2016 Spring Newsletter



The mission of EChO is to provide assistance to residents of the Evergreen mountain communities who are unemployed, under-employed, dealing with a long term illness, or experiencing other forms of personal crisis.

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Connections from the heart . . . residents find unique ways to give back

Last winter a local photographer, Sharifa Moore, approached EChO about doing family portraits for our clients free of charge. She would also do portraits for anyone else and donate the proceeds to EChO. When asked why she wanted to help in this way, her response was, "Growing up we had very little and only had a couple of professional portrait sessions, mostly during infancy, and later the only photos that were professional in nature were my school photos. I think a lot of families are in this position, which is why I wanted to give back."

There were others who also had unique and fun ideas to give back to EChO and ultimately our community. Kay D'Evelyn La Montagne of Mountain Home in Evergreen hosted a Christmas Concert at her store asking for canned goods as cost of admission and then surprised us with a monetary donation as well. Mike Delany, local author of The Moose Jaw series has done numerous book signings at the EChO Resale Store and donates a portion of the proceeds back to EChO. John Erlandson and the Boogie Brain Trust continue to offer fun concerts at local venues for EChO. Bruce and Pat Thoms wanted to do something for their 50th wedding anniversary, so they planned and brought in a Elvis Tribute Artist and had 2 concerts which gave back to EChO. It was such a huge success EChO is hosting the event this year with 3 concerts. We've had children ask for food donations instead of birthday gifts, families host Christmas parties and have the guests to write a check to EChO instead of exchanging gifts. Madera Salon offers discounted hair cuts to clients during the year.

This community is SO creative and SO giving. We thank everyone for all they do for EChO and our community. Keep the ideas coming we, LOVE IT!

Contact Us:

Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO)

P.O. Box 1515 Physical Address: 27640 Hwy 74

Evergreen, CO 80437-1515 Phone: 303-670-1796

Fax: 303-679-2721 Food Bank Hours Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 am – 4 pm

Enrichment Center: 303-670-7123

Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 10am-3pm

EChO Resale Shop: 303-679-8280 3763 North Evergreen Parkway

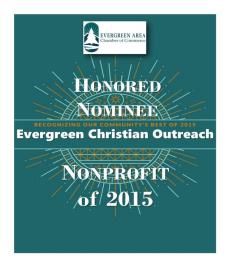
Located in the Evergreen North Shopping Center EChOresaleshop@evergreenchristianoutreach.org Store hours – Monday- Saturday 10 am – 5 pm

Donations accepted Mon-Sat 10 am – 4 pm info@evergreenchristianoutreach.org

ECHO IS ON FACEBOOK!

Please check us out!
"Like Us" and "Friend Us"
to keep spreading the good news.
Evergreen Christian Outreach
and EChO Resale Shop







Cars for Charity

Is your car aging? Time to do something with it? Even if it isn't running, or simply not worth trading in, consider donating it to Cars for Charity on the EChO website. It is so easy. **Click on the picture for the**

link. We have had 3 people in the last 4 months donate cars. They pick up your automobile for free. You receive a tax deductible receipt and EChO receives a check. So easy! Keep it in mind.



Message from the Executive Director Sharon Smith

As I sat down to write this article for our newsletter I couldn't help but be amazed at the number of ways EChO is connected with and to our entire community.

From the moment someone enters EChO, he or she is connected to a plethora of services, individuals, resources, organizations and agencies. No matter what the reason for coming to EChO – to seek assistance or offer assistance, we are all connected.

Within EChO our programs and services fit together to help support individuals in our community who may need "help and hope" to move from a crisis at hand. Like working on a puzzle, we carefully look at and evaluate the available options to see how we can best support our clients.

Within our community local non profit leaders meet regularly to learn how we can best support our residents and to understand and identify the unique "piece" we each play within this mountain community. No one organization is capable of providing all the services and resources needed for everyone, but our connections allow us to piece together the best resources and services on an individual basis. EChO, Seniors Resource Center, Mt. Evans, Mountain Area Pregnancy Center, Mountain Peace Shelter, Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity and Mountain Resource Center have been working collaboratively to make a difference in our area.

