder
Marjorie Merritt
Donna J. Pedri
Elizabeth Platts
Kenneth and Sandy Wickham
Murlene Williams
George and Linda Yannetsos

Notes from the Neighborhood

WE'D LIKE TO SHARE a few of the beautiful cards we received last month.



One of our neighbors wrote:

Dear Carol,
I am SO sorry this has taken so long. I cannot begin to thank you for the assistance with my rent last month. It truly was a miracle, and I will NEVER forget your compassion and kindness. Without your help I would have been in a horrible situation. Please forgive me for not sending this MUCH sooner. Please take care and know I'LL ALWAYS be SO grateful.

In response to the Back-to-School backpack drive we received these cards:

Greetings from Otero Elementary!
Thank you so much for the wonderful backpacks with school supplies. We have so many hit by hard times and your donation helps us so much! We greatly appreciate all that you have done for us!
Thank you again!
Otero students and Mary Quaderer, school counselor

Another card from Stratmoor Hills Elementary School:

Dear Westside CARES!
Thank you so much for thinking of us here at Stratmoor Hills and donating the backpacks and supplies! We really appreciate it.
Diana Pike, counselor

Thank you so very much for your generosity! Our families greatly appreciate your willingness to help them with supplies and backpacks.
Shelly Ross, assistant principal

Thank you for the backpack and school supply donation. Our families really appreciate your kindness.
Pamela Robinson, principal

Spotlight

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

THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT shines brightly on Joyce Kunkle. Joyce not only volunteers in the Westside CARES office every Monday, but she also manages the new "Westside CARES Clothes Closet" at Pikes Peak United Methodist Church.

In early 2009 Joyce was involved in Westside CARES volunteer staff discussions about needing more space and an additional need to better organize the fledgling clothes closet. Joyce talked to pastor Rick Carpenter about establishing the clothes closet at Pikes Peak to free up space at Westside CARES and the idea quickly became a reality.

Joyce now picks up four to six boxes of new clothing from Walmart each week and takes them to Pikes Peak United Methodist Church where volunteers from three different churches come on Tuesdays and Thursdays and sort, size, and store the items of clothing in children's, teen's, women's, and men's storage containers. Then during the third and fourth weeks of each month (Goodwill vouchers are used for clothing purchases during the first two weeks of each month) on Thursdays between noon and 2 p.m. and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon neighbors come with pre-screened vouchers and pick up their requested clothing items.

Joyce is indeed a "superstar": coordinating vouchers between the Westside CARES office and the Clothes Closet at Pikes Peak United Methodist Church; picking up clothing from Walmart; coordinating the scheduling of volunteers; and serving our neighbors in need with a great Christian heart. Through her idea becoming a reality, families of all sizes have been blessed through the Westside CARES Clothes Closet at Pikes Peak United Methodist Church.

.....
Heartfelt Thanks!
.....

LIZ and **MARC KOCHIS**, **Attitudes Regional Theater**, the **individuals** and **businesses** that donated to the silent auction and the numerous volunteers that made it all happen have earned the abiding gratitude of Westside CARES and our neighbors. Liz in particular was the driving force behind this effort, forgoing sleep and personal health (the poor woman could barely speak the week before the show) to assure that the little sisters of *Nunsense* had what they needed to share their hilarious story with us. Both the silent auction and the production of *Nunsense* were a great success. This combined event raised \$5,400 for Westside CARES! It was a spectacular performance! Can't wait for next year's show.

To all who participated in the Westside CARES' 25th Anniversary Celebration! Thanks to so many of you who joined us for this spectacular day of fellowship and celebration. A wonderful day indeed! With perfect weather, an incredible variety of chili (*and* proud chili makers) and more potatoes, corn bread, salads and desserts than 300 people could possibly consume, the Westside CARES' 25th Anniversary celebration exceeded our wildest expectations. The feedback on the cornucopia of food was primarily, "Fantastic!" and "I'm stuffed!" While the feedback on the **Westside CARES' Community Choir** was a unanimous, "We loved it." and "We want to hear more!" Perhaps we won't wait 25 years before we do this again.

Special thanks to the **25th Anniversary Committee** (Jen Dorff, Mary Frances Kerr, Karin Agee, Liz Kochis, Nani Arning, Don Emanuel, Zoe Lance, Steve Brown and Deb Mitguard) who worked tirelessly to coordinate this event; **Liz Kochis** for coordinating the Westside CARES Community Choir, and **Steve Alvarez and Lamont Anderson** for their marathon "grilling of the meats."

Thank you to all of the **Fall Food Drive volunteers!** As you know, the fall food drive effort is critical for stocking our pantry shelves throughout the winter. With food requests increasing and the economy slow to recover, this food drive was particularly important. To those of you who volunteered to pass out Westside CARES' brochures at the grocery stores, to haul food back to Westside CARES, or to sort and inventory the hundreds of cans of donated food, we are truly grateful. Thanks also to Ann Smith and Joan Corder who put in so many hours coordinating this important event.

Here are the numbers. With 50 door hours, the September Safeway and Walmart food drive brought in \$856 in cash donations and food items valued at \$7,692.

With 49 door hours, the October King Soopers and Walmart food drives brought in \$1,082 in cash and food items valued at approximately \$9,000.

Westside CARES
1930 West Colorado Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

PRSR STD
U S POSTAGE
PAID
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
- 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