## 2015 Fall Newsletter



# A Cornucopia of HOPE Help, Opportunities, Programs, Education

Offering HOPE to help people move from the crisis at hand towards a better tomorrow...

**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.

#### **Board of Directors**

Mike Reid, President
Mark Hines, Vice President
Kelly Haley, Treasurer
Linda Smith, Secretary
Jan Aitken
Kristy Anderson
Jim Dries
John Ellis
Nick Hoffman
Ruth Krauss
Art Martin
Cathleen McManus
Bud Madigan
Jim Rohrer
Judy Sherman

#### Changes to our Board of Directors

We would like to welcome our new Board Members; Kristy Anderson, Jim Dries, Nick Hoffman and Jim Rohrer

To our outgoing members Mike Bornhouser & Frank Pasqua – thank you for your support and service.

#### 2015 Turkey Trot Title Sponsor



www.evolvenutrition-colorado.com

#### THANK YOU TO EVERYONE READING THIS NEWSLETTER!

#### TIME+ TALENT+ TREASURES

The gifts you give make a difference to our neighbors who are facing difficulties.
Especially at this time of year the pain can be magnified by the world around them. WE are so grateful for all that you do for EChO. Our EChO family of volunteers, donors, and friends continues to grow as people hear our stories, Please share this newsletter with neighbors and friends.

God Bless YOU!

2014 and 2015 Turkey Trot Sponsors



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#### **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

Enrichment Center: 303-670-7123

Office Hours

Monday 10 am - 6 pm

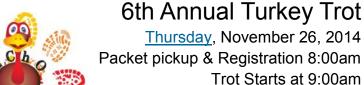
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 am – 4 pm

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

Put the turkey in the oven and come join us for our





PRE-REGISTER to Guarantee a t-shirt.

- \$25 for an adult (12 and older)
- \$10 for a child (12 and under)
- \$65 for a family of 4
   Register online at <u>evergreenchristianoutreach.org</u>
   or pick up forms at EChO Office or EChO Resale

# Message from the Executive Director Sharon Smith

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

- Robert Louis Stevenson

As I sat down to write an article for the fall newsletter I came across this quote and thought, this is so perfect for EChO! During the past few years we have been busy "planting the seeds" for new programs to help people move from their crisis at hand to a place of hope. Hope...for a better tomorrow.

Like all new undertakings, there's a lot of time and energy devoted to planning and laying the groundwork. Then you need to nurture it, tweek it, make some more adjustments – then wait to see what happens. Is it viable? Will it grow? How long will it take before we can determine if it is successful?

At EChO we have been working on ways to help people move forward. What programs, resources or opportunities can we develop or offer to assist the approximately 300 unique households that visit EChO monthly? And how will these programs help?

The Jobs Program was developed and the foundation has been laid for The Studio, two programs that we feel will help people move forward. In addition, we believe that access to healthy and nutritious food is essential. Educating individuals on ways to make healthier lifestyle choices has become a goal of the EChO Food Pantry.

As with many new programs or endeavors, we have had some slow periods, waiting for the program to "take root" and for us to begin to see the fruits of our labor. We aren't done yet, and we still have many opportunities to grow, but we have begun to "harvest" some success stories!

We have seen individuals "blossom" after receiving one on one coaching in our jobs program; new skills have been learned in our studio classes; the unemployed have obtained jobs; increased attendance at classes by clients and community members is occurring; and a renewed sense of purpose and hope is being observed by many who visit our Enrichment Center. Watching these transformations has been so rewarding for all of our staff and volunteers.

Sometimes it takes a while to get back on your feet. Sometimes it just takes hope – Help, Opportunities, Programs, and Education. And while everyone has a different journey in life, I feel confident that the seeds we are planting and nurturing today will continue to produce programs and resources needed to help our mountain community for years to come.

Here's to an abundant harvest of hope!

Sharon

#### **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

Janice McClure The Studio Manager

Lori Frease Development Director

#### **EChO RESALE Staff**

Kim Gaudet Manager

Roxann Berland Floor Supervisor

Lisa Stewart
Backroom Supervisor

Scott Robinson Warehouse Supervisor

Rick Lynch Furniture Donation Clerk

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

April Taylor-Green Samantha Austin Mary Sousa Alex Purcell Becky Smith Sarah Amen Donation Clerks

Christine Lapointe Floor Merchandiser

Paula Mann Karen Triberti Cashiers

<sup>&</sup>quot;Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

#### **EChO Jobs Program**

at the Enrichment Center Jennie Page, Director Beckie Mosch, Assistant Director

The EChO Jobs Center is celebrating its one-year anniversary. We are experiencing a programmatic harvest due to the tireless work of Center staff and volunteers who have expanded business partnerships, job availability for seniors, and created new basic computer courses.

