



ESM NEWS

3rd Quarter /Winter
February 2009

First Annual Festival of Trees a tremendous success!

After two years of hard work and months of anticipation, ESM's first annual Festival of Trees was held on Friday, November 21st and Saturday, November 22nd, 2008 at the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.



To say the event was a success is an understatement. Attendance for both days exceeded expectations and participation from the churches, the business community and from the general public was overwhelming. Many people who did not know who or what ESM was all about were introduced to the many programs and services provided to the most needy in the Colorado Springs area.

The event kick-off was the Jingle Bell Ball held on the evening of November 21st. A formal reception opened the festivities, allowing sponsors, donors, staff and volunteers to mingle.

Two 12-foot trees decorated by the staff of Inaugural Sponsor Rocky Mountain Bank & Trust greeted attendees at the main door, which opened onto the completely transformed Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame. Red and gold draperies complemented the red and gold table settings, providing the perfect backdrop for an evening of elegance and fine dining.

Before, during and after dinner, guests wandered through the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame to admire and purchase the decorated Christmas trees, wreaths and tablescapes. Of the thirty-nine trees available, nearly all sold Friday evening.

Over 280 people attended the evening's festivities which were highlighted by the magic of an indoor "snowfall," fabulous food, a visit from Santa Claus and a spirited "Jingle the Bell" paddle auction.

Excitement for the event continued on Saturday when the doors opened to the public. Approximately 700

people, many of them families, visited and admired the trees and enjoyed the live entertainment provided on an hourly basis by various groups including the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale, the First Lutheran Handbell Choir, and the Barbara Ellis Dance Troupe. In addition, Santa Claus was present for photo opportunities with the children.

Trees, wreaths and tablescapes were also available for purchase on Saturday. Thanks to the generosity of sponsor Two Men & a Truck, ESM delivered the fully-decorated trees to buyers free of charge.

ESM is grateful to all participated in this event. A special thank you goes to all of our sponsors:



*Rothgerber, Lyons & Johnson, LLP
Ent Federal Credit Union
Two Men and a Truck
Advanced Alarm Company
Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker, LLP
O'Brien's Carpet One
Phil Long Dealerships of Colorado
Murphy Constructors of Colorado Springs, Inc.
Centennial Reproduction Center
American Furniture Warehouse
Colorado Springs Utilities
GE Johnson Construction Company
DublinBlue Bobdog Design
Laser Sound
Sovereignty Wines Coors Light*



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July 2008-June 2009**

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Carolyn McDole
Executive Director

Dear ESM friends, volunteers, donors and partners:

We are living in very difficult times. The economy is having an impact on all of us whether individuals, families, businesses or non-profit organizations. Jobs are being eliminated with companies closing or laying people off. The low-income and homeless are impacted the most during times like these.

ESM's fiscal year is July through June. During the 2008 fiscal year we were blessed with the generous outpouring of churches, individuals and organizations who committed revenue, volunteer hours and in-kind services that allowed ESM to serve over 18,000 unduplicated individuals. This represents a 9% increase over the previous 2007 fiscal year. For the first six months of the 2009 fiscal year (July through December) requests for services are up over 20% for the same period as last year. Other non-profits are facing similar challenges.

Colorado Springs continues to confirm we are a city with compassion and a heart for those in crisis. Our contributors have stepped forward and have increased their giving. Individual gifts received during our Annual Campaign which began the first of November have increased over last year. We received word the week of January 26th **The Empty Stocking Campaign** exceeded their goal by over \$300,000. The original goal was \$1 million dollars. ESM will benefit from the success of **The Empty Stocking Campaign** and will receive \$195,000. Because of this outpouring of generosity, ESM has not had to turn anyone away because of lack of funds.

On behalf of the people we serve, we want to thank all of you who have given so generously. You have stepped forward with donations of time, talent, financial and in-kind resources. You continue to make a difference in the lives of people in our community. You *fed* many, you *kept people in their homes* who were in danger of being evicted, you *kept the lights and heat on* for people who received cut-off notices, you provided *warm coats* for the homeless, and you provided *life-sustaining medication* for people who are ill. The list of services you have provided are many.

