



The EChO

Voice of
Evergreen Christian Outreach

Spring/Summer
2011

Staff

Sharon Smith
Executive Director

Pam Davis
Director of Client Services

Cindy Costello
Bookkeeper

Jim Shelton
Manager, Food Bank

Bonnie Imoe
Manager, St. Raphael's

Mary Petrich
Volunteer Coordinator

EChO Resale Shop

Kim Gaudet
Manager

Cristi Smith
Assistant Manager

Linda Lorenz
Backroom Supervisor

Sally Lapham
Donations Processing Clerk

Matt Marrin
Donations Processing Clerk

Paula Mann
Cashier

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Director's Dialogue ...

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

"And the 2010 nonprofit of the year is... Evergreen Christian Outreach!" How exciting it was to hear these words and what a privilege to accept this special award from the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce on February 24th. While the award was handed to me, the honor belongs to YOU—our staff, our board, our volunteers and our supporters—who work with energy and compassion to serve the people of our community by giving your time, talents, and treasures. So to all of you, congratulations! And thank you for a job well done!

2010 was a record-breaking year at EChO. From the number of daily visits to the Food Bank and St. Raphael's, to the number of families served, to the number of clients requesting financial help, the need for assistance in all areas has grown steadily. Our Resale Shop continues to thrive and increased revenues prove that it has become an "Evergreen favorite." During these very difficult economic times we are blessed to have the community's support as we serve our neighbors in need—last year we provided almost \$500,000 in food, clothing, and financial assistance to our EChO families. Pretty remarkable!

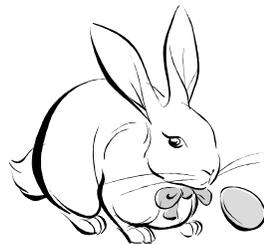
During the first quarter of 2011, we still experienced an increase in requests for assistance. January set a record high of 772 visits by 312 families. Lay-offs due to a tight job market, reductions in work schedules, evictions, foreclosures, and medical issues present ongoing challenges to many in our area. People who thought they "would never be in this position," sit teary-eyed at our desks and say, "I just don't know what to do." All leave thankful for EChO and the care and assistance offered to them.

Rising gas prices, higher prices for food and clothing, as well as the uncertainty of the economic outlook and our financial stability, have all of us wondering about the future. Will be able to meet the needs of our clients? Will we have enough food in our Food Bank to help our families? It's hard not to worry, with donations and financial support being lower than anticipated. However, in my short time as director I have learned to trust in God and believe in the "magic and miracles of EChO."

May the love of Christ be with all of us as we continue to do his work by feeding the hungry and loving one another.

Blessings,

Sharon



Easter Food Bank Needs

We will provide our EChO families with Easter meals during the week of April 11. Please help us by donating to the EChO Food Bank located on the grounds of Church of the Transfiguration on Hwy 74. We especially need the following items:

Hams	Frozen Vegetables	Fruit Pies
Canned Yams	Canned Fruit	Pecan Pies
Potatoes	Fresh Rolls	Cool Whip
(fresh or boxed)	Refrigerator Biscuits	



Harvest Gala Benefit

Saturday, October 1, 2011

You are invited to a fall gala at the Mount Vernon Club to benefit Evergreen Christian Outreach. The evening will include dinner, a raffle, and silent & live auctions. Invitations will be mailed in August. Please mark your calendar now and make plans to gather with friends to support EChO.

We are especially looking for vacation homes, and tickets to area sporting events and cultural activities for our auction. We would love to have time at a condo or lodging at an area ski resort for the 2011—2012 season. Additionally, opportunities abound on our various committees: invitations, decorations, programs, publicity, and auction displays. Please contact Liz Hawkins at ephawk123@gmail.com or 303-674-3235, or Linda Smith at 303-670-8894 if you can assist in any way.

Contact Information:

Evergreen Christian Outreach

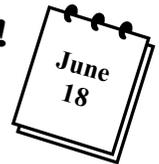
P.O. Box 1515
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Fax: 303-679-2721
St. Raphael's: 303-670-7123
EChO Resale: 303-679-8280
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kim@echo-evergreen.org

Operating Hours

Mon. & Thurs. Noon — 6 p.m.
Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.

EChO Resale: See Page 7 for details.

Mark Your Calendar!



When: Saturday, June 18

What: Evergreen Rodeo Parade
"The Wild, Wild West"

If you want to have some fun & walk with the EChO Possee, please call Pat Korbel at 303-670-7307...Giddy-up!

EChO Volunteers...



Mark your calendar for the EChO Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on Friday, April 29 at Hiwan Country Club. We hope to see all our volunteers at this special event that Celebrates their service and dedication to EChO.

