



NEWSLETTER

2019



Success is very personal. How one person defines success is very different from another. Enjoy reading some stories of success that our staff and volunteers have had the privilege to be a part of....

An under-employed, middle-aged mom had worked for a fast food chain for 10 years. She arrived at the EChO Job Center wanting to obtain a higher paying job and a job that provided for more growth. We worked with her to create a new resume highlighting transferable skills - such as customer service and handling cash. After 2 interviews, this mom accepted a job at a local branch of a national bank earning more than \$2 additional per hour. Now, she also receives full benefits, paid holidays and paid time off.



John was a successful poker dealer in Las Vegas, dealing for the World Series of Poker 3 different years. When he found out that a past girlfriend had given birth to their child and never told him, he raced back to Evergreen. Unemployed with no where to live is how John arrived at the EChO Job Center. Staff quickly and easily assisted John with his resume and forwarded it to the hiring manager of our partner, El Dorado Resorts in Blackhawk. John was hired within the week! Knowing that the long-term prospects of dealing in a smaller market are not as expansive, John also began the process of approval for an IT certification program through our partner LeaderQuest. Once he has been employed at the casino for 6 months, El Dorado provides a tuition reimbursement program he can use.

Give a Little, Help a Lot

EChO's success relies in part on the support of our mountain community and people like you. Programs and services do have a cost, and individual donations are our primary source of revenue. A financial contribution of any amount would greatly assist us as we continue to help neighbors overcome some of life's challenges. Any amount, large or small, would help! You can make a difference by scheduling an online monthly financial gift by clicking on the "Donate" button at www.evergreenchristianoutreach.org

Keep reading inside for more....

- 10th Annual Turkey Trot
- Volunteer Opportunities
- More Success Stories
- Shelter Kick-Off

Mark your calendars....

- **October 29th ALL DAY** all EChO offices & Services **CLOSED** for Staff Development
- November 16th 7:00-4:00 "9 Cares, Colorado Shares" food drive
- November 20, 21, 25, 26 Thanksgiving Meal Distribution to Clients
- November 28th 9:00am 10th Annual Turkey Trot
- November 30 "Adopt-a-Child" Gift requests go on-line
- December 10th All Day "Colorado Gives" Day
- December 16-19 Holiday Meal and Gifts Distribution to Clients



Contact Us:

Evergreen Christian Outreach

P.O. Box 1515 Physical Address: 27640 Hwy 74
Evergreen, CO 80437-1515

Phone: 303-670-1796 Fax: 303-679-2721

Office Hours:

Monday 10 am – 6 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10 am – 4 pm

info@evergreenchristianoutreach.org

EChO Job Center: 303-670-7123

3721 North Evergreen Parkway Suite 6

Hours:

Mon-Tue 10 - 6pm, Wed 10 - 7pm, Thurs 10 - 2pm
CLOSED FRIDAY

EChO Resale Shop: 303-679-8280

3763 North Evergreen Parkway
Located in the Evergreen North Shopping Center

Store hours – Monday- Saturday 10 am – 5 pm
Donations accepted Mon-Sat 10 am – 4 pm

echoresaleshop@evergreenchristianoutreach.org



We are **SO** excited about the 10th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning! Who would have believed we would have made it to 10 years for this FUNraiser! We hope you will consider joining us!

Registration is open and you can access the link off the EChO website at:

www.evergreenchristianoutreach.org

Or there are lots of opportunities to help out that morning. Just a few hours and then you'll be home preparing your own feast!

Thank you to our 2019 Turkey Trot Sponsors....

Inglenook Energy El Dorado Resorts

Church of the Transfiguration * Liv Sotheby's * Craig & Jan Stadler * Stewardship Colorado
Shirley Septic * In Memoriam

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EChO extends our appreciation to the following funders for their generous grant support:

- Anschutz Family Foundation
- EL Pomar
- Energy Outreach Colorado
- Onward Foundation
- The Denver Foundation
- Theda Smith Tamblin Clark Family Foundation

EChO STAFF

Sharon Smith
Executive Director
Kaethe Zellner
Director of Client Services

Kathryn Cantrell
Amy Lankutis
Rachel Saylor
Client Advocates
Jo Ann Haynes
Food Bank Manager
Lynn Kutalek
Food Bank Assistant Manager

