

Spring 2019

NEWSLETTER

At Evergreen Christian Outreach, we are fortunate that we get to celebrate new beginnings with our clients and volunteers EVERY day....

John's life changed quickly and he found himself shopping at our food bank weekly and staying in our emergency shelter program nightly. After suggestion from Client Services, John went to our job center to receive help with his resume and job mentoring services. After a few interviews, he quickly secured a job and began saving for a place to call home. At the end of March, he moved into his own apartment. Wahoo!



Jane was nervous....It was mid January, she worked for the federal government and was told to stay home. Her landlord was still demanding rent on February 1st. As the shut down continued, Jane had nowhere else to turn so she fortunately came to EChO. Through our partnership with Salvation Army, we were able to assist Jane pay her February rent and we were able to encourage her to use the food bank for the time she was not working. CRISIS AVERTED!

Chris grew up in a home of poverty. She knew nothing else. On her own, she began using the EChO food bank at 18 years old. After years of working multiple part-time jobs to make ends meet, Chris went to our Job Center who sent her down to Red Rocks Community College to take the Meyers-Briggs test. Chris didn't know what she wanted to do and the testing showed she has an aptitude for the medical field. Chris immediately enrolled in Red Rocks' CNA program and later completed her Surgical Processing Certification. She currently works at St. Anthony's and is eyeing her next step. What excites Chris the most is that now she can show her two daughters that she is a successful, confident mom who can make her dreams come true.

Did you know...that anyone can set up an online donation that is charged to your credit card monthly? Even as low as \$10 a month can make a HUGE difference. Go to: www.coloradogives.org/EChO

Mark your calendars....

- June 8th 7:00 - 4:00 "9 Cares, Colorado Shares" food drive
- June 13th 100 Holes of Golf
- June 14-16 Western Art Show in Resale Parking Lot
- July 11 Sneak Preview of "The Wedding Singer"
- July 13 Triple Bypass
- July 15 Andy Smith Memorial Golf Tournament
- November 16th 7:00-4:00 "9 Cares, Colorado Shares" food drive
- November 28th 9:00am 10th Annual Turkey Trot
- December 10th All Day "Colorado Gives" Day

Keep reading inside for more....

- EChO Nonprofit of the Year
- Hellos and Goodbyes
- Volunteer Spotlight
- ESP wraps up



Pictured above receiving the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce 2019 Nonprofit of the Year award: Kaethe Zellner, Lynn Kutalek, Nancy Judge, Sharon Smith, and Board President, Joe Niemeyer who was also nominated as "Volunteer of the Year"

Contact Us:

Evergreen Christian Outreach

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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 - 3pm
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

Board of Directors

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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 Founda-

EChO STAFF

Sharon Smith
Executive Director

Kaethe Zellner
Director of Client Services

Kathryn Cantrell
Rachel Saylor
Client Advocates

Deann Reichenberger
Food Bank Manager

Lynn Kutalek
Food Bank Assistant Manager

Mary Petrich
Volunteer Services Director

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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

Rachel Mosch

Ruth Mosch

Sheri Zoburst

Aide Hillman

Mandi Evans

Mollie Markey

Claudia Brough
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Claire Diaz

Lana Dolly

Sandra Moog

Gloria Offe
Susan Scheuermann
SER Trainees

Thank you to our 2018 Turkey Trot Sponsors....

Inglenook Energy

Chuck Latham Associates

EVOLVE Nutrition

Church of the Transfiguration Evergreen Dental Group Liv Sotheby's Lookout Mountain Church

Shirley Septic

New Beginnings...

Spring is a time of “New Beginnings”. All around us we see signs of new life. Things are changing. Some are a gradual transformation, others are more immediate. But, these changes provide us with hope. We know that things are changing for the better – emerging from the darkness and offering a new day, renewed energy and a brighter day full of life.



