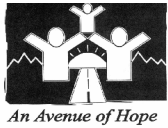


Colfax Community Network 2006 Annual Report



We carry our homes within us which enables us to fly

—John Cage



2,152 Days Later

In 1998, the idea for creating the Colfax Community Network came about when I saw small children in the parking lots of Colfax motels - unsupervised, underfed, playing amidst the broken glass and trash that universally signal poverty and despair. There were some in those early days whose response to the idea of CCN went something like this: "The motels are going to be torn down soon to make way for urban renewal projects, so is it really worth creating an organization whose clients will be gone soon?..." Our belief at the time and our belief now is this; children are living, day after day, in deplorable conditions that none of us would tolerate for our own children. By providing a safe, productive, loving environment for these children, *if only for one day*, we have the opportunity to relieve suffering and plant the seed for a different future. As it has turned out, we have been able to provide over 2,152 of those days to more than 3,000 children, teens and babies over the last eight years. It seems it was worth it.

Now the motels are starting to close. Three have shut down and many more are to follow. Luckily, most of the families who have been displaced so far have been able to at least find temporary shelter in other motels. Some, with financial help from one motel owner and practical assistance from CCN, have moved into apartments far nicer and safer than any Colfax motel room. However, as the closures continue and move from the motels to trailer parks and apartments in the Fitzsimons Redevelopment area, more and more families and individuals will face forced relocation. With an estimated loss of 1,400 units of housing, we must ask the same question we have asked for the last eight years; "Where will these people go?"

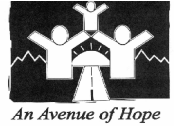
Here is what we know. Despite poverty, homelessness, illness and a host of other misfortunes, the people served by Colfax Community Network possess a remarkable ability to survive adversity. Not only do most families survive, they find strength in their family lives and take great pride and joy in their children and grandchildren. Nowhere is this more evident than in the family portraits taken at Family Night several months ago by photographer Joshua Crigger and included in this annual report. Whether a family consists of three generations of women, a mother and father and children or a single individual, these portraits reflect the spirit of hope and resiliency required to endure lives of unrelenting hardship. We are pleased to share these beautiful portraits of those who "carry their homes within them."

People ask, "What will CCN do if there are no motels?" The answer is simple. We will continue to be there for children and families in poverty. We will go where they go and continue to provide them with a place they feel they belong. We will feed the children, teach them math, wipe their noses, give them hugs, listen to their stories, take them camping, talk to their teachers, laugh at their jokes, compliment their haircuts, surprise them with birthday presents, applaud their performances, give them clean socks, and hug them some more. We will support their families in every way that promotes their health and self sufficiency and we will continue to advocate for their rights. In short, we will do what we have been doing for eight years. The end of the motels does not mark the end of poverty. It merely makes it more difficult to see.

—Maggie Tidwell, Executive Director

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development reported that 754,147 people in the U.S. experienced homelessness on any given night in 2005.

More than 16,000 of them live in Colorado.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

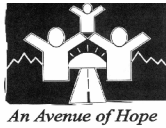
The primary goal of the Colfax Community Network's After School program is to provide a safe, productive, *fun* environment for up to twenty children 6 - 12 years old who live in East Colfax motels. What this looks like on a day-to-day basis is this: children eating healthy snacks while chatting happily about their day, children sitting in small, quiet groups while one reads to the others, children creating one-of-a-kind sculptures from recycled materials, children playing in the park with toys from the Mobile Playground Van, children doing research on computers for homework projects, and at the end of the day, children gathered in their "gratitude circle" to express appreciation for the good things in their lives. Twenty-six children attended the After School program in 2006.

Focusing on artistic expression has proven to have a powerful healing impact on children who may be unable to put words to their experiences. Under the leadership of program director Mandie Birchem and program assistant Debby Cella, the CCN children are learning how to release deeply felt emotions through creative expression. As a result, school attendance increases, grades improve, behavioral issues decrease, and children are free to be... children.



SUMMER CAMP

Whether it is a day camp in the city or a wilderness adventure, spending the summer being outdoors, learning new games and skills, and making new friends holds a special place in childhood memories. And those children whose families cannot pay for summer camp need and deserve these memories as well. That is why the Colfax Community Network holds 3 two-week sessions of summer camp for up to thirty-five of the children living along the Colfax Corridor. All the fun of summer camp - swimming, art, sports, gardening, field trips, games - are enthusiastically organized and supervised by staff and volunteers throughout the summer months. There is even a special one-week basketball camp provided by St. Pius X volunteers. At the end of summer, up to fifteen kids who have shown they are ready for an "away" camping adventure are taken on a four-day trip to the mountains for horseback riding, hiking, campfires, canoeing and of course, lots of s'mores. In 2006, we provided summer camp memories to 30 children.



An Avenue of Hope



MOM-TOT SUPPORT GROUP

Now in its third year, the Mom and Toddler Support Group is one of CCN's most successful programs - at least according to the moms and pre-schoolers who attend every Friday from 11:00 to 2:00! In 2006, there were 10 moms and 24 infants and toddlers participating on a regular basis. For the little ones, the program offers a special time with Mom as well as the chance to socialize with other great kids and play with great toys. For moms, it is a time to support one another, learn new skills and crafts, and explore new ways of handling old problems. It is also a time for enjoying their young children in a safe, supportive environment. Jean DeLeon, the group coordinator, keeps everyone busy by providing many varied opportunities for our moms, from resume-writing class to candle-making. Speakers from the community are invited to share information and resources and each group session ends with a healthy, toddler-friendly lunch prepared by mom volunteers and staff. This year, we are excited to be working with family physician, Dr. Allegra Melillo, and her interns from University Hospital who are a great resource for the moms regarding health and wellness issues. Friday is a very happy, noisy day at CCN.

