

An Avenue of Hope

Winter 2008

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Colfax Community Network

A "Community" Christmas

As the sleigh bells, ornaments and extra wrapping paper are all nestled softly in their Rubbermaid containers ready for next year I reflect on the success of our 9th Annual Holiday Party. The Holiday Party would not have been possible without our amazing volunteers and kind-hearted sponsors.

The afternoon meal was catered and donated by our new friends from a "Just Faith" group in Arvada. Members from the group, Janet and Trish, led the meal to a scrumptious success! The talents of Lupe were highly sought as children lined up for her infamous face painting. Mr. and Mrs. Claus made Christmas wishes come true with charming conversation, a stocking provided by Wheeler Trigg Kennedy LLP and a gift for each child. Meanwhile Jeanie, our former

AmeriCorps, captured the spirit through the lens of her camera. Concerts for Kids created a welcoming and successful trip to our Santa Shop, by assisting children with shopping for gifts for their parents, while Wheeler Trigg Kennedy LLP, ensured the wrapping room had plenty of wrapping skills, tape, bows, love and energy.

We welcomed new volunteers from Aspen Dental and SADD who assisted in the smooth running of the party, but to all volunteers old and new-- THANK YOU for your support and assistance in providing over 250 homeless children, families and individuals with a holiday dinner and holiday activities!

Many thanks to our "Generous Elves" from Citywide Banks, First

Epiphany Church and MBH Enterprises that sponsored children throughout the East Colfax Corridor. In addition, our gratitude extends to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, St. Andrews Lutheran Church, St. Pius X Catholic Church and Pinnacle Assurance for your support allowed CCN to put smiles on faces and provide a magical Christmas for over 100 children!

--Mandie Birchem
Director of Programs



10 Dollar Drive!

Thank you for making an amazing statement of support! The end-of-year direct mail campaign raised nearly \$13,000, exceeding our goal!! Thank you for your generosity and steadfast commitment to CCN, your community and the well-being of

families living in poverty. Because of you, the children and families of CCN can look forward to a year of quality programs and services designed specifically for them.

Thank You to all Our Contributors!!!

For a complete list, please visit our website, www.colfaxcommunitynetwork.org and click on the "supporters" page.

Without each and everyone of you, there would be no CCN.

Letter from the Director

Dear Community Members,

On December 31, 2007 I was appointed by the Board of Directors as the new Executive Director of Colfax Community Network, replacing Maggie Tidwell who had served in this position since founding the organization in 1999. I accepted the position with a sense of honor and humility, aware that responsibilities and challenges would be significant, and require the support of many individuals and groups in our community.

I am committed to ensuring the same high level of programming and service delivery that the agency has become known for, while working to develop new services that effectively respond to the changing needs of our fellow neighbors who primarily live in motels along the 40-mile stretch of Colfax Avenue.

CCN has been blessed with generous assistance and cooperation from the philanthropic community and network of steadfast volunteers and noble donors. I look forward to seeing these relationships prosper and grow in the future.

With your continued support, we will strengthen and enhance our programs and expand our outreach services so that we can be a strong resource and agent of change to every family and child in need who seek improved lives, a desire for community, and hope.

I look forward to meeting all of CCN's friends and supporters. Please call or stop by to say hello and see our incredible staff and volunteers in action! I am available by phone at 303.360.9175 and email at brooke.ccn@gmail.com.

Warm Regards,

P.S.

I invite you to visit our website at www.colfaxcommunitynetwork.org to discover the good work of CCN. The website outlines each of our program areas that translate our mission and values from words to deeds. If you like what you see and are interested in helping to grow our services and programs please make a donation through the secure online giving page.



Jeanie DeLeon

As the year 2008 begins, we look back on 2007 with a smile. We were blessed with two energetic, charismatic AmeriCorps volunteers. Jeanie began her CCN volunteer work with our After School Program, but then took on the continuous development of our Mom and Tot's Group in creating a more self-sufficient group.

Volunteer Spotlight: Jeanie and Katie

Her patience, combined with the everlasting encouragement of our former Executive Director, Maggie Tidwell, led to three mothers moving out of motels on the East Colfax corridor and into affordable housing. Jeanie and her fiancé also "saved the dinners" on our End of the Year Camping Trip, by being creative with a camping stove, minimal ingredients and making friends with our cabin neighbors. Jeanie will be completing her service term with CCN this month, but her creativity will never be forgotten!

Katie first heard about CCN when Jesse Jones, former After School participant, was a guest on "Colorado & Company." She immediately called the office and that is where the friendship began. Katie moved from a bi-weekly volunteer with our After School Program to one of our AmeriCorps positions, assisting with motel outreach services and referrals and ongoing support to the After School and Summer Camp Programs. She also has been a great aid in providing clients with donated household items. Katie has become a "key" member of our staff with her ability to solve problems

and willingness to provide our services with maximum compassion.

