



# ESM NEWS

4th Quarter / Spring  
May 2009

## Community Health Fair



In collaboration with 9Health and Penrose-St. Francis Mission Outreach, ESM sponsored a community health fair at First Presbyterian's Weber Street Center on Saturday, April 25, 2009. 9Health is Colorado's largest non-profit, volunteer-driven health fair program that promotes health awareness and encourages individuals to assume responsibility for their own health.

Despite the gray and chilly spring weather, over 300 people took advantage of low- or no-cost tests such as hearing, blood pressure, and blood chemistry screenings. Participants also visited booths for additional information about health care and other services available in the community.

"We were just stunned at the overwhelming participation of individuals in the community who took a responsible step to care for their own health needs," said Kissy Gray, ESM Volunteer Director.

"We look forward to making next year's event even better," stated Sally VanWyk, Penrose-St. Francis Faith Community Nurse.

More than 120 volunteers helped make this event possible, with some working behind the scenes with the set-up and breakdown of the event and others checking in participants, providing the medical screenings,

answering questions and directing traffic.

Many thanks to all the volunteers from various organizations who helped to make this event a success:



*Volunteer helps client fill out paperwork*



*Tests and screenings*



*Learning about breast cancer at one of the informational booths*

Alzheimer's Association  
AMR  
Asian-Pacific Development Group  
Colorado Aids Project  
Colorado Springs Utilities  
ESM - Volunteers & Staff  
First Presbyterian Church  
Memorial Hospital  
SCAP  
Sisters in Strength from First Presbyterian Church  
Susan B. Komen Foundation  
Peterson AFB  
Penrad Imaging  
Quest Lab  
Qwest Communications, the Plains & Peak Club  
Youth Ministry Group from St. John's Baptist Church

We wish to thank all of our community sponsors who graciously provided breakfast and luncheon items for the volunteers:

Bruegger's Bagels  
Chipolte - N. Academy  
Coca Cola Colorado Springs  
Domino's Pizza - Wahsatch  
King Soopers - Uintah  
McDonald's - Wahsatch  
Old Chicago - N. Tejon  
Safeway - Bon Shopping Ctr

***Thank you to all!***



**Board of Directors  
July 2008-June 2009**

**Officers**

**Rev. Benjamin J. Broadbent, President**  
First Congregational Church

**Rev. Kent Ingram, Vice President**  
First United Methodist Church

**Angelina Adams, Secretary**  
First Congregational Church

**Tad Goodenbour, Treasurer**  
First Lutheran Church

**Senior Pastors**

**Rev. Marty Pearsall**  
Grace & St. Stephens Episcopal Church

**Dr. Paul R. Peel**  
First Lutheran Church

**Rev. Francisco J. Quezada**  
St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral

**Dr. Michael D. Saylor**  
First Baptist Church

**Dr. Jim Singleton**  
First Presbyterian Church

**Rev. David J. Van Heyningen**  
First Christian Church

**Lay Representatives**

**Susan Buenger**  
First Presbyterian Church

**Sherry Clarkin**  
First Presbyterian Church

**Ed Abbott**  
First Baptist Church

**Terrence Lilly**  
Grace & St. Stephens Episcopal Church

**Hans Matthiesen**  
First Presbyterian Church

**Dave Munger**  
First United Methodist Church

**Dave O'Keefe**  
St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral

**Pat Snepenger**  
First Christian Church

**Carolyn McDole**  
Executive Director

*"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not... Great is Your faithfulness" Lamentations 3:22-23*

Dear Friends of ESM:

We are approaching the end of our 2008-09 program year. In our last newsletter we reported concern for the economy and how it might impact our ability to serve the needs of many. We only have to open our newspaper each morning to have that concern re-enforced, but I want to focus on the "good news" of ESM - there is much to share with you.

The first good news is that we have been able to help more than 21,000 people this year. This is directly related to the generosity of individuals, churches, foundations, and area businesses who believe in the mission of ESM and have continued their faithful support in spite of the economy.

The next good news is that new volunteers are coming to ESM and asking the question: *How can we help?* Volunteers, many of whom have been here for several years, are giving more hours. Volunteers bring their time, talent and resources and a commitment to serve.