PRESIDENT'S PEN...

Where 2010 was a busy year, 2011 has been even busier. Sharon and Pam are swamped with new-client interviews, as many of our neighbors continue to struggle in today's high-unemployment economy, hindered by slow job growth in the construction industries where many in our mountain community have historically been employed.

The first quarter of 2011 finds EChO in the doldrums in terms of financial and food donations. The Food Bank shelves are in desperate need of replenishment! In recent months, our primary source for donated meat has had very little excess for EChO. Jim Shelton, our new Food Bank manager, is constantly on the lookout for new sources of meat and groceries.

On the EChO Board front, we are excited to report the addition of three new community board members: John Ellis from Evergreen National Bank, Judy Sherman from Congregation Beth Evergreen, and Linda Chowdry, an active supporter of several area nonprofits. New church board members include Kristi Sigal from Lookout Mountain Community Church, Marie Radecki and Nancy York from the United Methodist Church, and Bill Damiano and Pam Hazlett from Kittredge Community Church. Welcome to one and all.

The Board's excellent leadership teams are busy at work supporting the mission of EChO. The amazing Liz Hawkins and fellow star volunteer Linda Smith are co-chairing our resourceful Fundraising Team. Liz continues as the leader of the Special Events Planning Team. Kristi Sigal, with her considerable experience and winning personality, is our new Marketing/Publicity/Media Team leader. Mike Gies continues to lead our Maintenance Team of hard-working volunteers. The team concept has been very successful; the staff and Board of Directors are grateful for the outstanding work these teams do to support the EChO organization and mission.

I want to express my deepest appreciation to our board members, contributors, volunteers and staff, and want to make it very clear that YOU make EChO a reality and blessing for many families in our mountain community. Thank you so very much!

Bill Braun
"Chief Cheerleader"

Meet the EChO Board

Officers

Bill Braun, *President*
Mike Bornhouser, *Vice President*
Liz Hawkins, *Secretary*
Jean Wells, *Treasurer*

Church & Community Board Members

Jan Aitken	Jim Benson
Sue Boyd	Lesla Butler
Linda Chowdry	Barbara Collins
John Ellis	Mike Gies
Pam Hazlett	Bob Jones
Pat Korbel	Art Martin
Carla McFadden	Marie Radecki
Randy Reznik	Judy Sherman
Kristi Sigal	Nancy York

Staff Spotlight

Welcome, Jim!

January 1st brought a new year and a new Food Bank manager to EChO. After many years of service to EChO, we said farewell to Ann McGovern and sent our good wishes as she left to pursue another career and fulfill a passion to start her own business. Luckily for us we had a volunteer who was ready, willing and able to accept the challenge of managing our Food Bank. Jim Shelton has been a welcome addition to our staff. Jim's background is in management and telecommunications. He also has a very impressive 35-year history of community service and nonprofit work experience. We are very blessed to have Jim on our staff and invite all of you to stop by and meet him when you are in the area. You'll be glad!

Easter Angels in Action

* There is an EChO volunteer who spends *
* countless hours working on a project that *
* culminates in the week just before Easter. *
* Her home resembles an Easter version of *
* Santa's workshop! Vesta Zwakenberg is the *
* angel behind the Easter baskets that are *
* given to the children of our EChO clients. *
* Vesta began her endeavor 17 years ago *
* when she and a friend developed a plan to *
* assemble and deliver baskets for those in *
* need, saying, "It was a way to let children *
* know people in their religious community *
* care about them." The project grew over *
* the years as many others became involved. *
* Vesta recruited a group of ladies called "The *
* Hildegards" from her church, Christ the *
* King. Over the past 14 years they have ably *
* produced 144 baskets each and every year. *
* Last year, when told EChO would need 312 *
* baskets, Vesta asked her neighbors Jenny *
* and Ashley Snyder to help. The Snyders *
* and their church, Lutheran Church of the *
* Cross have become partners in the project. *
* Vesta will retire after this year. When asked *
* why she has remained committed to this *
* monumental undertaking for so many *
* years, she responded, "I wanted to help take *
* care of more than basic needs by offering a *
* little extra. The magic is in the children." *
* The staff and volunteers at EChO wish to *
* express our sincere appreciation to Vesta for *
* the magic she has brought to everyone! *

Santa's Special Elves

Thanks to the many volunteers and donors whose assistance made St. Nick's successful yet again this past Christmas. It's amazing what combined efforts can accomplish! Special thanks to five enthusiastic volunteers who headed our St. Nick's committees: Susan Browning, Cathy Agar, Rita Sullivan, Patty Stone and Lori Hogan. You're the Best!

