



ESM NEWS

3rd Quarter / Winter
February 2010

New look at ESM ~ Mural and truck

The Mural

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, ESM successfully matched the \$2,500 grant from the Downtown Partnership/Downtown Development Authority last fall. Work on the mural commenced shortly after the holidays. The artist on the project, Kim Polomka, is a noted local fine artist painter and muralist. His award-winning work also graces three other buildings in the downtown area: The Giddings Loft building on North Tejon Street, the Mozart@250 Celebra-

tion mural on the In-Sight Optical building at Pikes Peak and Cascade, and the Nuevo Casas Grandes Sister City mural on the north wall of the former Wachovia building at Pikes Peak and Tejon Streets.

ESM will hold an opening reception to celebrate the mural completion on Thursday, February 25th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Come meet the artist, learn more about how the mural was painted, and take a tour of ESM. To learn more about the artist visit www.kimpolomka.com.



The truck

Late last year, ESM purchased a new panel truck with a lift gate to be used for pick up of food donations and purchases at Care & Share, donations at our founding churches and general use.

Thanks to a donation from long-time supporter Pat Snepenger, ESM was able to paint the truck with our logo and other artwork, matching the new mural on the building.

This is proving to be a powerful marketing and awareness tool for ESM, as Ron our Pantry Director has reported that many more people are stopping to ask him about ESM when they see the truck.





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July 2009-June 2010**

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“God is Fair”

Few days go by without a story in the paper about the homeless living in tents along Fountain and Monument Creeks. The attention and concerns for “our homeless” increased with the beginning of the Christmas Season. During the 18 years that I have lived in Colorado Springs, I cannot remember our community responding so generously to the plight of the homeless. The generosity of food, clothing, backpacks, sleeping bags and other items was overwhelming. People not only provided these gifts, but showed their compassion by personally taking these gifts to those living in the tents. They wanted to meet and talk with “our homeless”. They wanted to know their story. Some homeless were willing to tell their story, but others were hesitant to do so. From those who were willing to share they learned that some are there by choice, others by loss of jobs, a few because of mental disabilities or substance abuse problems and other crises that occurred in their lives.

Since the Christmas Season the articles in the paper have taken a different angle. Some articles continue to point out the “growing number” of people and tents along the creek. Other articles point out the increased concern for the health and safety of not only the homeless living in tents, but the public in general.

The good news is that we have many people and organizations that have come together not only to address the multiple issues related to “our homeless” but more importantly to find solutions. However, the recently passed *No Camping Ordinance* does not address what needs to happen after the tents are gone such as permanent housing, jobs, transportation, health care and other needs of the homeless.

I was recently interviewed by a reporter from *The Gazette* who wanted to know what Colorado Springs churches were doing to help our low income and homeless. I was so pleased to be asked this question because it gave me the opportunity to let our community know just how much our churches provide to people in crisis. I shared with them the magnitude of financial resources that are provided to non-profits through our community and the thousands of hours members of our congregations give each year to help people. They serve with staff of non-profit agencies working in food pantries, cooking and serving meals, helping people pay their rent and electric bills, providing health care, serving as advocates for the homeless, immigrants and others in need, teaching people how to make good decisions and hundreds of other “random acts of kindness”.

As Christians, this is not unusual behavior. We are taught this through our church family. We have learned to give our time and talent from our parents and most importantly, the message of compassion, kindness, understanding and love is the consistent message throughout the Bible.

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2nd Annual Festival of Trees ~ Fun, festivities and fundraising



On Friday, November 19, 2009, over three hundred guests gathered at the DoubleTree Hotel near the World Arena for the *Jingle Bell Gala*, the kick-off event for the 2nd annual Festival of Trees. An evening of fine dining and a live auction of select, fully decorated trees raised dollars to support the various programs at ESM. Shannon Brinias, news anchor at KKTU Channel 11, emceed the evening.



At the Jingle Bell Gala, left to right: Rev. Benjamin Broadbent, Fr. Stephen Zimmerman, Fr. Frank Quezada, Dr. Paul Peel, Dr. Jim Singleton, Rev. Kent Ingram, Msgr. Donald Dunn

Then, on Saturday, November 20th and Sunday, November 21st, the community was invited to enjoy entertainment from a variety of local musical groups and spoken word artists, peruse the unique gifts offered by a variety of vendors at the

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I am thankful that you have chosen ESM and other non-profits throughout Colorado Springs to share your time and resources to help find solutions for "our homeless." Together we will find solutions that will make a difference in the lives of people in crisis.