EChO's volunteers Ken Carlson and Bruce Thoms took the lead and planned two Business Round Table events along with the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce and Mountain Resource Center. These forums brought businesses together to focus on serious workforce issues facing our mountain community: lack of affordable housing (which reduces the number of available applicants), wages and retention, transportation, and business culture. During the second gathering we brainstormed possible action items to move towards solving these challenges. We hope the third meeting will bring forth actionable ideas to get the results needed to strengthen our business community.

The Jobs Center is lucky that the economy has improved and we can help our clients find many available positions. The issue is that there are more jobs currently open than job seekers to fill them. We realized that individuals over 55 are a tremendous resource and group that want to work, but many have experienced age discrimination and/or need updated training. Businesses state that they are willing to hire seniors if they have updated computer skills. We are addressing these issues with two programs: SER SCSEP and computer programs.

The goal of the Department of Labor's SER SCSEP grant (Senior Employment Rehabilitation) is to provide job training for unemployed (low income people) over 55 to increase their employability. EChO now has 8 SER grant employees and is advocating to local non-profits to participate in this free grant. So far, Senior Resource Center and Elk Run have created SER positions and we hope more will follow. See page 6 under new faces at EChO for the new SER employees at EChO.

Word has spread and many seniors have visited EChO's Jobs Center for job coaching, resume assistance, coffee clubs, and help finding employment opportunities. To increase their job readiness, our Assistant Director Beckie Mosch created effective basic computer classes (Basic Computers, Basic Word, and Basic Internet) that have become extremely popular. With this education we hope that our clients can successfully enter back into the workforce with confidence as well as fill some critical gaps in business employment applications. One area we have significantly helped is Jefferson County's Food Service / Nutrition Team cafeteria staff shortage. At the end of the summer the mountain schools needed nearly 20 positions and now there are only 3 openings. EChO's Jobs Center is doing our part to link our clients to available jobs that support our business community and will strive to continue this positive progress.

#### The EChO Studio

at the Enrichment Center Janice McClure, Manager

After a difficult divorce, Margie Molina found herself depressed and isolated. She stayed home "doing nothing" but read about all the programs EChO has to offer when she visited the Food Bank. Margie talked to Janice McClure in client services about the Enrichment Center's Art Studio. She visited the Studio and was immediately hooked. Visiting almost daily, Margie took advantage of everything and learned to sew, knit, and how to design mosaics. Her skills skyrocketed to the point she recently signed EChO's second contract to sell her items in EChO's Resale Shop's Artisan's Corner.

Ms. Molina believes, "there's nothing I can't do. I needed to get out and everything was just right at the Art Studio. It is a safe and supportive place. I went forward and never look back because I can't change the past." Margie wishes others would understand that EChO has so much to offer. "They give up too easily. You've got to give something a chance since there's so much to learn. Now I know I have a lot to offer."

You would never know that up until recently, Margie wasn't comfortable socially. She's got the brightest smile and wins you over with her friendly personality. Now she tries to connect and talk to people she meets and often stops by the Jobs Center to sit in on the Jobs Seeker Coffee Club. Things are looking up as Ms. Molina just located a wonderful apartment and was accepted into the SER SCSEP grant program to work 18 hours in a local non-profit.

We continue to add classes (to learn and enhance skills) and workshops (where volunteers make great products). Card-making, crochet, watercolors, mosaics, and jewelry-

making are just a few of the fun classes we are planning. Check out our calendar of events and register for a class today, at no charge.



#### **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



#### Food Bank

Art Robbins, Manager Lynn Kutalek, Assistant Manager

News Flash! Fall is harvest time! OK, everyone knows this. But did you know that late this summer and early fall EChO has received many garden windfalls? From local families who want to share their bounty to the Evergreen Community Garden and the Bergen Park Farmers Market? In fact, well over a thousand pounds of peppers, tomatoes, squash, potatoes, melons, have been donated. Our community of clients has truly enjoyed these gifts and as we move further into the fall, several anticipated food drives will restock the shelves here at EChO. 9Cares, RMAE, Thanksgiving benefit concert and The Turkey Trot are still to come this year. Another harvest of sorts.