Our local Service organizations, such as the Mountain Foothills Rotary, the Evergreen Rotary, Blue Spruce Kiwanis, Pathfinders, and the Salvation Army are all connected to this community and to EChO . Their generous financial support helps provide funds that help residents in crisis, either directly or with program assistance and funds.

A desire to help and serve others has created a very strong connection with members of our faith community. Just recently community and faith leaders came together to address a need in our community. A severe weather emergency shelter program has been launched and over 100 volunteers have been trained. Still in the start up phase, this program will provide a warm, safe and welcoming environment on severe weather nights to members of our community who are experiencing homelessness. Pre-registered guests will be offered a warm meal, a place to sleep, and a breakfast to go when extreme temperatures or snow is forecast.. Our connections with existing programs "down the hill" have provided the training and education needed to help implement this program in our community. Our goal is to have a fully operational program ready for the fall of 2016.

EChO is also connected to many of our community business members. Our food bank could not exist without the support of our local grocery stores, restaurants and businesses. Did you know that monthly we received approximately 20,000 lbs – that's 10 tons of food, into our food bank? That's a lot of food! And, it comes in and goes out, helping almost 300 households monthly. Even our pets are cared for with donations from veterinary clinics and pet food stores.

EChO's membership and participation in the Evergreen and Conifer Chambers of Commerce has provided valuable connections and partnerships to help our clients and to provide opportunities to community members and businesses. Our semi-annual Job Fairs as well as our Business Roundtables have helped strengthen our business community by identifying needs and linking job seekers with employers.

And of course, we couldn't do what we do without our connection to each and every one of you. Volunteers, staff, our clients, our supporters, the shoppers in our Resale Shop and the many people who donate goods, cash, or their talents. You are the core pieces that connect us and allow us to grow and move forward.

Our connections link us all together and certainly reinforce that we need to work together if we are to be successful. As I look at all we do and how we connect with others in our community, I believe we are a "good fit". Thanks for making EChO an important piece of our community and thank you for connecting with us. ~ Sharon Smith

427 Volunteers
=
28,834
Volunteer Hours

276,655 Meals
=
627 Families Fed

175 Job Seekers + 65 Businesses = Job Fair



EChO STAFF

Sharon Smith Executive Director

Cathy Baim
Director of Client Services

Janice Kaup Client Services Manager

> Cindy Costello Bookkeeper

Art Robbins Food Bank Manager

Lynn Kutalek Food Bank Assistant Manager

Mary Petrich Volunteer Services Director

Sumi Schroeder Front Desk/Office Assistant

Jennie Page Jobs Program Director

Beckie Mosch Asst. Jobs Program Director

> Lori Frease Development Director

Karen Soper Sandra Moog Patricia Wafer Enrichment Center Program Assistants

EChO RESALE Staff

Kim Gaudet Manager

Roxann Berland Floor Supervisor

Lisa Stewart
Backroom Supervisor

Joel Gamache Warehouse Supervisor

Walter Dominguez
Rick Lynch
Michael O'Leary
Ben Foster
Warehouse Donation Clerks

Scott Robinson Furniture Finisher

Samantha Austin Mary Sousa Alex Purcell Becky Smith Sarah Amen Rene' Marshall

Donation Clerks
Christine Lapointe
Floor Merchandiser

Paula Mann Karen Triberti Cashiers

Margie Molina Gary Clemons Leaman Lee Resale Assistants



Jennie Page
Director

Beckie Mosch
Assistant Director

Building Connections. EChO's Jobs Center strives to build programs and partnerships to help our clients reduce barriers and move forward towards self-sufficiency. In 2016 we are proud to provide our community with new tools and resources to optimize client success such as building strong government service relationships as well as increasing access to EChO's popular new Basic Computer Program.

