



2nd Quarter / Fall
November 2011

The Purpose of Ecumenical Social Ministries shall be....

"...to put into practice Christ's mandate to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, to open ourselves to the stranger, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, and to visit those in prison, to indeed, respond to our neighbor's needs, and thus proclaim the "good news"."

ESM has worked to proclaim the Gospel to the needs of Colorado Springs through its outreach on behalf of Christ's Church. It had its beginnings one day when at a "muskrat" luncheon, held by the senior pastors of the eight historic downtown "first churches," the conversation turned to comparing "social ministry stories" ("muskrats" being the name we called ourselves).

As we talked, it was discovered that occasionally the same people went from church to church seeking help. Pastor Jerry Trigg, of First United Methodist Church, suggested that a central clearing house be established to monitor this problem.

Thoughts turned to the structure of such a project. Many thought of it as an idea, as questions were raised about budget and staffing. This was the beginning. We had found the need, now we were challenged to fill that need in Christ's name.

At the next senior pastor meeting, the planning began in earnest and before long the plans began to take shape. In December of 1981 a task force was established by the eight downtown first churches to develop a plan for such a cooperative ministry. This work came to fruition when in 1982 Ecumenical Social Ministries was established.

The original board of directors included:

- The Rev. Fr. Robert G. Hewitt, Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- Mr. David Pickard, Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- The Rev. Robert A. Frykholm, First Baptist Church
- Mrs. Margaret Whitaker, First Baptist Church
- Mr. Jim Pearce, First Baptist Church
- The Rev. Don Shelton, First Christian Church
- Mrs. Shelia Crowder, First Christian Church
- The Rev. J.M. Jordan, First Congregational Church
- Mrs. Flo Carris, First Congregational Church
- The Rev. Dr. Paul R. Peel, First Lutheran Church
- Mrs. Anne Bradley, First Lutheran Church
- The Rev. Darrell Mount, First United Methodist Church
- Mrs. Jan Hanley, First United Methodist Church
- The Rev. James W. Smith, First Presbyterian Church
- Mr. John Howard, First Presbyterian Church
- The Rev. Fr. Dennie Grabrian, St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral
- Miss Joann Resch, St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral

The first budget of ESM was \$51,000; of this amount, over 50% was given in assistance to clients. Each founding congregation agreed to give \$7.00 per active member to form the basis of the ESM budget. Services included gasoline, long distance bus tickets, utilities, housing, city bus tokens, prescriptions and food.

Today we have grown to encompass many more services designed to restore the dignity that is stripped away by poverty. These include the jobs program which helps remove the barriers to getting a job such as writing a resume, getting birth certificates or ID and providing proper clothing for a new job; the direct services program which has expanded to include on-site showers and emergency dental assistance; and mental health counseling providing six free sessions to clients.

The budget of ESM for this year (July 2011-June 2012) is \$1.9 million which includes both financial support and in-kind donations. Each founding congregation has agreed to give \$12.00 per member and to participate with volunteers, who last year provided 55,337 services valued at more than \$1.2 million to 17,395 unduplicated clients.

From its inception, First Lutheran congregation has been supportive of ESM. Throughout these 30 years, First Lutheran has provided two executive directors: The Rev. Carol L.W. Wylie, and our current executive director, Carolyn McDole; tons of canned goods, mountains of clothing, over 1,000 volunteers and over \$400,000 in support. Add this to similar contributions from the other seven downtown congregations, both larger and smaller, and the totals are impressive!

The ministry to those in need in our community is incalculable. Current ministry to those in need in our community is commendable. The future ministry to our community is a blessed challenge and, with our Lord's guidance and help, it will be met.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

The Rev. Dr. Paul R. Peel
Senior Pastor, First Lutheran Church
An original "muskrat"



**Board of Directors
July 2011-June 2012**

Officers

Rev. Stephen Zimmerman, President
Grace & St. Stephens Episcopal Church

Rev. Chuck Blaisdell, Vice President
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Michelle Swanson, Secretary
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Laurie Lopez
Grace & St. Stephens Episcopal Church

Dave Munger
First United Methodist Church

Dee Nelson
St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral

Laura Pfender
First Congregational Church

Pat Snepenger
First Christian Church

Carolyn McDole
Executive Director

You make the difference in each and every client's life!