And let's not forget the many other donors from local super markets to smaller local stores, specialty shops and private citizens who make this food pantry work. These businesses and individuals contribute to the harvest, helping our neighbors in need.

EChO also operates an auxiliary program, providing firewood for many of our clients. Several live in homes without conventional heating systems and others use the wood to defray utility costs. This summer and fall, many calls offering firewood have been received filling our wood bins and shed with cords of wood. A different type of harvest, but still important.

Luckily for EChO, harvesting is a year round event as the need never ends. As we move one family into a self supportive situation another comes to our door. This past year we've "harvested" several individuals and families, moving them into sustainable lives. In effect, they were harvested from the EChO garden.

Some of this harvested bounty will go toward holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are already planning menus and will start taking Thanksgiving orders later this month. Christmas follows close behind. Our neighbors still need our help so please consider EChO for your holiday giving. Remember, life is like a garden - we get out of it what we put in.

#### FOOD BANK NEEDS

- Hearty Soups/Stews/ Chilis
- Cold & Hot Cereal
- 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

#### **EChO's Family Services**

Cathy Baim, Client Services Director Janice Kaup, Client Services Manager

#### THE HARVEST FOR CLIENT SERVICES

#### Harvest is a time that you reap what you sow. It is also a result of your actions.

Our hope for Evergreen Christian Outreach clients is that the seeds planted will grow and provide a productive harvest affecting their lives in positive ways. Client Services at EChO continues to provide the seeds to help nurture growth toward sustainability. Starting this November, new and current clients will be presented with options to encourage this movement forward. Our mission continues to be providing assistance for the crisis at hand. Our goal is to assist those coming through our door to return to a level of self sufficiency and sustainability. Our expectation is that our clients will work with us toward bettering their situation. EChO offers job assistance, budgeting classes, nutrition classes, life skills, computer classes, and other workshop/class options.

We talk about planting seeds, watching them grow, and finally reaching the harvest of sustainability and self sufficiency for our clients. The total impact number of clients served for September 2015 is 822 adults and 300 childrenan example of the number of clients that we need to engage and move forward. We believe that EChO can continue to provide not only hope but growth and movement forward for the mountain community we serve.

#### **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.

#### St. Nicks Gift Giving

If you would like to purchase gifts for some of our families that need a little extra help around the holidays, we will



have Adopt-a-Child. Families sign up for a gift they want their child/children to have and you will be able to choose which child for whom you are shopping.

All the details are on our webpage and detailed instructions of how you can participate.

EvergreenChristianOutreach.org/StNicks

# EChO Resale Shop Kim Gaudet, Operations Manager

The atmosphere at EChO Resale from January through September is similar to the hard, productive work in a field. Donors graciously and consistently bring in donations to the store, employees and volunteers work tirelessly in taking great care in processing those donations and loyal customers purchase them feeling good about helping a great cause. It can be similar to tending crops. Our goals are to harvest high proceeds to assist our neighbors in need. It's about this time in October that donors, customers, volunteers and employees at Resale begin to see how well their hard work and dedication to EChO will yield for the year.

This is always a good time of the year to recognize all the amazing people who contribute to the success of the EChO Resale Shop. Thanks have been given for successful harvests since early times. Like fall celebrations, EChO would like all of the people who assist us to know how very thankful we are to you!

We have some new, wonderful faces at Resale. Please stop by and welcome Sara Amen, Joel Gamache, Michael O'Leary, Ben Foster, Alex Purcell and Becky Smith. These are very talented employees and we are glad they chose to be on team EChO! Joining us also from SER are Robert Lollar, Gary Clemmons and Margie Molina.

As beautiful as a harvest moon, the store's transformation/completion has been a huge success. If you haven't been in lately, be sure to stop by and see reap the benefits of our fantastic merchandise at spectacular prices.

A friendly reminder to our faithful donors; we accept gently used donations Monday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00 pm. Please be sure when dropping off donations they are a manageable size of approximately two to four boxes or bags.

Thank you again for everyone's support!

2013-2015 Turkey Trot T-Shirt Sponsor



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#### **New Faces AT EChO**

We are pleased to announce that **Beckie Mosch** has joined EChO as the Jobs Center Assistant Director. Ms. Mosch has developed trainings and marketed for non-profits, universities, and corporations. EChO is lucky to have Beckie's talents as we strive to move clients forward and provide the community with programs that will increase employability. She recently developed three popular basic computer courses that have packed the Center with new participants.