EChO Educational Fund

EChO has a new program! The EChO Educational Fund was approved by the Board of Directors in February of this year. Responding to the need for more self-sufficiency, the fund assists our clients to pursue educational goals and life dreams that had previously seemed unreachable.

The EEF helps with various educational expenses to include, tuition at schools of higher education and trade schools, books, licensure, and GED classes and testing. This program is assisting our clients with their educational and professional pursuits, and also in thinking about themselves in a different light, one that can lead to success and positive self-esteem. Many are using these funds for retraining in other fields following layoffs in previous careers.

Summed up eloquently by one recipient, the EEF program provides HOPE to our client families. By donating to this fund, you can be a part of a family's hope for a better life and more secure future.



Soup's On!

...delicious, nutritious, home-made soup! Clients, volunteers and staff are enjoying a variety of delicious soups available daily at the EChO office. The soup is delivered to EChO each week by area churches: Evergreen Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church, Rockland Community Church and Church of the Transfiguration. Each of these congregations has started a soup ministry and we are the lucky recipients! Nothing says "Welcome" like a bowl of hearty, homemade soup!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

- EChO currently serves an average of 294 families per week. There were 1,387 visits to our little cabin by the creek during the first two months of 2011.
- EChO currently assists 9 families for a total of 22 children with funds from our Share the Care Program. (This program helps working families with funds for child care, preschool and all-day kindergarten.)

Looking back to 2010:

- EChO received over \$10,000 on December 8, 2010 through GivingFirst.org on the first annual Colorado Gives Day. Thank You very much to all who donated!
- Our community donated almost \$600,000 worth of food, clothing and other goods to assist our neighbors in need!

Thank You!

A heartfelt Thank You to the following organizations that held recent benefits, raising over \$1,000 each:

- The “Mr. Indian Heels” contest at the the Sit-N-Bull Saloon in Indian Hills
- The Mountain Foothills Rotary & John Erlandson fundraiser at the Ice House
- Evergreen Elks Bingo Proceeds

And our warm gratitude to the following organizations for sponsoring food drives:

- Leadership Evergreen Class of 2011
- Mountain Foothills Rotary
- Evergreen Montessori School
- Girl Scout Troop 116

Joining Hands to Help...

We are blessed with all the community support we receive!



This is the story of Ben, a single man who has lost everything due to alcoholism. Contrary to what you might want to believe, his story is not that unusual.

From the beginning, Ben’s life had been one of hardship and loneliness. Because of their own problems with addiction, Ben’s parents lost custody of him when he was only 8 years old. He bounced from one unhealthy foster care environment to another. By the age of 16, he had dropped out of school, was living on the streets, and dulling his pain with an assortment of substances.

Ben came to EChO in the summer of 2010; now in middle age, he became a regular client. He was single and estranged from his grown child, alone and sinking fast. He tried to hang onto his home with his earnings as a part-time construction worker. With the collapse of the building industry, Ben was unemployed and homeless by Christmas. He was soon living in his truck, drinking daily and hopeless.

We at EChO did the best we could to make sure he had warm blankets, sleeping bags, and warm clothing. We tried to keep him well nourished, we kept gas in his truck, and we directed him to shelters to house him and treatment facilities to help him heal his illness of addiction.

Finally, Ben’s truck was stolen and his dog, his only companion, was taken from him. When he spoke of suicide, we were on-call 24/7 throughout the weekend, referring him to mental health professionals. We were always available, with a listening ear and caring heart.

At last, Ben chose to get the help he needed in an alcohol treatment program. Through our conversations, he realized that it was time to face his past, to grieve what could never be, to rediscover himself as a sober and worthwhile person — a person who deserves happiness.

Ben is now in an inpatient treatment program. He struggles daily with his sobriety and his past, but he is learning how to deal with his present in a healthy way. He knows EChO will be there for him every step of that way.

Food Bank Needs:

There are some items we like to have on hand throughout the year because they make low-cost, nutritious meals. We are entering the slow donation season and will have less to offer. If we can remain well stocked in these basics, our clients will still have healthy options from our Food Bank.

Please help us keep these items on hand:

Peanut Butter	Tuna
Spaghetti	Cold Cereals
Spaghetti Sauce	Oatmeal
Meal Helpers	Sugar
Hearty Soups	

St. Raphael's Needs:

Men's & Women's Shoes	Coffee Makers
Boys' Pajamas	Pots & Pans
Men's & Boys' Sweat Pants	Silverware
Men's Jeans	Vacuum Cleaners
Kitchen Appliances	Queen & King Sheets
Can Openers	Blankets
	Comforters

News from St. Raphael's

"Spotlight on St. Nick's"

Christmas 2011 will bring a new direction for St. Nick's, as we will focus primarily on our ECHO children and will limit our gifts to adults to small bags of coffee and/or small containers of chocolate. We ask you to help us make this transition a delightful one for all members of our ECHO families!