Mary Petrich
Volunteer Services Director
Cindy Costello
Bookkeeper
Karen Triberti
Maggie Jones
Paula Mann
Candy Kemble
Front Desk Receptionists

Nancy Judge
Development Director
Brenda Gibson
Job Center Director

RESALE SHOP Staff

Kim Gaudet
Manager
Luci Goss
Assistant Manager

Samantha Austin
Donation Processing Supervisor
Mary Sousa
Floor Merchandiser
Sheri Zoburst
Aide Hillman
Elizabeth Goss
Maddie Mosby
Roxann Berland
Donation Clerks

Sue Foster
Lisa Keeler
Cashiers

Brent Wuechrich
Furniture Supervisor

Mark Duckworth
Furniture Donation Clerk

Claire Diaz
Lana Dolly
Gloria Offe
Susan Scheuermann
SER Trainees

How Do You Measure Success...

“Success is a journey, not a destination”

As an organization we are often asked how we measure success. Is it the number of shoppers we feed on a monthly basis? Is it the number of individuals who received services or who stayed at the shelter? Is it the high number of volunteers we have that give of their time weekly or monthly? Are these indicators of a successful organization?

Our numbers can and do tell our story. It is certainly one way to measure our impact. And, EChO does make a tremendous impact-not only in the lives of those we serve, but also in our mountain community.

The number of residents seeking assistance is a reflection of the ever increasing need in our community. More individuals and families are finding it difficult to meet their most basic and urgent needs. One unexpected life event or hardship can greatly impact their sustainability. It can literally make a difference as to whether or not there will be enough food to feed their hungry family.

And while our organizational numbers are quite impressive, it is the individual stories that really portray the essence of the work we do. Our success is not measured by numbers alone, it is what we do every day that makes a difference.

It is truly a team effort by a group of dedicated and passionate staff members who define who we are and what we do. Working together, staff and clients combine resources and services to develop a plan to move from the crisis at hand towards a path toward sustainability and self-sufficiency. This journey is our success story and this is how we define success.

Sharon Smith
Executive Director

EChO By the Numbers....

Client Services

- Average number of households our team help per month: 270
- That number of 270 households per month breaks down into....
- Average number per month who are Veterans: 15
 - Average number per month who are Seniors: 68
 - Average number per month who are homeless: 25
 - Average number per month who are disabled: 33

Food Pantry

- Average number of unique number of households using our Food Pantry per month: 223
- Average number of individuals served by our Food Pantry per month: 1,001

Job Center

- Average number per month of individuals we assist with Job Search: 23



This summer we have welcomed Jo Haynes as our Food Bank Manager and welcomed Amy Lankutis back to our Client Services





SPREAD THE CHEER: VOLUNTEER!

The holiday season is traditionally a time when people pause to reflect on their lives and often seek ways to express their gratitude for the blessings they have received. Many look outward to consider the needs of others with the hope that they can share the joy and brighten other's lives in some small way.

Volunteering tends to surge during the holiday season and EChO is the fortunate recipient of many of those benevolent thoughts and actions. For anyone who is interested in getting in the spirit there are a series of volunteer opportunities that are guaranteed to spread the cheer. Starting in November, the holidays kick off with the 9 Cares Food Drive on November 16th. This all-day event provides over three tons of food to fill the EChO pantry for the winter months. Volunteers help with food collection, transportation of donated food and stocking of shelves. Some of the items collected are for the holiday meals, which are distributed the week before Thanksgiving.

On November 28, Thanksgiving Day, EChO offers an excellent way to start your day. The Turkey Trot is a 5K fundraiser (and FUNRAISER) that begins at nine o'clock. You can be part of the action by registering to run or walk the course or by volunteering to help it run smoothly. Volunteers assist with course signage, registration of participants and general race related activities.

In December, the pace continues with a variety of ways to get involved. The Adopt-a-Child gift-giving program for the children of EChO's clients will be in full swing the first week of December. The parents fill out a wish list for their children and the gift requests are online for the gifts to be purchased. This program also requires volunteer support in organizing and distributing the gifts. Over one-hundred children receive gifts each year so it is a substantial undertaking. Christmas meal and gift distribution take place December 16 – 19.

Salvation Army Bell ringing dates have yet to be determined, but on two weekends in December, spirited volunteers can ring in the season to support the good work done in our community by EChO and Salvation Army.