God is fair; he will not forget the work you did and the love you showed for him by helping his people.

Hebrews 6:10

Blessings,

Carolyn McDole

Executive Director

Christmas boutique and purchase the many uniquely decorated trees, wreaths and tablescapes. Santa Claus was on hand for photo opportunities.

ESM wishes to thank everyone who helped make this event possible, especially our many and generous sponsors: Rocky Mountain Bank & Trust (Presenting Sponsor); El Pomar Foundation; Freedom Financial; American National Bank; Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons, LLP; Colorado Springs Utilities; Murphy Construction; O'Brien's Carpet Outlet; Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker; GE Johnson; Advanced Alarm; Penrose-St. Francis; The Patterson Group; Kaiser Permanente; Handy Man Connection; Phil Long Ford; Centennial Reproduction Center; Regis University; DublinBlue; Memorial Hospital; Central Bancorp; Garden of the Gods Club; Computer Resources; Cheers Liquor Mart; The Gazette; KKTU Channel 11; Clear Channel/KLITE; and, Two Men and A Truck. ESM would also like to thank Rich Schell of Rich Designs for leading the judging of the decorated trees.

Thank you also to everyone who decorated a tree; who volunteered during the event; who performed and who attended. This event would not have been possible without your participation.



*Best in Show
Copper Mountain by
Jim Palmer for
Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons*



*Saturday ~ admiring the tree
by Penrose-St. Francis*



*Saturday and Sunday were filled with
children's crafts*





Client stories - Something a little different

Every day there are stories at ESM about clients seeking help. Sometimes the requests are somewhat unusual and beyond the normal realm of assistance that we provide. When possible, we try to help with special circumstances. Here are two of those stories.

Andrew came to ESM referred to us by Benjamin Broadbent, senior pastor at First Congregational Church. He was seeking help with paying for “car repairs” so that he could begin work as a delivery man. Upon meeting Andrew and verifying his story, it became clear he was a person living with special needs and he needed just \$30 to pay for interest on his pawned car. A friend, also with special needs but employed, had paid the majority of the needed fees but was unable to come up with the final \$30. ESM was able to help Andrew as well as provide him with a full tank of gas. He

was extremely grateful and eager to begin his new delivery job.

Erin, a young and expectant mother, called late on a Friday afternoon. She was seeking help to get home to her mother and young son in Mississippi after being kicked out of the apartment she was sharing with her abusive boyfriend. ESM agreed to pay for the one-way bus fare but due to bad weather in the deep South, Greyhound could not guarantee a departure on Saturday morning. She was able to spend Saturday and Sunday with a small local agency called “Maternity of Mary” which helps mothers in crisis. Early Monday morning, Christine from ESM met Erin at the bus station, paid for her ticket and provided her with food for the journey home. She arrive safely and is very glad for the help she received.

Before and After - The suit makes the man



The Men’s Wearhouse National Suit Drive aims to provide work-appropriate clothing such as suits, jackets, dress shirts, pants and ties to men in need looking to re-enter the work-

force. September 2009 marked the second annual Suit Drive and the first year ESM has worked with the company on this program. Over 1,000 articles of clothing were collected at the four Men’s Wearhouse and Tux Shop locations in Colorado Springs!

On Saturday, October 24 the ESM Jobs Department distributed the suits and other clothing to qualified men who needed interview and work clothing. The two conference rooms were set up with suit racks and tables, with each piece properly sized and folded. Staff and volunteers acted as “personal shoppers” and helped the men select clothing. Several men expressed their gratitude and appreciation, some stating that this was the first time they had ever owned a suit. With the proper outfit and job search techniques honed, these men are ready to be employed.



James



Chris



Andy



Eric





Program News

New more comprehensive program helps prevent families from becoming homeless!

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes \$1.5 billion for a Homelessness Prevention Fund. Funding for this program, called the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), is being distributed based on the formula used for the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program.