Just like in nature, our lives are constantly evolving and changing. Sometimes an opportunity to change is planned and nurtured, other times it can be unexpected, even shocking, and definitely life altering. All create a chance to begin anew by taking that first, and sometimes hard and painful step forward.

At EChO we are fortunate to be part of many new beginnings. New clients, existing clients, staff, and volunteers – we are all changed and transformed as a result of our involvement with EChO. While meeting the basic and urgent needs of people in our mountain community has been and will continue to be our main focus, we realize that programs, services, assistance, and knowledge and skills are essential to help create new beginnings and second chances for individuals and families. We are extremely proud of the many programs and services we provide and the impact we have made in our community and in the lives of our residents.

New beginnings are possible because something changed. And while all changes may not have “good beginnings”, we can help create a good new beginning for our life. Change can be good. It energizes us. It provides us with hope.

At EChO we restore hope and change lives. Each of us has the potential to make a difference and change a life. Thank you for being part of this!

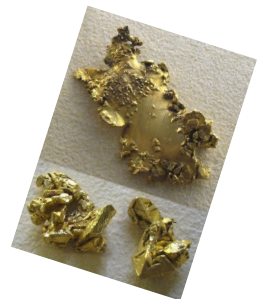
Sharon Smith

STAFF NOTES

We Say Goodbye.....



Only in Colorado do you resign from one job because you inherited a gold mine! After 4 1/2 years of service, we thank Beckie Mosch and wish her and her husband all the best in their new endeavor.



And We Say Hello.....



“Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.”

Seneca

Deann Reichenberger joins us as the new Food Bank Manager and Brenda Gibson has taken over as the Job Center Director. Stop by to welcome them both.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering: An Opportunity for New Beginnings

Life is a series of transitions for everyone. Making the commitment to volunteer one's time is a decision made considering many factors and stage in life. The EChO volunteer workforce is comprised of people of all shapes, sizes, ages and backgrounds. It is a diverse and fascinating collection of people who come together for a common purpose. This combination of personalities and interests somehow blends beautifully to fulfill the mission of EChO.

Rhonda Wilson has been volunteering for a year and a half. She and her family settled in Evergreen after spending four and a half years in Switzerland. Her children are 7 and 9 so she was a stay at home mother who was looking for opportunities to become involved in a meaningful way to serve in her new community. When Rhonda's children started school in the fall she did her research and the EChO food bank became her devotion. She says that she feels she is making a tangible contribution to the welfare of others and that she feels an immediate sense of accomplishment. Each shift at the food bank is peppered with "Thank you's" so she has continual confirmation that what she is doing matters. She engages directly with the food bank clients and comments that the gratitude expressed by the shoppers is "huge and humbling".



Rhonda Wilson



Tammy Stortz

Tammy Stortz came to volunteer at the EChO Resale Shop after a series of changes in her life. She taught Special Education in the local schools for 33 years before taking an early retirement to care for her mother. When her mother passed away she decided that instead of returning to the classroom and substituting like many retired teachers, she was ready to embrace something new. She declared that she wanted to take on new challenges, do something meaningful and broaden her perspectives. She loves cashiering at the Resale Shop because it is a fun environment that allows her to learn new skills and keep her brain engaged. She enjoys the social aspect of the volunteers and shoppers and truly looks forward to her time there. Working in retail also allow her to indulge another passion. She loves fashion and lives by a motto borrowed from Oprah; "Never leave the house without looking as cute as you can be." Like many fashionista volunteers she enjoys promoting the resale shop by modeling the clothes she buys and sharing her style secret with her friends.



RESALE STORE



Donations that are given to the EChO Resale Shop all have new beginnings. Our community graciously donates their items they no longer have room for, need or want. These items are processed back into our store with many new beginnings or given to repurpose to other sources for great causes.

