



ESM NEWS

2nd Quarter / Autumn
October 2009

Festival of Trees is right around the corner!

Planning for the 2009 Festival of Trees is moving at a furious pace. The ESM Development Committee and staff are working with sponsors, tree decorators, entertainment groups and Christmas Boutique vendors to make this event bigger and better than ever!

The Festival will open on Friday, November 20th, 2009 with the Jingle Bell Gala, an evening of elegance and festivity where guests have first pick to purchase the beautifully decorated trees, wreaths, garlands, and tablescapes. Tickets are \$125 per person and include a pre-dinner wine tasting sponsored by Cheers Liquor Mart. Dinner, a short program and a live auction of select trees will follow. Shannon Brinias, news anchor for KKTV Channel 11, will be the emcee for the evening.

The Festival will continue on Saturday, November 21st and Sunday, November 22nd. Guests are invited to these two family-fun days to view and purchase trees and other items while enjoying holiday entertainment and shopping in the Christmas Boutique. Children will enjoy arts and crafts activities and have the opportunity to visit with Santa. The event will be held at the Doubletree Hotel/World Arena. Tickets are \$6 per adult and \$3 per child and will be sold at the door.

Rocky Mountain Bank & Trust returns as this year's *Presenting Sponsor*. Other sponsors who have already made a commitment to date include Advanced Alarm, American National Bank, Beringer, Cheers Liquor Mart, Centennial Reproduction Center, Clear Channel (KLITE

106.3), Colorado Springs Utilities, DublinBlue, El Pomar Foundation, Freedom Financial Services, Garden of the Gods Club, The Gazette, GE Johnson Construction Company, Handyman Connection, Home Depot, Kaiser Permanente, KKTV Channel 11 News, Memorial Health System, O'Brien's Carpet One, Osborne, Parsons & Rosacker, The Patterson Group, Penrose-St. Francis Health Services, Phil Long, Regis University, Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons, Target and Two Men and a Truck.

ESM is also working with Donna Vessey of Vessey Entertainment and the staff at the Doubletree Hotel to make this event festive and fun.

There are still many opportunities to participate in the Festival of Trees. We are seeking tree decorators and decorated wreaths and garlands, and tables are available for the Christmas Boutique. Contact the Special Events Coordinator at (719) 457-0061 for more information.



*Tree by Ruth Tepley Designs
Festival of Trees 2008*

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit ESM programs. We look forward to seeing you at the most exciting event of the holiday season!

***Kick off your holiday season
with the Festival of Trees!***





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July 2009-June 2010**

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What Happened to Summer?

Did anyone else miss out on summer? Time continues to speed up. I was not through with summer but realized when I went to a local store recently that Thanksgiving will soon be here.

Thanksgiving for ESM is an important holiday, not only for the Christian significance of sharing and providing for those with physical and mental needs, but also as a faith-based organization providing **spiritual encouragement** for our clients, staff and volunteers.

One of our favorite spiritually encouraging moments at ESM happens when pre-school children from First Presbyterian Church visit with their wagons full of food to fill Thanksgiving baskets. They eagerly talk about what their teachers taught them about sharing food with those who have none. This giving reminds us of the faith of children. They come to ESM excited and full of enthusiasm as they present their offerings. Staff enjoy sitting on the floor with these little ones and asking questions such as "what is your favorite Thanksgiving food?" The answer may be pizza, hot dogs or Rice Krispies (remember these are 3 year-olds). We take them on a tour of our food pantry and their eyes open wide when they see the variety of food on hand.

The other spiritually uplifting and encouraging moment for staff and volunteers of ESM occurs when hundreds of people come for Thanksgiving baskets we are able to provide. We are thankful for the outpouring of food that is provided by our churches and individuals who donate turkeys, canned goods and all the fixings for a complete Thanksgiving meal. There are many smiles and expressions of gratitude from those who receive the baskets.

This past year has truly been an amazing year for ESM. Through the generosity of individuals, churches, foundations, and businesses we were able to provide over 61,000 services last year, which included rental and utility assistance, job services, food, medication, education and a multitude of other services. People and organizations, like the children from First Presbyterian Church, gave joyfully and generously. But that is what Christians do...they give and give and give.

"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*

Carolyn McDole



Leave a Legacy

In life, most people require some kind of assistance, whether it is physical, financial or spiritual.



Perhaps your church congregation or a food pantry supplied meals during a tough time. Maybe you enjoyed a scholarship that made the dream of college possible. Perhaps you or a loved one were shown especially compassionate healthcare during an illness or injury. An estate gift to ESM can help ensure a bright future for this important work. ESM needs financial assistance from people like you to continue its work. More than 80 percent of Americans contribute to nonprofit organizations during their lifetimes, but only eight percent chose to continue this support through an estate gift.

By making bequests and other “planned” gifts, you can continue to help ESM make an important difference in our community. **Charitable giving is not only for the wealthy.** Gifts large and small are important!

Contact the Development & Communications Director at (719) 228-6795 for more information on how to leave a legacy.

Correction

In our last newsletter we featured Dennis Myers, our volunteer who teaches the budget classes on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. We spelled his name incorrectly. We apologize and thank Dennis for his continued service.

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.

Thank you for answering the Call to Action!

In our summer newsletter we informed you that the Downtown Partnership challenged ESM to raise a \$1 to \$1 match of \$2,500 to improve the exterior of the building.



We are proud to report that through the generosity of our donors ESM was not only able to meet the \$2,500 challenge, but exceed it by almost \$1,700! Amazing!