FAMILY NIGHT

On the fourth Thursday of every month the CCN provides a community dinner for families living in motels. Family Night was the first program ever created by CCN in 1999 and we consider it to be one of the most important services we provide. Family Night is designed to bring together families living in the East Colfax motels and let them get to know each other in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We provide transportation, activities, food and most importantly, community building. Home-cooked meals are prepared and served by local volunteers. This is also a time we invite presenters from other organizations to come and introduce people to other services and programs available to them.

In 2006, we served over 1,020 people through Family Night.

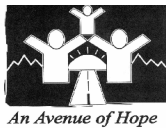
Nearly two-thirds (62.1%) of all homeless persons in Colorado are in households with children (Colorado Coalition for the Homeless).

ACCESS TO SERVICES

The Access to Services Program continues to put motel residents in contact with both CCN programs and other community resources. CCN staff and volunteers visit two motels every Tuesday as part of a comprehensive outreach program that includes the distribution of food, personal care items, clothing and information. The Access to Services Program is typically CCN's first step in establishing relationships with those who may not already be engaged in an outside network of supportive services. Some examples of the types of information CCN typically shares with clients include: school enrollment, housing programs, medical appointments, prenatal support, assistance with getting necessary identification documents, or simply an invitation to CCN's monthly Family Night. Additionally, partnership with the Stout Street Clinic medical van makes it possible for motel residents to receive immediate healthcare as well as make appointments with the Stout Street's main primary care office. During 2006, the Access to Services Program reached 1,210 unduplicated clients.

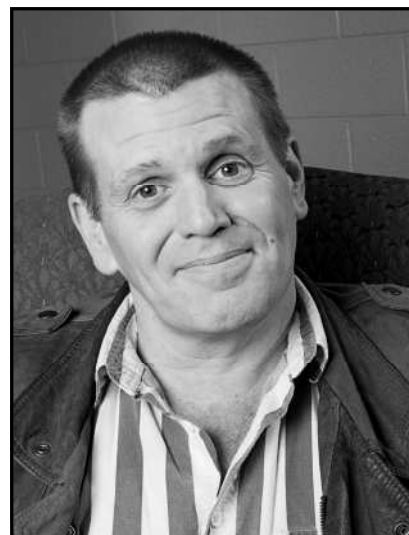


The number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past 10 years, and is one of the fastest growing segments of homeless persons (National Coalition for the Homeless).



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A minimum-wage worker would have to work 87 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment at 30% of his or her income, which is the federal definition of affordable housing (National Coalition for the Homeless).



TEEN GIRLS' SUPPORT GROUP

CCN Teen Girls' Support Group creates a positive environment in which young women living in the East Colfax corridor receive the support they need to thrive and grow. Every Thursday, 5-8 girls aged 12 to 17 meet with a CCN staff member and a licensed therapist to engage in discussions about everything from stress management to healthy relationships. Every session incorporates time in which each girl is encouraged to share her week with the others, as part of CCN's effort to create an open, safe environment in which girls can express and reflect.

This past year, the Girls' Group participated in a number of exciting activities that exposed them to things they would not otherwise be able to experience. In August, six girls spent the weekend team building, horseback riding and swimming in Estes Park, where they also put their etiquette class skills to work in a fine dining restaurant. The girls also completed an "inner beauty" makeover workshop as well as a six week course in "personal safety skills for women" conducted by the Rape Assistance and Awareness Program of Denver. In 2006, 14 girls participated in Girls Group.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Food Bank at CCN assists with emergency food, personal care items, baby supplies, and bus tokens for people living in motels, daily between the hours of 12 and 4 p.m. They come for practical assistance but are happy to find that they are greeted with friendliness and compassion when they walk through the door. Sylvie Hill has taken over the running of the food bank and is the first person many clients meet. In 2006, Colfax Community Network assisted 1,153 people through our Emergency Services Program.



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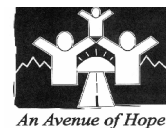
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Colfax Community Network
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2006

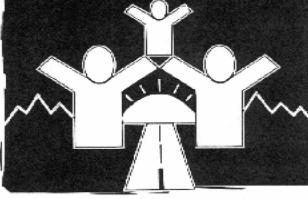


ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 103,458
Accounts receivable	9,944
Prepaid expenses and deposits	9,048
Net property and equipment	<u>28,039</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 150,489</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable	\$ 5,575
Accrued payroll costs	<u>7,212</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>12,787</u>
NET ASSETS:	
Operating	109,663
Net investments in fixed assets	<u>28,039</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>137,702</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 150,489</u>

Statement of Activities
For the year ended December 31, 2006

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	
Foundations	\$ 196,255
Individuals	57,114
Governments	19,687
Special events	35,483
All other	<u>43,047</u>
TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT	<u>351,586</u>
EXPENSE	
Program services	244,204
Administration	25,020
Fundraising	<u>58,914</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>328,138</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	23,448
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>114,254</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 137,702</u>

Colfax Community Network



An Avenue of Hope

P.O. Box 202373
Denver, CO 80220
303-360-9175
303-360-0627 (fax)
www.colfaxcommunitynetwork.org

**“Our lives begin to end the
day we become silent
about things that matter.”**

—Dr. Martin Luther King,

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Mandie Birchem, Children's Program Director

Debby Cella, Program Support Assistant

Jean-Marie DeLeon, Americorps Volunteer

Emily Girdwood, Administrative Assistant

Sylvie Hill, Program Assistant

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