Our pantry currently has ample food. The third week of April we received 27,000 pounds of commodity food from Care and Share. Our area churches are asking their congregations to give more food to keep our pantry stocked. Individuals bring food almost daily.

Our Jobs Program is seeing more people than ever. Requests for jobs assistance are up 27% versus the same period last year. We have added new programs to assist job seekers in their search. These include GED classes, computer training classes, resume writing and interviewing skills. Additionally if someone is in need of clothing and/or tools we can provide this help as well.

The good news in our Housing Program is that we have been able to assist 847 families to pay their rent, thus avoiding eviction, while 339 families kept their lights on with utilities assistance.

Our favorite words at ESM are: *Yes, we can help you.* Many times when a client comes in for assistance with a defined need, we find out they may also need other services. Staff and volunteers are trained to listen to the "spoken" as well as the "unspoken" and to assist with as many needs as possible.

*(continued on next page)*

*(continued from page 2)*

The good news at ESM will continue as long as friends continue to believe in our mission and provide the resources to support those asking for help. Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China, wrote in his journal: "Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning...and God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." On behalf of all of the 21,000 coming to ESM in need, we thank you for believing and supplying.

Blessings



Carolyn McDole  
Executive Director

---

## **Board Notes**

### ***Friend and Former Board Member Honored***

Bishop Michael Sheridan informed ESM former board member Father Don Dunn that the Vatican had elevated him and two others, Father Bob Jaeger and Father John Slattery to the new status and title of Reverend Monsignor. Father Dunn served on the ESM Board of Directors from 1997 to June 2007. During that time he served twice as President of the Board. This past year Father Dunn chaired the By-Laws committee. ESM is grateful for the leadership he provided to our organization and we congratulate him on this level of Prelates of Honor given by Pope Benedict XVI.



### ***Holiday Closings***

Ecumenical Social Ministries will be closed on the following holidays.

- May 25, 2009 / Memorial Day
- July 3, 2009 / Independence Day

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

### ***Mailings from ESM***

We make every effort to keep our mailings at a minimum and our address database current. If you have moved or need to update your name and address, please call Christine at 228-6781.

Additionally, if you would like to receive acknowledgement letters for your gifts via email or as a year-end statement, please let us know. We will accommodate your needs to the best of our ability.

### ***Your opinion counts***

Every year ESM conducts surveys among our clients, volunteers, churches, funders and other supporters to help us determine if we are providing the types of services needed and the information required.

Earlier this quarter each program prepared and conducted surveys. Preliminary results show that ESM continues to meet the needs of our clients and supporters. We will share those results in our next newsletter in July.

### **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.



## *The faces of those we serve*

When you give to ESM, how is your donation used? Every day staff and volunteers meet and provide assistance to a wide variety of people - from the single mother to the homeless man to the family struggling to make ends meet because of a job loss or illness.

Eighty percent (80%) of the people we serve each day are the working poor, while twenty percent (20%) are chronically homeless. Forty-three percent (43%) are employed in one or more jobs, yet are still unable to meet their basic needs of food, clothing or housing. These are a few of their stories.

- Mark is a medically discharged veteran and a single father with a child. He is currently employed part-time at a telemarketing firm. Between child support and medical bills he struggles to put food on the table. ESM was able to provide him with emergency food and helped him to apply for the commodities program. He was also provided with a job lead at a different telemarketing firm which offers medical benefits.
- Patricia was recently laid off from her job at



Taco Bell. She is currently looking for another position, but did not have the appropriate clothing for interviews. ESM was able to provide her with clothes through our clothing closet.



- Lyn and Jeff are a low-income couple. She works but he is currently unemployed. They are struggling to pay their bills. To help put food on the table, ESM assisted them in

getting signed up for the commodities program.

- Peter is a homeless man who is a recent stroke survivor. Recently discharged from the hospital, he had two prescriptions that needed to be filled. ESM gave him vouchers to help pay for those prescriptions as well as information on how to apply for disability benefits.
- Robert began taking GED classes in October, testing in at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading level. By mid-November, through hard work and dedication, he passed the GED test on his first attempt, received his diploma and is looking forward to a career in the U.S. Army.
- Charlene was a very special case. A few months ago she called ESM, leaving a message on every staff person's direct line detailing her multiple medical issues which had left her bed-ridden.