*And who is my neighbor?
Luke 10:29*

Our love for Christ is only as real as our love for our neighbor

*How many lives shall I touch today?
How many neighbors will pass my way?
I can bless so many and help so much
If I meet each one with a Christlike touch. --Jones*

Blessings

Carolyn McDole
Carolyn McDole
Executive Director

***Festival of Trees** (continued from page 1)*

Thank you to all the designers who gave their time and talent to create the beautiful Christmas décor on the trees, wreaths and tablescapes:

A Touch of Home

Advanced Alarm: DeeAnn Kraft, Jennifer Porter

American Furniture Warehouse: Karyn Smith

American National Bank: Ann Giambalvo

Ann Moore Interiors: Ann Moore & Alice Ann Ochs

Annie's Attic

Burghart Florals

BusinessTruths Consulting: Judy Blaskowski

Colorado Springs Children's Chorale: Jeralynn Dix & Marcia Hendricks

Colorado Springs Utilities: Susan Presti

Dawn's Creations: Dawn Maidment

DesignWorks

Eden's Hair Salon

El Pomar Foundation: Courtney Drake

Ent Federal Credit Union: Ann Baldrica

Envi: Marci Featherstone

ESM Volunteers

First Congregational Church: Amy Colwell

First Lutheran Church: Cindy Bauer, Pat Friedel, Teri Swanner, Judy Wach

First Presbyterian Church: Knit & Chat Fellowship

First Presbyterian Church: Missions Office

First United Methodist Church: Stefanie Hecht, Pat Shelton

Forte Events: Tami Forero, Kristi Torregrossa

GE Johnson Construction: Yvonne Gardner

Glad Ragz: Suze Dunlap

Gold Hill Mesa: Stephanie Edwards

Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church: Marti Lindberg

Greccio Housing: Jill Graebler

Heifer International: Carol Solomon-Smith

Jean Marie Designs

Patricia Kallevig

Montage Salon: Laura Allen, Christian Malacara

Murphy Construction: Ann Baldrica

Native American Women's Association: Grace Goodeagle

O'Brien's Carpet Outlet: Ann Baldrica

Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker, LLP: Lynn Gorman, Heidi Tooker

Phil Long Dealerships of Colorado: Ann Baldrica, Michelle Hill

Platte Floral

Rocky Mountain Bank & Trust: Judy Ingels and Staff

Rocky Mountain Bank & Trust: Suze Dunlap

Ruth Tepley Interiors: Ruth Tepley

Saboz: Suze Dunlap

St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral: Bonnie Grabinski

T'Da Designs: Wendy Foster

Tipz-n-Toez: Norma Villalobos

Trowbridge Interiors: Sandra Trowbridge



And, last but not least, thank you to **Sherry Clarkin**, Chairperson of the Development Committee, and committee member **Dave O'Keefe** who worked tirelessly on this event. Without their vision, leadership and drive the Festival of Trees would not have been so successful.



Senior Pastors of the ESM Board: (l to r), Dr. Paul Peel (First Lutheran Church); Rev. Benjamin Broadbent (First Congregational Church); Dr. Kent Ingram (First United Methodist Church); Festivus (Event Mascot); Rev. David Van Heyningen (First Christian Church); Fr. Frank Quezada (St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral); Dr. Jim Singleton (First Presbyterian Church).

Finally, **mark your calendars!** The 2nd Annual Festival of Trees is already in the planning stages and the dates are set for November 20th through November 22st, 2009. Watch for more announcements through the year on how you can participate as a sponsor, a tree designer, a volunteer or an attendee!



Program News

Thanksgiving & Christmas Holiday Food Baskets

Once again, thanks to the generosity of our eight member churches as well as other groups and individuals in the community, ESM was able to provide many families with the necessary ingredients for a holiday meal.

Holiday food baskets consist of a turkey, bread stuffing mix, cake and pie mixes, canned vegetables, and potatoes. During the two holiday giveaways (the week before Thanksgiving and the week before Christmas), ESM distributed a total of 522 baskets, serving 2,087 people with food valued at \$26,100.

ESM Health Fair coming soon

In collaboration with 9Health, ESM will be holding a community health fair on Saturday, April 25, 2009. The health fair will provide access for low-income and homeless individuals to multiple health screenings (including prostate and breast exams) and vaccinations. Information on various health resources will also be available. Watch for more information about this important event!

Learning to feed your family on a budget

Individuals and families who receive emergency food baskets through ESM's food pantry are limited to four times a year (excluding holiday food baskets). In an effort to help these clients stretch their food budget while serving nutritious meals, ESM is offering a nutrition and cooking class. In cooperation with the Colorado Springs University Extension Office, an instructor provides recipes, ideas and tips on how to shop for and prepare meals that meet basic nutritional needs. He also includes ideas on how to use the emergency food supplies provided through the ESM food pantry.

Learning the basics of the computer

On January 20, the Jobs Department will begin offering a 4-week course on learning the basics of the computer. This class is offered in response to

those clients who currently come to the Jobs Department to use the computer lab for job searches, but lack basic computer skills.

The class is open to anyone in the community who is interested in learning a new skill. Call 228-6786 or 228-6794 for more information or to register for the class.

Tax season is here!