Our clients are able to shop year-round at St. Raphael's for gift-worthy items, so please bring by your spares. All donations that help keep St. Raphael's well stocked are greatly appreciated. Thank You for your support!

Getting to the Meat of the Matter

Since the first of the year, our Food Bank has reduced the meat available for our clients to one package per week. We split out packages so we can offer larger amounts to larger families. Our donor stores are ordering more efficiently (good for them, but not so good for us!), so meat donations have fallen way off. If you have any ideas or a contact that could give ECHO access to donated meat, please call Jim at the ECHO Office at 303-670-1796.



ECHO & MRC...

Partners in Service

ECHO and the Mountain Resource Center are partnering to provide additional services to our clients. We are sharing an office at "The Place" and plan to have staff available to help with resume writing, job searches, and locating health-care resources. Clients will have access to computers and the internet.

We plan to have shower facilities available when staff are present, and in the future, plan to offer educational programs for our clients and members of the community.

The Place is located on Meadow Drive, in the center directly across from Da Kind Soups.

Cars Helping Charities

If you buy a new car, please consider donating your old car to **Cars Helping Charities**. You'll get a tax break and we'll get a donation.

For details call , 303-670-0921 or go online to carshelpingcharities.org.

Notes From The Shop

THE ECHO RESALE SHOP

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." Martin Luther King, Jr.

Holiday Schedule

April 29

Shop will be open by noon

Good Friday

Shop closed

Memorial Day

Shop open

Independence Day

Shop Closed

Labor Day

Shop Closed

Shop Hours & Donation Hours

Monday – Friday

10:00 – 5:00

Saturday

10:00 – 4:00

The Shop continues to grow and we have added three new employees to our team. We welcome Sally Lapham and Matt Marrin as our Donations Processing Clerks and Paula Mann as our Cashier. Paula and Matt have volunteered for EChO prior to joining our staff. Paula and her husband are fairly new to the area. After visiting their children in Colorado they decided to move to Evergreen three years ago. Paula is originally from Wheaton, Illinois; she loves spending time with her grandchildren, hiking, and eating ice cream! Matt was born in Charlotte, NC and has lived in Bailey for eight years. He enjoys hanging out with his friends and family and loves to write. Sally is a Denver native and has lived in Evergreen for 26 years. She has two teenagers and has been active with the local PTA and Girl Scouts. Sally would love to disappear for a weekend at Tall Grass Spa! Stop by to welcome these fantastic people to our EChO team!

The Shop is now offering furniture pickups thanks to a few wonderful volunteers! At this time we are not charging, but donations are very much appreciated. We accept items in very good to like-new condition. The age of an item is not important; however, we request no stains, tears, or damage. Please call the Shop at 303-679-8280 and ask to speak with Kim or Cristi if you have furniture to donate.

Our team is always hard at work creating ways to bring you the most fun, fresh and exciting shopping experience in the mountain area. We encourage you to come in to see our fabulous inventory and experience amazing savings. Thank you so much for your continued and much-appreciated support of Evergreen Christian Outreach!

Special Daily Sales

Monday Merci Mademoiselle

Thursday Twofers

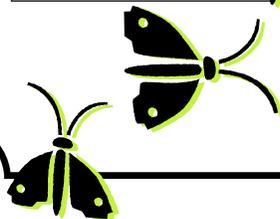
• Tuesday Toiletries

Friday Feed-a-Family

Wednesday Mid-Week Mayhem

Saturday Special Discounts

**All seniors (60 or better) get 10% off their total purchase any day of the week. Sales will not be added to other sales taking place in the shop.



How You Can Help EChO

By Volunteering...

- EChO Food Bank
- St. Raphael's Clothing Bank
- EChO Resale Shop
- Drivers to pick up food in Denver
- Professionals to counsel clients needing legal and budgeting advice
- Occasional substitutes for front desk, Food Bank & EChO Resale

Call the EChO Office at 303-670-1796

By Donating...GivingFirst.org

Donating online using GivingFirst.org is a simple, safe and convenient way to support EChO. All credit-card fees are paid by Community First Foundation, which means EChO receives 100% of your gift. And you can be certain that your personal information is protected.

The process is user-friendly: *go online to evergreenchristianoutreach.org, click on the green "DONATE NOW" box in the upper right corner of your screen and follow the directions.* This is an easy, secure way to help EChO & to maximize your giving.

Newsletter Editor: Peggy Braun



Return Service Requested

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EChO

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