Clothing, shoes, housewares, décor, toys, furniture, sports equipment, artwork, linens, books and media donations are processed into our store for customers to happily purchase. There are brides to be that find amazingly beautiful wedding gowns. They could be classic vintage or an originally very expensive, new gown. Getting a fantastic deal on nice, quality furniture is always popular at EChO, replacing your dish set with a new one and splurging on a gorgeous set of wine glasses as well. Teachers love to replace broken toys and find educational items at very low prices for their classrooms. Parents love to save on sports equipment and gear for their children. Many books find their way to our local jails. Finding the perfect piece of artwork for a price you can afford is always exciting! Its fun to hear in the store the wonder, excitement, practical use and pure enjoyment these items bring to their new owners.

Merchandise that has been discounted for some time and hasn't sold also is given a new beginning at EChO Resale. We assist unbelievable stewards that give to important causes here and around the world. Clothing, shoes, medical equipment and devices go to Crutches for Africa, the Tarahumara Indians in Mexico, Venezuela and to a small town in the southwest corner of Colorado. Furniture, pictures, housewares and more assist the Veterans to furnish apartments or homes for our veterans who need housing. When unfortunate situations happen here in our community like a house fire, flood or relocating quickly, we assist with clothing, furniture and more. These items can be crucial and new beginnings for many in need.

EChO Resale also recycles as much as we can. At the moment we recycle our batteries, ink cartridges, boxes and cardboard. Books, clothing, purses, shoes, linens and luggage that are not in the condition we can sell are also repurposed. We still reuse paper and bags for wrapping purchases at the store and use as much donated supplies like pens etc. for operations as possible.

We hope by sharing this information you feel happy, responsible and good about where and how your donations receive their new beginnings. Donations are reused and repurposed in many ways. They can go directly to our neighbors in need and they may help others in difficult circumstances in Colorado and faraway places as well. The proceeds from the sales of the store assist Evergreen Christian Outreach's many important programs. We thank all of our donors, customers and special people who get these items to the entities who need them and ultimately giving them a new beginning.

HAPPENINGS AT THE RESALE STORE.....

Beginning later in May, you can purchase tickets for the July 11th Sneak Preview performance of "The Wedding Singers" 7:30pm show at Center Stage Evergreen. The stage is set in New Jersey, 1985....A wannabe rock star is left at the altar and finally changes his tune!

Get your ducks here! Ducks for the 2019 Dam Ducky Derby put on by the Evergreen Downtown Business Association will be on sale at the Resale store throughout the summer. Come in to purchase your ducks for a chance at the top prize of \$1,500.





CLIENT SERVICES

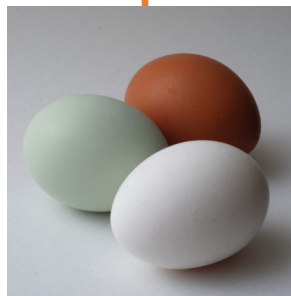
The EChO Client Advocates are always available to assist people in our community with their basic and urgent needs. We do through this by providing wrap around case management, crisis assistance, food, financial assistance, counselling, referral, and shelter. This could include, helping someone find a GED program, obtain much needed identification, apply for emergency financial assistance, create a budget, find shelter, and more. Our ultimate goal is to help individuals and/or families to realize their potential and steer them on a path to self-sufficiency. Our case management approach is to “start where the client is”. What that means is listening carefully, respecting the circumstances that our clients may present to us, and beginning our work by addressing the most urgent **client defined** needs.