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will begin again on January 26th. This first-come, first-serve tax form preparation program is in its eighth year at ESM. Last year over 1,500 clients were assisted representing a total value of in-kind services provided at \$306,800. For more information call 228-6792.

GED classes a continuing success

Students attending the GED classes at ESM continue to excel, graduating with their GED diploma and ready to begin new career paths or continue their education at a higher institution.

Since classes begun in April 2008, fifty-five students have taken classes with eight obtaining their certification.

Holiday Closings

Ecumenical Social Ministries will be closed on the following holidays.

- February 16, 2009: President's Day

Other closures may be possible. If in doubt, please call (719) 636-1916 prior to coming to make sure we are open.

Snow Policy

ESM follows the snow policy of School District # 11. If they are delayed or closed due to inclement weather, ESM will be closed. During holiday closures at School District # 11, ESM will follow the weather closures of Ft. Carson.

Thank you!

Fun & Food Run

On December 20, 2008, the Mercedes Club of America - Pikes Peak Section delivered thirteen complete holiday food baskets to the ESM food pantry.

Initiated by Hans Matthiesen, an ESM volunteer and member of the club, club members challenged each other to spend the least amount of money while assembling the food baskets. Members were only allowed to purchase three items at

each of the major grocery stores (Albertson's, King Soopers and Safeway).

Club members enjoyed the competition; but, as quoted in their newsletter: "the actual winners, though, were the needy families in our area who would enjoy a traditional holiday meal."

Thank you to all the members of the Mercedes Club of America - Pikes Peak Section for helping provide a Merry Christmas to several families!

Little ones visit ESM

On November 11th and November 12th, 2008 the smallest donors to ESM visited from the pre-school classes at First Presbyterian Church.



Crossing Weber and Bijou Streets, hand-in-hand, the 3-, 4- and 5- year old children brought several wagon-loads of canned food for holiday food baskets. They unloaded their wagon in the pantry and learned that their donations would help families have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you to Laura Bradley, Director of God's Gifts Preschool, for organizing the food drive with the preschoolers, their families and their teachers. ESM looks forward to seeing them again.

Bible Study group gets to work

In October 2008, Diana Buckler, an ESM volunteer in the Housing Department, encouraged her Bible study group, part of the "Sisters in Strength" from First Presbyterian Church, to donate time to ESM. This group of lively ladies met one morning at ESM and filled empty prescription bottles with shampoo and cut large bars of soap into smaller pieces. These items are distributed to clients who come to ESM to use the shower facilities.

Thank you to all who helped with this important task!





Volunteer News

Silver Bell Awards

The Silver Bell Award was established in 1972 by the Assistance League of Colorado Springs to honor an exemplary community volunteer. This year ESM was privileged to nominate Dave O'Keeffe, board member and volunteer from St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral. Dave has served ESM faithfully for 5 years, using his considerable business expertise to lead the fundraising goals of the organization. Dave was instrumental in securing significant



Dave & Janelle O'Keeffe

funds for the Festival of Trees. He also volunteers his time in the food pantry. His warmth, good humor, and gift for connecting with people touch the lives of those seeking help as well as the staff and volunteers.

Congratulations and gratitude to Dave for his nomination!

Volunteer Birthdays

January, February & March

Many blessings to those celebrating their birthday!

Jan 1	Victoria Dzwons	Feb 10	Pat Miller
Jan 3	Brendon O'Connor	Feb 11	Helen Rohde
Jan 4	Robert Urban	Feb 12	Stephanie Goode
Jan 6	Linda Frank	Feb 14	Karen Hoefler
Jan 6	LiLa Miller	Feb 15	Dennis Myers
Jan 7	Laura Francis	Feb 15	Denise Rouse
Jan 10	Benny Robertson	Feb 16	Hans Matthiesen
Jan 12	Bernie Jorgensen	Feb 17	Elaine Wallace
Jan 12	Rod Schlater	Feb 18	Cindy Mitchell
Jan 15	Don Dickenson	Feb 19	JoAnne Stone
Jan 15	Kernan Giovanini	Feb 20	Michael Bau
Jan 15	Ishmael Kelly	Feb 21	Charles Baggs
Jan 17	George Helm	Feb 22	Lorriane Case
Jan 26	Kris Anderson	Feb 23	Bill Underwood
Jan 26	John Niedermeir	Feb 23	Elma Whitford
Jan 28	Melanie Duxbury		
Jan 28	Elayne Wicker	Mar 3	Lynn Texel
Jan 29	Diane Rau	Mar 6	Nancy Applegate
Jan 29	Lon Frohling	Mar 8	Alex Miller
Jan 31	Robert Keel	Mar 9	Sara Singleton
Jan 31	Bonnie May	Mar 11	Dean Miller
		Mar 13	Terry Lilly
Feb 3	Andrew Phelps	Mar 15	Majel Dire
Feb 6	Helen Kelly	Mar 15	Josh Epperson
Feb 7	Pat Roberts	Mar 17	Joanne Phelps
Feb 8	Carol Solomon-Smith	Mar 17	Susanne Hall
Feb 9	Bobby Easley	Mar 19	Joyce Robbins
Feb 9	Jim McRae	Mar 19	Susan Aspenson-Murray
Feb 10	Precious Ellis		