She desperately needed a new bed as her old one was completely worn out with the springs protruding from the mattress. After calling nearly every agency in town in desperation, she called ESM.

Working with Springs Rescue Mission, a bed and like-new mattress was delivered and set up. In addition, ESM was able to provide new bed linens. Charlene was extremely grateful and cried when the bed was delivered.

These are the faces of those we serve; indeed, they are the face of Christ. Your donations help ESM provide these vital services so needed in our community, offering clients hope and the means to remain self-sufficient.

*When God's people are in need, be ready to help them.  
Always be eager to practice hospitality.*

*Romans 12:13*

## *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](http://www.ecusocmin.org). Click on the "donate now" link.
- Consider making a monthly pledge!

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

### **Planned Giving**

If you are looking for ways to increase income (for you, or perhaps for your parents), you may want to consider a Charitable Gift Annuity. A gift annuity will first provide you with lifetime income, and afterwards will go to help others at ESM. It is a great way to give and to receive!



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!**

### **Mark your calendars!**

The 2009 Festival of Trees will open on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with the Jingle Bell Gala followed by two days of family fun on November 21<sup>st</sup> and November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. The Festival of Trees will be held at the Doubletree Hotel-WorldArena.

Sponsorship and tree decorating opportunities are available. Contact the Development & Communications Director at (719) 228-6795 for more information.



Last year's event was very successful and we are looking forward to a bigger and better event this year!



## Volunteer News

### Volunteer Spotlight

This month we spotlight the husband and wife team of Bill and Benny Robertson. Bill and Benny are both members of First Christian Church and have been volunteering at ESM for approximately five years.



T. Ice Distinguished Service Award recipients by the Christian Church Foundation Board of Directors. This award is given to individuals who have demonstrated personal generosity, leadership in philanthropy and a love of and commitment to the whole church.

Bill volunteers a Jobs Counselor in the Jobs Program, meeting with clients to assess their job skills and helping them to write their resumes. Bill also serves on the Development Committee, the fundraising arm of ESM.

Bill and Benny are active members of First Christian Church, enjoy travel and spending time with their grandchildren. Thank you to Bill and Benny for their services to ESM!

Benny volunteers in the Direct Services Program where she greet clients at the front desk. She helps to determine what a clients needs are and which department the client should visit.

### Volunteer Recognition Event

Watch for signs around ESM about details for the upcoming Volunteer Recognition event this summer. This annual event gives staff a chance to thank volunteers for all of their hard work and dedication to ESM's mission. It also gives volunteers the opportunity to meet and socialize with one another.

Bill and Benny's philanthropic ways extend beyond ESM. They were recently named Harry

### Volunteer Birthdays ~ April, May and June

#### April

April 1 Joyce Polifka  
 April 2 Suzanne Battazzo  
 April 3 Alice Aires  
 April 4 Phyllis Carson  
 April 4 Bill Shellhart  
 April 5 Tony Atkinson  
 April 7 Gail Dudley  
 April 8 Cindy Cochran  
 April 11 Diane Buckler  
 April 12 Donna Wallace  
 April 13 Jill Meider  
 April 15 Marti Wells  
 April 15 Jeremy Burnett  
 April 23 Katherine Anderson  
 April 28 Mickey Smith  
 April 29 Susan O'Neill  
 April 30 Barbara Holding

#### May

May 1 Nance McCullough  
 May 3 Nancy Walsh  
 May 6 Karen Auckenthaler  
 May 9 Dea Figueroa  
 May 17 Evelyn Helm  
 May 17 Karl Schlierf  
 May 21 JoAnne Santa  
 May 28 Irma Piontkowski  
 May 30 Meg Parsons  
 May 30 Jim Singleton

#### June

June 1 Al Schaffer  
 June 2 Betty Carberry  
 June 2 Bill Edmondson  
 June 5 Linda Harding  
 June 11 Vern Jensen  
 June 18 Betty French  
 June 18 Jamie Ellis  
 June 18 Cyndi La Croix  
 June 18 Tony Vera  
 June 20 Silvano Martinez  
 June 20 Sally Christianson  
 June 20 Celia Huggins  
 June 21 Harry Harrison  
 June 23 Amy Erickson  
 June 25 Barbie Newman  
 June 30 Janell Smolik



*Happy Birthday and many blessings!*