FOOD PANTRY

King Soopers has changed how we can help EChO. No longer do you need a separate re-loadable card. Now EChO will receive a percentage of your purchases based on the rewards card you already use. To designate EChO, go to: www.kingsoopers.com to create your own account. Once that is complete, go to “Community Rewards” and enter “Evergreen Christian Outreach” in the search bar and select us from the pop up list. This will not impact the rewards you currently receive, such as gas discounts. And then every time you shop and swipe your rewards card or enter your phone number, EChO benefits! This a great New Beginning



In January, EChO was awarded \$6,500 in a State grant that required us to purchase foods made here in Colorado under the “Colorado Proud” label. Since winter is not the best time for produce, we focused our efforts on dairy and protein making 2 separate purchases of 150 - 200 pounds of beef directly from a cattle ranch in Strausburg, CO. We also entered into a contract to purchase 60 dozen of eggs each week directly from Royal Crest Farm and weekly purchases of “Colorado Proud” milk from King Soopers. Our clients have appreciated the weekly milk and eggs and the access to high quality ground beef and stew meat on a consistent basis. We continue to work with our local representatives to encourage them to continue this funding on a permanent basis.



EMERGENCY SHELTER

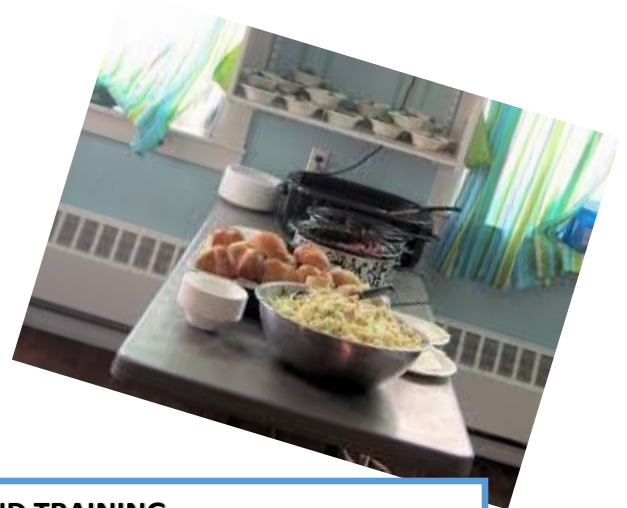


Evergreen Shelter Program's third year of operation has been our most successful yet. Our season ran from October 22, 2018 to March 31, 2019 and we had over 400 shelter stays! For comparison, we had 109 shelter stays in our first season and 36 in our second season. The shelter rotated weekly between five local places of worship: Congregation Beth Evergreen, the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, Christ the King Catholic Church, Bergen Park Church, and Evergreen Lutheran Church. These sites and our volunteer base of over 300 people provided shelter, hot meals, and compassionate interaction to individuals and families experiencing homelessness on cold weather nights.

We attribute our great success this season to the revisions and changes we made this year. First off, we raised our temperature threshold from 20 degrees to 32 degrees, so we have been open anytime the outside temperature has dropped below the freezing mark and we have had a substantial volunteer team. Secondly, we have allowed guests to drive their own cars to the shelter, instead of having to take a bus. Our guests were always reluctant to leave their car with all of their belongings in a place that it could be towed, broken into, etc. In addition, we have also allowed pets into the shelter.

With the help of EChO, we have been able to help guests attain physical and mental health services, obtain jobs, secure housing, and achieve more self-sufficiency. We are already planning our next season and look forward to even more success in the future!

If you would like to be involved in our 2019-20 season, contact Kathryn Cantrell at: Kathryn@evergreenchristianoutreach.org



2019-2020 Season KICK-OFF AND TRAINING

Join us October 20th at 2:00pm in Douglas Hall on the site of the Church of the Transfiguration.



EChO Artisans

EChO Artisans are talented and dedicated women and men handcrafting works of art, which we sell at local arts and crafts shows. All proceeds are donated to support the valuable and varied works of EChO. In contrast to the Resale Shop, we sell our quality items at prices that reflect a portion of the time and effort to create them. The Alternative Gift Fair in November is our most important venue for raising funds. Other events include the annual Foothills Home, Garden & Lifestyle Show sponsored by the Evergreen Rotary, and Evergreen's Western Arts Festival. EChO Artisans appreciate the continued support of the EChO Community.

If you'd like to join the fun, please email Liz Hawkins at ephawk123@gmail.com.

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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