Plan to join the Fa-la-la fun, show goodwill to all and volunteer to enjoy heartwarming ways to celebrate the season.



Every November and December, we provide between 250-300 holiday meals to local families. These include all fixings for clients to prepare a meal at home, including a turkey or ham. For our homeless clients, we provide a pre-cooked meal. Will you help us make sure all our neighbors have a nice meal this upcoming holiday season? Your financial contributions will help us reach our goal. To make a tax deductible contribution, go to: www.evergreenchristianoutreach.org and click on the link on the home page.

**\$25 will feed a family of 4 one holiday meal while \$100 feeds 4 families both a Thanksgiving and a Christmas meal.
Thank you for your generous support!**

CLIENT SERVICES



Dawn came to EChO in May 2019 to request assistance with a Victims Compensation Application, a Jefferson County program that provides funds to pay for medical expenses, therapy, loss of income and burial expenses for victims of violent crime.

Dawn was living with a family member who physically assaulted her and left her with fractured vertebrae in her spine. Since she works in a physically demanding job, she was ordered by her physician not to work for a minimum of three months. Due to this crime she was informed that she could apply for compensation for such a long and detailed treatment.

With such a significant loss of income, Dawn faced tremendous financial hardships and mental health trauma due to the assault. EChO's Client Services case management team went into high gear to develop a plan for stability and homelessness prevention.

The Victim Compensation application required Dawn to gather a great deal of documentation, and with EChO's assistance, it was completed and submitted within a month. Luckily it was approved and Dawn was awarded \$1041.26 to cover the period of three months without work. Although helpful, this did not cover three months of lost wages and Dawn was already behind on many bills including rent, phone, and car insurance.

EChO then assisted Dawn to apply for rental assistance through our partnership with the Salvation Army which helped cover one month of rent. Supplemental food was provided through our food pantry during this time to decrease grocery bills. Through our collaboration with Jefferson County Human Services, applications for Aid to the Needy and Disabled (AND), a program that provides temporary financial assistance, was processed as well as an application for food stamps. Another community partner was contacted and was able to provide additional support by paying a portion of a second month of rent. The EChO Advocate also assisted with phone calls to other vendors such as her car insurance to negotiate payment plans so her services would not be discontinued.

Understandably Dawn needed support to address the trauma of the assault and the loss of a family relationship. Dawn was referred to our on-site partner for mental health counseling which proved to be a highly beneficial relationship. In preparation for being cleared for work, Dawn began meeting with EChO's Job Center where she began to explore job options that were less physically demanding.

We are happy to report that Dawn has been cleared for work and has secured a full-time job in the local area. She continues to work with the Job Center applying for better paying jobs. Three weeks ago Dawn applied on-line for a paid apprenticeship. The application process included three (3) on-line tests. Dawn completed all of the assessments and was called by the employer for a face-to-face interview. This apprenticeship offers a training wage of \$23/hr and is with a local mountain employer. Dawn recently stopped by the Job Center to let us know how happy she is to be employed, and while she knows there will be on-going challenges, she is encouraged that things are turning around for her.

Dawn came in with one request, but EChO's Client Service team, and our focus on wrap around services through partnerships, helped Dawn remain stable and housed through this difficult time in her life.

JOB CENTER

Job searching takes us all out of our comfort zone. But for adults with special needs it goes beyond uncomfortable to a totally overwhelming experience. Competitive jobs require employees to possess social skills and the ability to manage one's self with tasks such as time management, organization, and independent living skills. This is challenge for these adults and thus, the ability to obtain a competitive job that provides a living wage can be quite daunting.

Christie is one of those special adults that is benefiting from regular career coaching sessions at the Job Center. Christie has a track record of being able to land jobs but unfortunately is lacking social skills to retain a job. We are working closely with Christie to develop coping techniques to prevent temporary loss of control in the work place. By engaging with weekly, and sometimes daily check-ins, we are happy to report that Christie has been employed with the same employer for over three months.