EChO's Jobs Center Director and Assistant Director recently met with numerous Jefferson County Department Heads to share program information and learn about the latest policy changes that impact our clients. EChO walked away with new resources and the improved ability to assist our mountain clients to access important services. We can now facilitate information sharing and establish appointments with multiple agencies for clients before they head down the hill. Since our clients have many barriers such as childcare, and transportation issues, our goal is to help clients access services and decrease frustration with a one-visit strategy. It made all the difference to a pregnant client with 3 children to learn that education grants are available and she can receive childcare assistance while in school prior to visiting multiple government offices in one day.

The Jobs Center's most popular community service is our Basic Computer Program. Developed last fall by our exceptional Assistant Director, Beckie Mosch, the Basic Computer classes have been attended over 100 times in less than six months. The original purpose of this important program was to provide the community with the basic computer skills needed to help seniors increase employability. Our supportive business community has many job openings and is willing to hire the talented and reliable senior workforce if they have more technical training and confidence. After starting the program we quickly realized that EChO not only filled a large computer training void in the mountains but created a niche for Basic Computer training that does not exist locally. The news spread like wildfire and we have found that our classes are full well in advance.

To build more resources into our program, EChO's Jobs Center recently partnered with Mountain Reads to link the importance of computer and reading literacy. Mountain Reads provides volunteers during computer classes to develop trusting relationships with clients that may need their literacy services to successfully navigate learning the computer. To increase our computer program's accessibility, we have partnered with Senior Resource Center (SRC) and will bring our computer classes to the yellow house every month. This will allow mountain area seniors to utilize SRC's crucial transportation services to attend EChO's computer classes.

We are excited to announce plans to expand EChO's successful Basic Computer Program. EChO will build a computer lab at the Enrichment Center to meet the community's demand for computer access and support. We will have staff and volunteers in the computer lab to provide requested technical assistance for our clients to increase computer skills and confidence.

If you would like to get involved in the Jobs Center Computer Program and/or have a computer you would like to donate, please contact Beckie Mosch, at 303-670-7123. ~ *Jennie Page*



at the Enrichment Center

It is exciting to see new changes underway for the Art Studio. As the pieces to the

puzzle fall into place we find creative energy and excitement in the air. As the many pieces take the shape of different images, we find innovative ways to help move people forward.

Our volunteers contribute many pieces to our creative environment. These pieces ultimately contribute to many in our community. By sharing their talents of making beautiful items to be sold in the Resale store at the Artisans Corner, they contribute funds to help our community. Their endless hours of dedication to share their unique and skillful crafts generate financial resources needed for those struggling to feed their children or put gas in their car to make it to work. Show our volunteers your appreciation for all they do for our community and purchase one of their handmade treasures at the Artisan Corner at the Resale Store.

The Mountain Area Home and Garden Show is another connecting piece of the Art Studio. It will be on Saturday April 30th and Sunday May 1st at Evergreen High School. We are offering new classes in preparation for items to sell at our booth at the show. Join us in the fun of painting birdhouses, terra cotta pots and art rocks by calling 303.670.7123 to reserve your spot at one of these classes.

For others, the Art Studio is a supportive haven for individuals to discover new strengths they never knew they had. This piece to our puzzle is introduced in our "Klosely Knit: Therapy Group." EChO Client Services is uniting with the Studio to offer an intimate group get-together. It is our hope that knitting becomes a relaxing and enjoyable activity to open one's heart to helpful healing. This class will start in May; it is currently not open to the public.

Visual changes to our space is the last piece to share with you. This progress is underway as we make a more enticing area to stimulate creativity. Progressing through this transformation we are enlightened by what is beginning to emerge. If you haven't been by the studio in a while, come visit our work in progress.