Thank you so much, Jeanie and Katie, for offering your support and commitment to Colfax Community Network and the people we serve!



Katie Meske

Quilting with Ms. Dawn

"Art is essential to the well being of the human animal. Without it we are in danger of raising future leaders with no imaginations, no experience in looking at a situation from another perspective, no ability to see the beauty in themselves and their world and no outlets for aggression, frustration and boredom."

--Dawn Williams Boyd

CCN has found the perfect way to finish the 2007-08 school year with an artist residency hosted by Platte Forum, an innovative art center located in downtown Denver, that gives hope and direction to youth who collaborate with artists from around the world. In the past year, CCN has partnered with Platte Forum in the art of poetry, sculpture, and installations. Now we are taking on the art of quilting with Dawn Williams Boyd, a visual artist and quilt-maker based in Denver. Our residency with Platte Forum will run April 14th – May 22nd. Throughout her residency she will create a large new quilt titled "Quilting with Ms. Dawn" that depicts her at a quilting bee surrounded by several of the students working with her, including a selected group of ten from CCN's After School Program and Girls Group. Dawn also will help each student create his or her own quilts as self-portraits. The quilts will employ traditional hand quilting and doll making methods and a wide variety of fabrics and notions. The result will be an

exquisite display of exuberance and color.

We welcome the support at our exhibition opening on Thursday, May 22nd, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at 1610 Little Raven St, Suite 135. Hope to see you there!

For the artist residency to be a success, we are in need of some specific donations:

- Any size cotton fabrics for piecing quilt tops!
- CLEAN USED COTTON AND FLANNEL BED SHEETS AND TABLE CLOTHS
- BOLTS OF COTTON AND FLANNEL CLOTH 44 to 60 inches wide
- large safety pins
- hand sewing needles/beading needles

- sewing, quilting and beading thread
- cotton embroidery floss
- yarn, laces, rick rack braid, ribbons, sequins, beads
- seamstress shears
- embroidery hoops 12 inch diameter
- iron and ironing board
- 20-40 pieces wooden lattice 1/2" x 2' x 8ft (for displaying finished quilts)
- heavy gauge fishing wire
- push pins
- disposable cameras

*Contact Mandie with donations or volunteering: 303.360.9175

CCN and Aurora Warms the Night Team Up for Another Long Winter

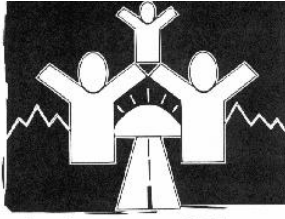
For the second season in a row, as part of a partnership with a local non-profit called Aurora Warms the Night (AWTN), Colfax Community Network has had the opportunity to assist in providing emergency shelter to Aurora's homeless residents. AWTN is a collaborative effort of local non-profit and faith based organizations, established to address a dire lack of shelter beds in the Aurora vicinity. AWTN works to provide shelter on days when the forecast temperature (considering wind chill factors) is projected to be at or below 20 degrees, by temporarily placing those in need in

vacant rooms of participating motels.

CCN has been a key player for AWTN because it acts as principal liaison to participating motels and as a secondary intake site for AWTN clients. From late November of 2007 to January 11, 2008, the program has successfully issued 511 vouchers on the coldest of nights. While being an intake site has at times created a little chaos in the office, it has given CCN the chance to share food, warm clothes, hot coffee, and a laugh with numerous individuals, primarily single men, not typically served by CCN programs. CCN and

AWTN hope to continue to support Aurora's homeless by providing them with motel rooms throughout this winter, while advocating for a more comprehensive shelter option in future seasons.

—Shannon Salazar



An Avenue of Hope

Colfax Community Network

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www.colfaxcommunitynetwork.org

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SAVE THE DATE!

The 5th Annual CCN FUNraising Auction

April 13th, 2008

The snow is still falling and the sun is still setting far too early but it is time to start thinking about the 5th Annual Colfax Community Network FUNraising Auction!!

One hundred percent of the proceeds from this event go to support our children's programs. Join us from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, April 13th for spirits, appetizers and good company while supporting the kids of CCN. This year's event will once again be held at Delaney's Bar, located at 1805 Blake Street in Denver.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$15 for students and CCN volunteers.

If you have questions, would like to donate or volunteer for the event, please contact Emily at 303-360-9175 or emilyatccn@hotmail.com.

Please invite your friends, family and co-workers—the more the merrier!!



Staff and kids rafting down the Arkansas River during CCN's 2007 summer camping trip