Direct Services & Medical Referrals

Preventing individuals from having to choose between medication and food

Kim and her husband moved to Colorado Springs from Georgia with their two little girls, ages 3 and 4. Kim's job was to transfer to Colorado but the company informed her upon arrival that she did not have a job with them in Colorado.

When they arrived in Colorado Springs, they had to move in with Kim's mother who lived in a one bedroom apartment. The family of four used the living room to sleep in as there was not enough room for five people in the bedroom.

Kim's husband suffers from multiple health problems and takes six different medications, one of which is a seizure medication. Her husband's medications were starting to run out with no way to pay for more. They were referred to ESM by 2-1-1, the Pike's Peak United Way referral hotline. Their goal was to ask for assistance with the two most important medications. They met with Ruth, one of the Faith Community Nurses from Penrose-St. Francis at ESM, and explained the husband's health problems and medication needs. Under the circumstances, Ruth decided that the two prescriptions were not enough. To their surprise ESM filled all of the needed prescriptions. Ruth also let Kim and her husband know she would contact the Prescription Assistance Program for ongoing medication assistance. The value of the medication provided was \$250. Kim and her husband were grateful for ESM'S assistance and avoiding a potential seizure.

The Power of Prayer

Larry was homeless and living outside in a tent among the bushes worried about where or when his next meal would come from. He was also addicted to alcohol and decided to seek help through Alcoholics Anonymous. Larry has now been sober for two years.

After Larry's victory over alcohol he was diagnosed with carcinoma of the liver. He was still homeless and in need of medical help. He came to ESM simply to use the client phone to call and get into hospice. Hospice told them they could offer him in-home care but Larry had no home and no income.

Marcia, an ESM staff professional, noticed Larry coming in several times to use the phone. She asked Larry's about his "story" with the goal to find out how ESM could help this man. She was able to assist him with food, clothing, medicine, showers and bus passes.

Marcia also asked to pray with Larry. Prayer works. Throughout the next few days and weeks, Larry's life began to turn around. He was approved to receive SSDI (social security disability insurance) and he was given money to rent a room at the Albany Hotel. In addition, Evercare Hospice called to tell him that they found him a primary care physician and would start in home hospice care. God started working in Larry's life and he now has hope.

Client stories continued on next page

Elizabeth and I have supported ESM since our return to town 26 years ago and learned of its work as members of one of the eight founding down-town churches, Grace & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. ESM's efforts to help the poor and jobless and guide them toward independence makes ESM a vital community resource at all times, but particularly in these days.

Terry & Elizabeth Lilly, Donors



Jobs Department - "Removing barriers preventing clients from getting a job."

Providing Appropriate Clothes for Work

Lonnie moved to Colorado Springs with his wife and three kids from Austin, Texas to be closer to family. On the trip to Colorado their car broke down and they were forced to spend the majority of their savings on a new car to finish the trip. Upon arrival, he immediately started looking for a job. After much searching he finally landed a job at a property management company and was finally going to be able to support his family.

Lonnie had a problem though. He started his job on a Thursday with no professional attire to wear. He could not afford new clothes since most of their savings was gone. Lonnie heard about the ESM Suit Giveaway on Saturday, October 1 but that would be too late. Lonnie came to ESM on Wednesday hoping he might be an exception and would be able to get professional clothes to wear to work. After meeting with one of our volunteer job's counselors Lonnie was taken to where the suit drive clothes were still being sorted and found appropriate clothes for his new job.

Assisting with needed documents

Jason changed career fields in life and went from being an engineer to a chef. He became ill with life threatening pneumonia, missing several days of work. Because of the down-turn in the economy, the food service operation was suffering. Budget cuts had to be made. When it came time to cut staff Lonnie was one of the first to go. After an extended period of unemployment and using up his savings, he was forced to move to a low-rent room. His belongings went into storage, but eventually he couldn't afford to make payments on the storage unit and the management of the storage facility auctioned off contents including important documents.