We have a new person in Client Services. Janice Kaup is originally from the Midwest by way of Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a graduate of Miami University with a BA in Sociology. She worked for over six years as a caseworker in child welfare. Janice is an Evergreen resident with two daughters in the Evergreen Schools and a husband, who according to Janice, is the "best guy on earth." Janice is thrilled to work for EChO to help provide a positive impact for the people in the mountain community. Welcome Janice Kaup!

Client Services Staff



Linda Parkins, Janice Kaup, Cathy Baim, not pictured Sumi Schroeder,

The Enrichment Center: Jobs and Studio Staff



Sandy Moog, Jennie Page, Janice McClure, Karen Soper, Beckie Mosch

# Volunteer Spotlight Mary Petrich, Volunteer Services Director

The phrase "You reap what you sow" can easily be applied to the philosophy of the EChO volunteers. They give of themselves in the most heartfelt way, sharing their work efforts, time and talents to help the less fortunate in our community. They commit to the mission and dedicate themselves with the knowledge that they are enriching the lives of others, making their community a better place.

There are over 300 active volunteers in service to EChO. To attest to the level of commitment, there are statistics to share. Currently there are 84 volunteers who have been involved for more than 5 years, with 34 of them in service for over 10 years. There are a few who have been involved with Evergreen Christian Outreach since its inception almost 30 years ago. The preeminent question is "Why do the volunteers feel such a commitment to the organization?" Here are some of the answers received.

- "I've been fortunate in my life, and this is my chance to help others who might not have had the chances I did. Our clients are so grateful for the services we provide. I am happy to be able to help them. "Linda: Food Bank Volunteer
- "The Resale Shop is such a positive atmosphere. It is a joyous, happy group with good hearts. Every time I work in the store, I go home happy." Les: Resale Shop Volunteer
- "EChO has a heart and it is good for the soul." L.: Food Bank Volunteer
- "I see the hope we bring to people who believed that no one cared." A.: Food Bank Volunteer
- "Volunteering with EChO and the Jobs Program allows me to make a difference to those people who are feeling very alone, having lost a job. Their self-confidence may never have been lower, but providing assistance with their job search helps to lift their confidence to levels which many did not realize." Bruce; Job Center Volunteer

Whatever the reason, the end result is that EChO thrives because of the dedicated commitment to the community demonstrated by its volunteers. It is not possible to thank them enough.

#### **Upcoming Events - MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Christmas Portraits at the Resale Store. Nov. 7
   10am-4pm. Sharifa Moore will donate her services and is asking for donations of \$50-\$75 to benefit EChO programs.
- **Food Drive at Evergreen Safeway**—Nov. 5th through Dec. 25th. Turkey Bucks are back.
- *9Cares Colorado Shares*—November 14th. 8am-4pm at King Soopers—Bergen Park. You can shop for EChO while doing your own shopping. A needs list will be handed out. Help us restock our shelves for the holidays.
- Alternative Gift Fair—EChO will have a booth and be selling handcrafted items made by our volunteers. Evergreen Lutheran Church—5980 HWY 73
  Saturday, November 14th, 9 am to 4 pm Sunday, November 15th, 9 am to 3 pm
- Thanksgiving benefit concert for EChO at Lariat
   Lodge November 20th —6:00-10:00 p.m.
   \$10 Suggested donation and a bag of nonperishable food.

- *5th Annual Turkey Trot—November 26th*Thanksgiving Morning 9am
  Come out an trot with us before your turkey dinner. All proceeds benefit the food bank and other programs at EChO.
- *Colorado Gives Day*—December 8th. You can go to the website and designate your donation for Colorado Gives Day. ColoradoGives.org
- *Ice Melt Contest*—The Barrel will be launched on Evergreen Lake in January. But you can start purchasing tickets NOW. Tickets will be available at EChO Resale. Guess the date and time the barrel falls into the Lake and win \$1,000, \$500, \$250 or \$125. Tickets \$3/each, 2/\$5 or 5/\$10. Be on the look out for IC Elk Sightings.
- February 12th—Valentines Day Dance and Dinner at El Rancho Brewery.
- July 22, 23 and 24—SAVE THE DATE!
   Cody is Back to ROCK the Rockies. Tickets will go on sale early spring.

For more specifics on each of these events check out our webpage. <u>EvergreenChristianOutreach.org</u>

# Volunteer Appreciation Brunch and Fashion Show







Ribbon Cuttings EChO Resale Shop Final Expansion

Conifer Chamber of Commerce (top 2 pictures)

Evergreen Chamber of Commerce (bottom 2 pictures)



# Thank You

Thanks for supporting EChO (Evergreen Christian Outreach) through 100 Holes of Golf.