ESM is fortunate to be the recipient of funds through the HPRP program to help twenty-eight families a year experiencing hardship due to loss of employment remain in their homes and receive other services to stabilize their economic situation.

On November 23, 2009, Carol Solomon-Smith, Case Manager, and Jim Smith, Site Administrator, began implementing the HPRP program funded through a Federal Grant administered by the City of Colorado Springs. This program was created by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless and re-housing persons who are homeless according to HUD's definition. ESM, along with Northern Churches Care and Westside Cares are providing the Homeless Prevention aspect, while Interfaith Hospitality Network, Urban Peak and Partners in Housing are working on Rapid Re-housing.

In order to be considered for the program, clients must complete an Initial Consultation and Eligibility Determination with the case manager, be at or below 50% of the Area Median Income, have no appropriate subsequent housing options and lack the financial resources and support networks needed to remain in existing housing.

The goal of HPRP is support families in the current economic downturn who have been stably employed and housed in the past and are determined to be so again. The program may provide any combination of the following: case

management, short term rental assistance, medium term rental assistance, utility payments and deposits, rent deposits and assistance with moving costs if the client is in sub-standard housing. Six families with nine adults and fifteen children are currently enrolled at ESM. Their progress is monitored with weekly case management appointments. All adults are required to register with the ESM Jobs Department.

The demand for this program is great, with over one hundred calls for help in twelve weeks. ESM is proud to have been selected to provide this important service for our community.

Tax season is upon us!



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program began on February 1st, 2010. During the first week alone, 128 clients were helped through this free, first-come, first-serve tax form preparation program. Taxes are filed electronically through the secure IRS web site, allowing clients to receive their refunds much quicker. Thirteen volunteers work with clients one-on-one and are supervised by two ESM staff members who are former IRS employees.

Volunteers undergo a rigorous training process conducted by the IRS. Nearly all the VITA volunteers at ESM return year after year to help clients file their tax returns. Some clients even request certain volunteers to help with their tax returns!

Last year 1,489 clients were assisted representing a total value of \$297,800 for in-kind services provided plus approximately 25 hours per day of volunteer time. The total amount of Federal refunds that went back into the local economy totaled \$1,277,926!

If you would like more information on this program please call 228-6792.



Volunteer News

Meet

Charlie Sullivan

Charlie Sullivan has been a volunteer counselor in the Jobs Department since early 2006. In the spring of that year, his prayer group from church was looking for a volunteer project to do on a Saturday afternoon. They learned that ESM needed help to organize the food pantry and they spent all day doing just that. Charlie said he was so impressed with the work that ESM does, he began to volunteer on a regular basis.

As a counselor in the Jobs Department, he meets with clients one-on-one to assess their needs and skill sets, helping them to focus their job searches in areas with the best hiring potential. He also helps them in obtaining birth certificates and other forms of identification. He works three days a week during the morning.



Charlie retired from the FBI in 1995. In 2005 he retired from his second career as an insurance investigator with Progressive Insurance. He and his wife Barbara have been married for forty-three years. They have three children and three grandchildren. They have lived in Colorado Springs since August 1983 and are members of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Thank you Charlie for your years of dedicated service!

Volunteers needed for upcoming Health Fair

On April 24, 2010 ESM will be hosting a 9Health Fair at the Weber Street Center of First Presbyterian Church. The health fair will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will provide an opportunity for those in the community to receive various low-cost health screenings. Volunteers are needed to help with patient registration, venue set-up and tear down and other tasks throughout the fair. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please call Kissy Gray at 228-6785.

Happy Birthday to these volunteers!