As we look at the image of all these pieces brought together at the Art Studio we see helping hands, hopeful hearts and many heading for new heights as we move forward. ~ Beckie Mosch



Coffee Club - Monthly Networking Lunch



Art Robbins
Manager
Lynn Kutalek
Assistant Manager

Recently, a gifted and talented class of students visited the EChO food bank to learn more about what we do. They toured the

facility and asked many questions. The annual visit invites conversation to enlighten, to demonstrate how important food is and to connect food to a variety of social issues. We talked about health as it relates to poor diet – the ability to concentrate, illness, insurance and medical needs/costs, and stress from worrying about feeding families - all factors connected to nutrition. Our visiting dietician intern, Susie Spears, provided more detailed information about protein, carbs, fruits and vegetables and the importance of balancing our diets. Subtle connections at first glance, but critical to everyone's success.

My time with these students caused me to reflect on my days as a food stamp benefit case auditor and the obvious choices clients had to make every month – buy food or pay for utilities, medicines, or rent. It also reminded me of a food bank client who recently asked me how to bake a potato. Her question caused me to consider how our clients store and prepare food. Can they afford the fuel to cook and store food? Do they know how to handle food safely? This created an opportunity to augment our intake process and further connect with our clients and their ongoing needs. It expanded EChO's mission to connect resources to fill these needs.

Our clients are our neighbors. They live and work among us as massage therapists, housekeepers, fire mitigation experts, handy persons and painters. We need them here as much as they need us. By reducing the worry of feeding themselves and their families, they are able to focus on regaining stability in their lives. EChO helps here too, with multiple training opportunities.

The students reaffirmed new beginnings and their interest in the community was refreshing in many positive ways. And they always stir introspection in me. Please consider how connected we all are as we look forward to spring. The needs of our less fortunate neighbors never end. It's important to keep in mind how they impact each of us, regardless of how slight the connection might be. ~ Ant Robbins

FOOD BANK NEEDS

- Hearty soups (5 grams of protein min)
- Cold & Hot Cereal
- Canned Beans black, pinto, refried, kidney, white & chili
- Toilet Paper
- Pullups
- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Coffee
- Toothpaste

- Razors & Bar Soap
- Toothbrushes
- Sugar
- Whole Grain anything
- Canned Fruit
- Gift Cards \$5-\$25 Walmart, King Soopers, Safeway

BOLD indicates urgently needed items



Cathy Baim
Client Services Director
Janice Kaup
Client Services Manager

Connections: Something that joins or connects two or more things and has the same cause, origin or goal.

Client Services has embarked on a new means of making connections with individuals seeking assistance that walk through our door. Whether it is someone's first visit or a returning client, we ask and request in writing, how we can help them move toward sustainability and hope. One client wrote, "My goal is to be able to stand on my own two feet without the services of EChO." That is also our goal in our work with clients. We connect with clients at their starting point to develop an individual action plan. Our connections build relationships, give hope and meld our ideas with them. Understanding where an individual is, we help them make connections with resources within EChO, in the community or other agencies down the hill. We meet with clients as often as needed to provide the hope and motivation they need to accomplish their goal. Each individual's situation is unique, as well as their ability to move forward.

We also have an additional connection we can provide to our clients in the area of free individual and group counseling. Currently through August, Client Services has the addition of a Denver Seminary graduate student, Katelyn Webb. She is making connections by offering individual counseling once a week and a therapy group, 'Klosely Knit'. (Please see EChO Studio article for more information.) She will also be involved in a program that offers life skills to those that are having a tough time finding or keeping a job. These new programs will begin soon. We welcome her addition and expertise!

Sometimes when dealing with a life changing event, you may feel overwhelmed. Our Client Services team sees this, and can connect our clients to others who have gone through similar situations.