Over \$3,000 was raised and will help fund the summer lunch program for the local children.

Our 2015 Golfers (left to right)

Mark Hines, Art Robbins, Jean Wells, Lori Frease, Laurie Vaggalis Ken Carlson, Jim Dries, Bruce Thoms





# GOOD TEST FOUNDATION 12.08.15

### Support EChO on Colorado Gives Day!

Colorado's largest one-day online giving event, presented by Community First Foundation and FirstBank, is coming up and we need your support.

On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, thousands of donors will come together to support Colorado nonprofits like ours. Last year, a record-breaking \$26.2 million was raised for Colorado nonprofits. Our portion was \$36,068. This year, our goal is to raise \$50,000.

#### **About Colorado Gives Day**

Colorado Gives Day is powered by ColoradoGives.org, a year-round website featuring more than 1,650 nonprofits. ColoradoGives.org encourages charitable giving by providing comprehensive, objective and up-to-date information about Colorado nonprofits and an easy way to support them online.

#### \$1 Million Incentive Fund

Thanks to Community First Foundation and First Bank, Colorado Gives Day features a \$1 Million Incentive Fund, one of the largest gives-day incentive funds in the country. Every nonprofit receiving a donation on Colorado Gives Day receives a portion of the Incentive Fund, which increases the value of every dollar donated.

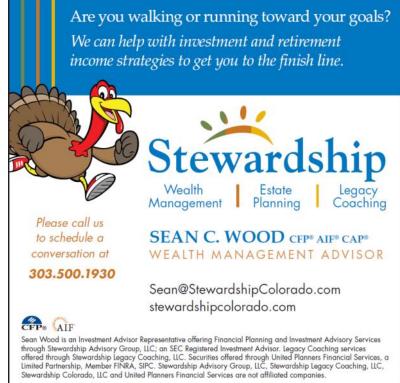
# Check out our donation page on ColoradoGives.org/ EChO/overview

Give where you live on Colorado Gives Day. Your support helps us continue to help individuals move from crisis situations towards sustainability and self-sufficiency by offering HELP and HOPE to people in need. EChO provides food, clothing, and resources to meet the most basic and urgent needs of our mountain residents. Over 300 families visit our food bank each month and our Jobs Program, Enrichment Center and educational assistance offers hope to individuals for a better future.

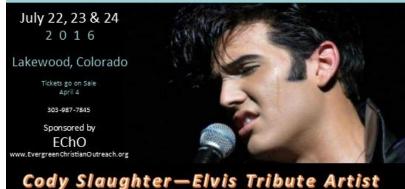
Beginning November 1, 2015, donations can be scheduled ahead of time and count on Colorado Gives Day, December 8, 2015.

DONATE NOW
THROUGH
COLORADOGIVES.ORG

#### 2014 and 2015 Turkey Trot Sponsor









# Vote for EChO Resale Shop.

Click on picture below.



#### Business of the Year Award:

Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO) Resale Shop | Evergreen Clothing Company

Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD) | Hands On Fire Massage

King Soopers | Lariat Lodge Brewing Company | MindBlown LLC

Mountain Vet to Pet | Seasonally Yours and Taffy Too | Stagecoach Sports Grill

The Harris Law Firm, P.C | Vertical Skills Academy | The Wild Game Entertainment Experience

#### People's Choice Award:

Big Kahuna BBQ | Blue Quill Angler | Colorado Serenity

Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO) Resale Shop | Evergreen Clothing Company

Evergreen Park & Recreation District (EPRD) | Evergreen Players

Hands On Fire Massage | Highland Haven Creekside Inn | Inspired Fitness

Janet Redford | Lariat Lodge Brewing Company | Mindblown LLC | Seasonally Yours and Taffy Too

The Harris Law Firm, P.C | The Wild Game Entertainment Experience | Tupper's Team

Vertical Skills Academy

#### New Business of the Year Award:

Benck Accounting & Tax Services, Inc. | Essentials for Health Evergreen
Foothills Center for Spirituality | Hands On Fire Massage
k2 Signs and Graphics | Lariat Lodge Brewing Company
Pupperdups Pet Salon & Boutique | Suzie's Boutique
The Harris Law Firm, P.C. | The Wild Game Entertainment Experience
Vertical Skills Academy