Jason spent three months job searching and interviewing, finally finding his dream job. He was offered a chef's position at Liberty Heights, a senior facility. With the prospect of a regular income, Jason was finally seeing light at the end of the tunnel. However, there was a catch. He needed to fill out a I-9 form in order for him to prove he was a legal citizen. This required a birth certificate but this was one of the documents in the contents of the

storage unit that had been auctioned by the storage facility. He heard that ESM could help with obtaining birth certificates, paying for half of the cost for the birth certificate. ESM contacted the state of his birth and Jason let his employer know ESM was assisting in getting his birth certificate. He was able to start his new job and begin a new life.

ESM Housing & Utility Program - "Keeping people in their homes to prevent homelessness"

Low Income & Homeless Often Victims of Crime

Robert, an Air Force veteran, came to ESM seeking rental assistance following a robbery. He asked a friend to drive him to Wal-Mart to cash his retirement check so he could pay his rent for the month. Afterwards, he thought they were on their way back to his place to play a friendly game of chess. The friend had other ideas.

He told Robert he needed to pick up another friend on the way. Robert asked that he be dropped off first if it wouldn't be inconvenient for the driver. He refused and they drove to pick up the friend. The new passenger got in the backseat behind Robert and began to strangle him from behind. The driver, Robert's "friend", reached over and grabbed the back of Robert's pants. The two men were using such force that the entire back of his pants ripped off, leaving them in possession of his wallet and everything inside it, including his rent money for the month.

Robert was lucky enough to struggle his way out of the car but sustained nerve damage in his neck and a tear in his tongue. After getting back to his apartment and cleaning up his wounds he immediately went to the property manager's office. He explained his situation and they agreed to work with him.

A few days later Robert came home to an eviction notice and knew he could turn to ESM for help until he got his next retirement check. ESM was able to help pay for a part of his rent and provide him with emergency food tiding him over until the next check.



2011 Festival of Trees ~ Save the Dates!



Come celebrate the “*Colors of Christmas*” at this year’s Festival of Trees!

Jingle Bell Gala!

Join with friends on **Friday, November 18th** at 6:00 p.m. to kick-off the holiday season with an elegant sit-down dinner, live auction and entertainment. Tickets are \$125 per person or \$1,250 for a table sponsorship. RSVP today ~ (719) 228-6781.

Festive Family Fun Days!

Come to the DoubleTree Hotel on **Saturday, November 19th** (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or on **Sunday, November 20th** (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) for a festive, family celebration. This two-day event, benefiting Ecumenical Social Ministries, will feature fully decorated Christmas trees, wreathes, centerpieces and ensembles available for purchase to meet all your holiday decorating needs. Christmas trees will be delivered fully decorated at no-cost (within the Colorado Springs area), by Two Men & a Truck.

There will be a Christmas Boutique for early gift shopping opportunities, photos with Santa, a children’s activity room and on-going entertainment from many local groups. Tickets are \$5.00 per person. Children, age 12 and under, get in free. For questions, call 228-6795.

Thank you!

ESM would like to say thank you to the Men’s Wearhouse, Adams Bank & Trust and Delta Airlines.

In August, ESM was chosen for the third time as the local partner for the annual suit drive held by **Men’s Wearhouse**. Due to their generosity and the generosity of their customers, on October 1, ESM was able to distributed over 1,300 suits, slacks, shirts, sport coats and ties to gentlemen in need of job appropriate clothing.

In September, **Adams Bank & Trust** held a coat drive benefiting ESM as part of their One Warm Coat community service project. The coats and jackets collected are a welcome addition to our clothing closet, especially as the weather turns colder.

Also in September, the employees at the ticket counter of **Delta Airlines** at the Colorado Springs Airport conducted a two-week food drive, inviting everyone to bring canned goods in for ESM’s food pantry.

ESM is also blessed to be a recipient of the **Empty Stocking Fund**.



Thank you to all of our community partners who are working with us to meet the needs of our neighbors in Colorado Springs.

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, secure on-line credit card donations)
- Monthly pledges
- Give through the El Paso County Enterprise Zone
- Matching gifts through your employer
- 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 Nathan, Volunteer Coordinator at (719) 228-6785 for more information.

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

*Use the enclosed envelop to make a gift today!
All gifts, large and small, can make a difference in someone’s life.*