The team continues to make connections with the other programs EChO offers-- the Jobs Program and the Studio Programs which are located at the Enrichment Center. It is our hope that these additional programs as well as computer trainings and budgeting classes will assist our clients also. If we can assist you or others, please contact Client Services located on the grounds of The Church of the Transfiguration, 27640 Highway 74, Evergreen or call 303-670-1796. ~ Cathy Baim

"Without the help of EChO and the Salvation Army we would not have been able to afford our car repair. We can now get to work safely!"

"B"



Help Earn Money for Food Bank

EChO is collecting Box Tops for Education. Send your box tops in and/or donate food with box top labels. Drop at Resale Shop or the Food Bank.



Kim Gaudet Operations Manager

Evergreen Area Chamber of Commerce 2015 Ruby Award Winner - People's Choice

The EChO Resale Shop is a hub of

connections. All of these connections make shopping there fun, meaningful and economically wise. EChO has amazing support from the donors of the mountain community who graciously donate items to be sold at the store. Our customers make a connection to the fantastic items and purchase them at an unbelievable prices. Resale is a great place to shop in daily. Each day there is different merchandise from all over the world. Proceeds from the sales in the store are used by EChO to fund programs to assist our neighbors in need. This connection makes shopping at EChO Resale very meaningful, knowing that each purchase can change someone's future for the better.

The store is clean, comfortable and organized. It's easy to stop by on your lunch hour and get a great deal. The store strives to price merchandise at a minimum of 75% off retail prices for most items. Collectables and antiques are cheaper than the local antique and consignment stores. When you walk into our store you feel like you're in a boutique or department store. Our merchandise is clean and in "Like New" condition. Top the low prices off with a daily deal for even more of a discount and you have become a savvy, saving shopper.

The store has many more connections in our beautiful community. We partner with have donated displays to the Mountain Resource Resale Shop and Mountain Mother's for their new updated look, we work with Salvation Army when a home burns down and their clients need assistance and most recently we will be having our first "Stuff The Truck" fundraising event with PeaceWorks. Both of our organizations assist our neighbors with domestic issues and would like to promote more awareness in our communities of these services. We will have two separate events. Bring your CLOTHING ONLY donations from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and help support this great cause May 7th in Evergreen, Evergreen North Shopping Center parking lot and May 21st in Conifer, Park-In-Ride parking lot.



Lastly, I would like to mention the unbelievably, strong connection within and between our employees and volunteers who work at the store. One group could not do without the other in the store and the respect and camaraderie are one of the biggest successes of the store. I thank all of them for their hard work and dedication. \sim *Kim Gaudet*





Resale Staff: Christine Lapointe - Floor Merchandiser, Roxann Berland - Floor Supervisor, Kim Gaudet - Operations Manager (David Bolding and David Wilson with Wild Game) Joel Gamache - Warehouse Supervisor, Sharon Smith - EChO Executive Director (Janice Stutters with Seasonally Yours)



Thanks to your generosity we raised over \$40,000 on Colorado Gives Day.

DONATE NOW THROUGH COLORADOGIVES.ORG



Mary Petrich Volunteer Services Directo

Volunteering is an opportunity for people to connect with their passions.

The ability to focus on your interests is not often an option in one's professional life, so when time permits, it is not unusual for people to volunteer in a capacity that allows them to devote time in a manner that brings them joy and satisfaction while making a contribution their community.

You do not have to dig deep to see examples of EChO volunteers pursuing their passions. In each area of the organization, volunteers work daily in ways that support the EChO mission.

At the beginning of the school year EChO supplies backpacks and long lists of school supplies for each of our client's children. Retired teachers, who appreciate the value of these items, are the core coordinators and donors who make that program happen.

The cornerstone volunteers of the jobs program have resumes showing successful careers and extensive experience in business and human resources. They lend their expertise to help others build skills in their search for employment.

Volunteers with exceptional craft skills such as sewing, knitting and painting devote their time to conduct classes in the Enrichment Center Studio. Nutritionists and volunteers with exceptional cooking skills share their talents by creating delicious and nutritious recipes to share in the food bank kitchen.