Volunteer News

Volunteer Spotlight: Laughter and good works in Housing



Since October 2007, **Nancy Applegate** has volunteered Mondays and Wednesdays in ESM's housing department. She is also currently serving on the Volunteer Service Committee which meets monthly. Her

good humor is contagious and spreads quickly through any group of which she is a part.

When asked why she chose to volunteer at ESM, she replies that it was purely serendipitous. She searched on the Internet for volunteer opportunities and ESM was the first agency to reply to her inquiry. As a former landlord, she enjoys "seeing the shoe on the other foot" by helping keep individuals and families in their homes by providing rent payment assistance.

Nancy, a self-described "Jill of all trades," says being a former landlord is only one of the many careers she has experienced. Other "careers" she has held include meeting planner, paralegal, restaurateur and limo company owner. Nancy says volunteering at ESM is by far the most rewarding "career" she has had.

ESM thanks Nancy and all of our volunteers for their dedication, compassion and the hours they spend to help those less fortunate in our community.

Thank you!



Volunteer Opportunities Abound!

ESM is currently seeking volunteers to fill the following needs:

- In-take counselors meet one-on-one with clients to determine client needs and how ESM can provide services to meet those needs. Days and times needed are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or Monday through Friday, 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The volunteer can choose the day(s) and hour(s) they would like to work on a regular basis. Orientation and training is provided.
- Housing department counselors meet one-on-one with clients to determine the rent or utilities assistance needs of clients and how ESM can provide assistance. Day and time needed is Tuesday evenings, 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Orientation and training is provided.
- Jobs department counselors meet one-on-one with clients to help assess jobs skills, write résumés and search jobs. Counselors will also provide assistance with obtaining identification such as birth certificates and ID cards.
- On-call volunteers who are willing to be called on an "as needed" basis when regular volunteers are on vacation or sick.

For more information about volunteering at ESM, please contact Kissy Gray, Volunteer Director at 228-6785 or via email at kgray@ecusocmin.org.

Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.
~ Author Unknown



Development News

Giving opportunities are many!

There are many different ways to give and support our mission!

Direct gifts

- Checks - use the enclosed envelope.
- On-line credit card donations, through our secure website at www.ecusocmin.org. Click on the “donate now” link.
- Consider making a monthly pledge!

Matching gifts from your employer

Check with your payroll department. We currently receive matching gifts from such diverse companies as Dell Computer Systems, Woodford Manufacturing, IBM, UPS, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

El Paso County Enterprise Zone

With a gift of \$500 or more, you can benefit from a state income tax credit which is equal to 25% of your contribution. To make a contribution through the Enterprise Zone, make your check payable to “El Paso County Enterprise Zone” noting “Ecumenical Social Ministries” on the memo line. ESM will process the paperwork and forward it to El Paso County, who will directly issue a tax certification form.

Pikes Peak United Way

ESM is currently not a United Way direct recipient, but you can write “Ecumenical Social Ministries” in as a recipient of your payroll giving deduction.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

If you are a federal employee, designate ESM as a recipient of your payroll giving deduction by using our CFC Agency Code: 48877.

Gifts in Memory or Honor of a loved one

When you make a gift in memory or honor of a loved one, a special card is sent to acknowledge your gift.

Planned Gifts

Have you ever considered an estate gift to ESM? A charitable bequest provides an opportunity to give



something back to your community and ensures the long-term funding stability of ESM, helping our programs and services long into the future. We would be honored by your support.

Please feel free to contact the Development and Communications Director at (719) 228-6795 with any questions.

Gifts large and small are important. **Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy!**

First Fund tops \$10,000

In 1998 First United Methodist Church (FUMC) established *First Fund* as a way for members to give to ESM. Monies donated to the First Fund are used to assist the medically indigent. Chuck Baggs, a member of the Mission Outreach Team, and Rev. Sandi Johnson, Associate Pastor at FUMC, help to coordinate these gifts with ESM. Thank you to all for giving to this designated fund.

*Share with God's people who are in need.
Romans 12:13*

Mission and Purpose

In response to the Gospel, ESM promotes self-sufficiency and restores dignity by providing food, medicine, housing, job placement, educational programs, and spiritual encouragement.

Our purpose is to provide a collaborative Christian response to low-income and homeless people in crisis.