Thank you to all those who contributed to this match! Your support will provide a much-needed facelift to the exterior of ESM’s building. In August, volunteers from First Presbyterian Church spent a Saturday painting the exterior of the building. Next, local artist and muralist Kim Polomka will design and paint a mural to enhance the appearance of the building and make ESM a bright and welcoming place for all those who enter. Kim’s award-winning work already graces three downtown Colorado Springs buildings. Watch for him completing the mural this fall when you drive by!

Foundation Support

Thank you to the following foundations and grantors for their generous support in the past quarter (July through September):

- Daniels Fund
- El Pomar Foundation
- A.V. Hunter Trust
- USAA Foundation

Additionally, ESM is fortunate to be the recipient of funds through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program, which are Federal stimulus monies, 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.



Volunteer Spotlight ~ Brent Michals

Brent Michals is a member of Calvary Worship Center and has been volunteering in Direct Services since August 2008. He enjoys his volunteer position at the Front Desk as it is his way of contributing back to the community in between his days off from work as a commercial airline pilot.



Brent is considered our walking miracle at ESM as he had quite the health scare this past July 2009. His health issues started out with some mild hearing loss for which his doctor ordered he undergo an MRI. The MRI detected a brain tumor the size of a golf ball behind his left ear.

Brent, who is just 27 years old, was shocked to realize that he had to undergo major brain surgery right away. However, when he contacted ESM to say that he would be absent, his demeanor was calm as his faith was completely and confidently in God's hands. With God's grace, doctors were completely successful in their attempt to remove the entire tumor, later determined to be benign.

The surgery has left Brent completely deaf in the left ear and he has had to regain his equilibrium

with just one ear through physical therapy. On September 21, 2009, his surgeon was happy to report that he is now "back to normal" and he was able to file approval papers with the FAA with his doctor's signature of a clean bill of health. He looks forward to returning to his position at Skywest Airlines in

the next few weeks.

Brent has been married to his lovely wife, Karen, for fourteen months and holds a Bachelor's degree in Aviation Flight Technology from Purdue University. He has held a pilot's license since he was 16 years old and has been on leave of absence from Skywest Airlines since July.

Brent said that this experience has certainly given him a new and positive perspective on life where he is enjoying each day to the fullest. He stated that he never realized how fragile we all are and that you cannot take your health for granted as it is truly a gift.

We thank Brent for his service at ESM and will continue to pray for his health.

Volunteer Birthdays ~ October, November & December

October

Oct 1 Barbara Battersby
 Oct 1 Rachel Stoller-Lee
 Oct 2 Wayne Meider
 Oct 2 Julie Covey
 Oct 3 Ivan Carper
 Oct 5 Dwight English
 Oct 6 Harriet Womer
 Oct 8 David Rowe
 Oct 9 Susan Kotval
 Oct 13 Jim Whitford
 Oct 13 Betty Wolfe
 Oct 16 Eric Simmons
 Oct 20 Virginia Banach
 Oct 29 Carolyn Edwards

November

Nov 1 Bill Robertson
 Nov 3 Flo Bessick
 Nov 4 Esther Baker
 Nov 20 Carol Houmes
 Nov 29 Beverly Loper
 Nov 29 Tayla Kelly

December

Dec 11 Tom Brokaw
 Dec 16 Lee Heiberger
 Dec 20 Gwen Kinch
 Dec 20 Margaret Johnson
 Dec 21 Brent Michals
 Dec 22 Lee Tatum
 Dec 24 Joyce Juarez
 Dec 27 Nevin Wattlely



Happy Birthday and many blessings!



Partnering with Men’s Wearhouse



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 workforce.

September marked the second annual Suit Drive and the first year ESM has worked with the company on this program.

To date, the Suit Drive has collected over 1,000 pieces of clothing at the four Men’s Wearhouse and Tux Shop locations in Colorado Springs! After all the donations are received, the clothing

will be sorted, sized and prepared for distribution.

The ESM Jobs Department will be distributing the suits on **Saturday, October 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** to qualifying individuals. For more information call Anita at (719) 228-6786 or Karen at (719) 228-6794.

ESM thanks the Men’s Wearhouse for partnering with us to help men in our local community by offering them the opportunity to present a professional appearance to potential employers. And thank you to all those who have donated clothing to the stores for distribution by ESM.

Random Acts of Kindness

For those of you who are Oprah Winfrey fans, you know one of her messages is about people who practice “Random Acts of Kindness.” At ESM we have examples of this every day. People come with donations of food clothing and other items. Recently, Cathy Challenner walked in our door with thirty-five handmade quilts to give to clients. WOW! What a generous donation of not only the quilts but of the time it took to make them. Thank you Cathy!



Compassion starts at a young age

In March, young Kelsey celebrated her birthday. Instead of asking for gifts for herself, she asked all her friends attending her birthday party to bring canned goods to benefit ESM. On April 3rd she and her sister Kendall along with her mother Susan delivered the donation to our food pantry. Thank you to Kelsey for her generous donation!

Thank you to Whole Foods Market

Earlier this year, Whole Foods Market began donating bruised fruits and vegetables and close-to-expiration date perishables such as milk and yogurt to ESM. Two to three times a week, one of ESM’s pantry staff travel to the two locations in Colorado Springs and pick up a variety of items which are then provided to clients with their non-perishable emergency food order.

ESM thanks Whole Foods Market for their generous donation, helping to promote healthier eating with fresh fruits and vegetables otherwise not normally available to our clients.





Colorado Springs Ecumenical Social Ministries, Inc.
201 N. Weber Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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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.