Sometimes a volunteer's passion to share is as simple as a desire to be kind. A smile or small act of thoughtfulness can make all of the difference in someone's day. A caring heart and a desire to build a better world is a spirit that connects volunteers to their passions and their community is a better place because of that. EChO is blessed and inexpressibly grateful for all of our volunteers.

We hope all of our volunteers will allow us the chance to say "Thank you" at the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on April 29. ~ Mary Petrich



School's Out for Summer!

Great News for the kids, but can cause concerns for families. Summer is the hungriest time of year. Many kids who rely on school meals struggle to get enough to eat during the summer months.

NEARLY 1 IN 5 COLORADO KIDS MAY NOT KNOW WHEN OR WHERE THEY WILL GET THEIR NEXT MEAL.

EChO has recognized this growing need and is continuing it's Summer Lunch Program in 2016.

Since 2012 we have seen the demand increase from 32 children to 187 participants in 2015 and we anticipate even higher numbers in 2016. We will continue to provide nutritious lunches to children in our mountain community this summer.

We need your help to continue this program and to purchase healthy and nutritious choices for families.

Our buying power enables us to purchase more food for less money.

☑\$10 purchases lunches for one student for one week

☑\$30 purchases lunches for one student for one month

☑\$100 purchase lunches for **one student for entire summer.**

☑Any amount appreciated.

Our goal is to raise \$2,000 to fund our summer lunch program. Please send your donation to P.O. Box 1515, Evergreen, CO 80437 or click on link below.

https://www.coloradogives.org/EChO/overview to donate safely and securely.

Thank you for your support!

"I'm a single mom with two children who is working full time, but still does not make enough to feed my children. Thank you EChO food bank!

We couldn't make it without your help" ~"K"

Upcoming Events - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April

29 - Volunteer Breakfast @ El Rancho Brewing Co. 30 - Mountain Area Home & Garden Show - EHS

May

1 - Mountain Area Home & Garden Show - EHS 7 & 21 Stuff the Truck Clothing Drive

13 - Boogie at the Barn Concert to support EChO

23 - Cody Tickets go on sale at 10:00am MST

June

6 - Summer Lunch Program Starts

11 - 9Cares Colorado Shares at Bergen King Soopers

16 - 100 Holes of Golf (Evergreen Rotary)

July

18 - Andy Smith Golf Tournament (Foothills Mtn. Rotary) 29, 30 & 31 – Elvis Tribute Concerts

August

9 - Back to School Clothes Shopping -Salvation Army & School Supplies

September

1 - Wine Pairing at Wild Game

November

12 - 9Cares Colorado Shares at Bergen King Soopers

18 - Thanksgiving Concert

24 - 7th Annual Turkey Trot

December

6 - Colorado Gives Day

For more specifics on each of these events check out our webpage.

<u>EvergreenChristianOutreach.org</u>

If you wish to receive your newsletter by mail, please submit your email address to:

lori@evergreenchristianoutreach.org

HELP US PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER CODY ROCKS THE ROCKIES!

Back by popular demand.





Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Cody Ray Slaughter

With The Living Vision Band

Cody's uncanny portrayal of Elvis has won him fans worldwide. His incredible voice, moves and looks will make for a concert you won't forget. Don't miss this amazing performance. Prepare to be wowed! www.CodyRaySlaughter.com

Tickets go on Sale on May 23, 2016 @ 10:00AM, MDT

303-987-7845 or www.Lakewood.org/Tickets

Proceeds to benefit Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO) www.EvergreenChristianOutreach.org



Making Connections!

www.EvergreenChristianOutreach.org 303-670-1796

Volunteer Appreciation Week—April 10-16

EChO would like to thank our 427 Volunteers who put in 28,934 hours in 2015. Come join us and help us hit 500 in 2016!



Evergreen Christian







Thank you to EVERYONE in our amazing Community!









Providing Food and Services to our Mountain Neighbors since 1986