Jan 1	Victoria Dzwons	Feb 6	Helen Kelly	Mar 3	Lynn Texel
Jan 3	Brendon O'Connor	Feb 7	Pat Roberts	Mar 5	Dick Wells
Jan 6	Linda Frank	Feb 9	Bobby Easley	Mar 6	Nancy Applegate
Jan 6	LiLa Miller	Feb 10	Pat Miller	Mar 8	Alex Miller
Jan 10	Lynda Maxwell	Feb 11	Helen Rohde	Mar 9	Sara Singleton
Jan 10	Benny Robertson	Feb 12	Stephanie Goode	Mar 13	Terry Lilly
Jan 14	Bob Reid	Feb 14	Karen Hofer	Mar 15	Majel Dire
Jan 15	Don Dickenson	Feb 15	Dennis Myers	Mar 15	Heather Madrid
Jan 15	Kernan Giovanini	Feb 16	Hans Matthiesen	Mar 17	Joanne Phelps
Jan 15	Ishmael Kelly	Feb 17	Elaine Wallace	Mar 19	Susan Aspenson-Murray
Jan 25	Margaret Grayckowski	Feb 18	Cindy Mitchell	Mar 19	Joyce Robbins
Jan 26	Kris Anderson	Feb 20	Michael Bau	Mar 21	Johanne Hunter
Jan 28	Melanie Duxbury	Feb 21	Charles Baggs	Mar 24	Kay Scharff
Jan 28	Elayne Wieker	Feb 22	Lorriane Case	Mar 24	John Strathman
Jan 29	Diane Rau	Feb 23	Bill Underwood	Mar 31	Billy Zeringue
Jan 29	Lon Frohling	Feb 23	Elma Whitford		
Jan 31	Robert Keel				
Jan 31	Bonnie May				
Feb 3	Andrew Phelps				



Development News

Leave a Legacy

Thanks to a bequest or other planned gift in your will, more families in need will be able to stay in their homes or find a job. Include ESM in your will or estate plan. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Malenky at 228-6795 with any questions. If you have already included ESM in your plans, please let us know! We wish to thank you for your gift that will support ESM long into the future. Thank you for your confidence in our efforts.



Thank you to these funders!

The following foundations and grantors have generously provided support to ESM during the last quarter (October 2009 through January 2010).

- McCauley Trust (Mental Health Program)
- Joslyn Trust (Mental Health Program)
- Kiwanis Club of Colorado Springs Foundation (Food Pantry)
- Pikes Peak Community Foundation (General Operating Support)
- City of Colorado Springs Human Services Funding (Housing Program)



Giving is as easy as making a check-mark!

Remember ESM when you are completing your state tax returns by contributing to the State of Colorado Homeless Prevention Activities Program (HPA).

ESM receives significant funds via HPA to help keep low-income families in their homes by providing partial rental assistance. Through the use of HPA and other funds, ESM has prevented many families and individuals from becoming homeless this year and falling further into poverty. Checking even a minimal amount on your tax return will keep more families stable and safe – *thank you!*

ESM in the digital age

In an effort to become good stewards of the environment as well as of the donations we receive from our generous donors, ESM is moving - with baby steps - into the digital age.

On the Web: Did you know that ESM is on the Web? Make donations online with our secure donations page. Read past issues of the newsletter and review our audited financial statements. Learn more about our programs and current needs. Visit www.ecusocmin.org today!

On Facebook: Follow ESM on Facebook by becoming a fan! You will get quick updates and news items on what is happening at ESM. Go to www.facebook.com and search for Ecumenical Social Ministries to become a fan today!

Going paperless: Would you like to receive your donation acknowledgement letter via email? How about periodic updates via email on happenings at ESM? Simply include your email in the space provided on the donation envelope or call Christine at 228-6781. And don't worry! We will not sell or give your email out to anyone else nor will we use it for email blitzes. We don't like a mailbox full of "junk mail" either!

An e-Newsletter? Another innovation ESM will begin exploring is the use of an e-Newsletter. Instead of receiving a hard-copy newsletter in the mail on a quarterly basis, would you prefer an e-Newsletter? Call Christine at 228-6781 and let us know.

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.



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ESM News

February 2010

Supporting ESM is easy!

Financial support: Your gift helps ESM provide assistance to the many people who come through our doors each day. There are many ways you can give:

- Direct gifts (checks, on-line credit card donations)
- Monthly pledges
- Give through the El Paso County Enterprise Zone
- Matching gifts through your employer
- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC Agency Code: 48877)
- Gifts in memory or in honor of a loved one
- Planned giving - Leave a Legacy
- Donor designated to ESM through Pikes Peak United Way

Volunteer: There are many volunteer opportunities available. Contact Kissy, Volunteer Coordinator, (719) 228-6785, for more information.

In-Kind Gifts: Donate food, personnel hygiene items, clothing, small household goods. Call Christine, Administrative Manager, (719) 228-6781, for more information.

All gifts, large and small, can make a difference in someone's life.