RESALE STORE

When asked how we measure success at the EChO Resale Store, our vision and purpose stands out. From the beginning when the store opened, it was established that the proceeds from the store would assist the various client programs of EChO. This assistance has grown over the years with helping our neighbors in need and expanding EChO's programs to meet the growing needs in our community. In addition, the vision of our store was to look more upscale. We're so fortunate to be located in the middle of beautiful Evergreen, Colorado where we receive a wide variety of donations from everyday discount store items to estate sale treasures! The wide variety of goods in the EChO Resale Store allows our clients to shop for everyday items and also be able to find an amazing treasure at a great price. This vision became very successful and EChO Resale & Home Furnishings Store is a unique, one of a kind resale store with a dedicated, hardworking team of staff and volunteers who keep our store growing and helping our community!

There is no better feeling then when a client referred from our food pantry or job center comes in needing that perfect outfit for a job interview. We pair one of our volunteers with the client to assist them in selecting the right clothes Helping someone feel confident and strong is a true blessing.

Discovering the value of our store in and for our community feels successful. The resale store which represents the Evergreen community, is a fun, positive, gathering place to donate, shop, work and volunteer. Many good and successful things happen at EChO Resale!



Did you know that EChO takes vehicle donations? Your vehicle, dead or alive, can be donated through Cars Helping Charities. For more info, call 866-701-CARS (2277) or visit <https://carshelpingcharities.org> You get the tax deduction, we get a

EVERGREEN SHELTER PROGRAM

How does ESP define success?

“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day-in and day-out.” –Robert Collier

The Evergreen Shelter Program looks at success a little differently than most people. Many would think success for an ESP guest would be finding a job, securing housing, and becoming 100% self-sufficient. Instead, we count our guests' small successes. For instance....

- Once Joe had a safe, warm place to get a restful night of sleep, he could utilize the EChO Job Center during the day to apply for employment. He secured a great job and was so thankful to stay at ESP until he saved up enough money for an apartment of his own.
- Ashley suffers from debilitating anxiety and depression. However, socializing each night at the dinner table has encouraged her to start seeing a therapist.
- Sarah was too afraid to stay in our shelter after experiencing other homeless shelters. After a few weeks of sleeping in the blistering cold weather, Sarah's Client Advocate at EChO finally convinced her to come in just to have dinner and get warmed up. She came to dinner for a few nights and then ended up staying for the night regularly when she realized how comfortable and unique our Program is.
- With the help of the Job Center and her Client Advocate, Becky was able to secure a job in a resort town that provided her housing and all of her meals.

As we prepare for our fourth season of the Evergreen Shelter Program, we look forward to our small and big successes. We have worked tirelessly over the warm months to adjust policies and procedures to be as effective and helpful as we can be!

Important Dates:

- **October 7, 2019** EChO starts registering guests
- **October 14, 2019 @ 5PM** Volunteer training at Evergreen Lutheran Church
- **October 20, 2019 @ 12:30PM** Volunteer training at Bergen Park Church
- **October 24, 2019 @ 6:30PM** Volunteer training at Bergen Park Church
- **November 3, 2019 @ 6:30PM** ESP Kickoff Event

Would you like more information?

Kathryn Cantrell, ESP Director

Kathryn@EvergreenChristianOutreach.org

(303)-670-1796

www.facebook.com/

EvergreenShelterProgram

Evergreen Shelter Program

**SEASON
KICK-OFF
PARTY**

Would you like to learn about ESP? Are you a current volunteer that wants to learn about our exciting changes? Wear your favorite team's gear and join us!

**November 3, 2019 at 6:30PM
Evergreen Lutheran Church**

RSVP to: ESP@EvergreenChristianOutreach.org

EASY WAYS TO HELP....

1. Connect your King Soopers Rewards card to EChO

This is done at www.kingsoopers.com

2. Shop at: smile. Amazon.com rather than just at Amazon.com

At "smile. Amazon.com" select Evergreen Christian Outreach as your beneficiary and then from then on, go to smile. Amazon.com to do your shopping and a % will be donated to EChO by Amazon. Note, your Prime benefits will NOT be impacted.



Support EChO with a contribution from your IRA

Did you know you can make a non taxable contribution to EChO directly from your IRA? It is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

Normally when you take a distribution from your IRA, you pay taxes on it. But if you are age 70 1/2 or older and make a contribution directly from your traditional IRA to EChO, you can donate up to \$100,000 without it being considered a taxable distribution.

You should consult your tax or investment adviser for more information. If you have general questions, you may contact Nancy at EChO at 303-670-7295 or Nancy@evergreenchristianoutreach.org

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