

# C ommunity Ministry C H R O N I C L E

1755 S. Zuni • Denver, Colorado 80223 • 303-935-3428 • Fax 303-975-9917



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**Food Bank  
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Sonja Martinez

**Clothing Bank  
Coordinator**  
Joyce Neufeld

**Newsletter Editor**  
Joyce Neufeld

## Mission Statement

To serve the Lord Jesus Christ by helping to meet the needs of the people within the community who are experiencing economic hardship and related problems both physical and spiritual.

## Holiday Preparations Underway

With Christmas in July, the School Supply drive, and the Walk behind us, we are now preparing for the many activities associated with the holidays. This year the churches have been divided into a Thanksgiving box group and a Christmas box group. The intention is that each church will only bring food for one holiday and not be overwhelmed with collecting food for two months in tremendous amounts.



Thanksgiving is early this year, so those churches collecting for it will need to have their food to the food bank by November 8! The boxes will be made on November 13 by the girl scouts and distributed on the 18th and 19th.

A similar plan is scheduled for the Christmas box and Christmas Sharing tree. Food must be at the food bank by December 6. Everyone is invited to assemble the boxes on the 11th. Gifts should arrive no later than December 13 - preferably sooner. Wrapping will take place the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and distribution of food and gifts on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. We are counting on you to make this holiday season a success!

## Important Information

Food Bank Mon-Thurs 10a-2p

Clothing Bank Thurs 9a-12p

Main Phone: 303-935-3428

Food Bank: 303-936-0469

Fax: 303-975-9917

Email: [contact@comministry-denver.org](mailto:contact@comministry-denver.org)

website: [www.comministry-denver.org](http://www.comministry-denver.org)

## Coming Events



Cannery - October 27 morning  
Nov. 18 & 19 - Thanksgiving Distribution

Dec 11 - Christmas box preparation

Dec 13-15 Wrapping

Dec 16 to 18 - Sharing Tree and Christmas Box Distribution

## Walk Results



This year's walk was blessed with beautiful weather. Nineteen churches participated in the walk with 96 individuals walking or helping. Just over \$4000.00 was raised. Thank you to Karen Bluhm for her organization of the walk, the many helpers, walkers and sponsors!

## Money Crunch



CM, like many other non-profits, is in a money crunch.

The giving from churches is down noticeably this year. We are on the year-off cycle for many grants and private donations have decreased. At the same time the client load has increased to serving almost 2000 clients in August! We have tightened our belts and are only paying the bills and staff, purchasing food in minimal amounts as needed and being creative in what goes into the client bags to offer a balanced meal. We have also reduced the size of the newsletter and manner of distribution to cut down on printing cost. How can you help? Consider giving an end of the year tax deductible donation to CM. Check on matching funds through your job. Ask your church to put CM into their budget for next year as mission giving. Hold a fund raiser with your church or other organization, and most importantly, pray that we will be faithful stewards of the monies we receive.

## Volunteer Opportunities

- Food Bank
- Food Pickups
- Food Bank of the Rockies
- Canning
- Clothing Bank
- Coupon Clippers
- Clerical Work
- Computer Maintenance
- Newsletter
- Events
- Photographer
- Quilting Club (baby blankets)
- Graphic Art & Board Layouts
- Christmas in July Food Drive
- Back to School Programs
- Annual Walk
- Sharing Tree Children's Gift Program
- Souper Bowl Sunday (soup canned food drive)

*Thank you to the schools that volunteer on a weekly basis: Littleton Public Schools Special Needs Students and the Kennedy High School Special Needs Students*

## School Food Drives



The school food drives are off to a great start... and just in time! The inventory at the food bank is incredibly low. This year the schools have been strongly encouraged to spread the drive dates throughout the year. This will help with keeping the shelves stocked on a more consistent basis and help solve the storage issues we had when all the food was donated during the holidays. This year Henry Middle School has set the pace by bringing in 3100 items in one week with the last 2800 coming in the last two days! Traylor Academy is collecting the week of Sept. 20 and they are not intending to let the middle school do better than them. Sabin Elementary is collecting September 20 - Oct 1 and Westgate Elementary October 19-29. Doull Elementary and Kennedy High School will have their food drives in November. Kennedy is always very competitive and historically brings in at least 6000 items! Goldrick Elementary will start off the new year with a food drive in January. Joyce Neufeld is coordinating the food drives this year and is praising God for His timely and overwhelming provision for CM.

## Coats, Hats and Gloves

As the weather gets colder we hope you will consider donating your old winter coats, hats and gloves to the clothing bank. We take adult and children sizes for coats. We are still seeing many children. In June we saw 55, in July we saw 56 and in August, 96 children.

## A New Look

The publicity committee is working on updating the web-site, brochure, display board and letterhead. The goal is to have a unique, progressive look that will be recognized easily. At a recent governing board meeting a new slogan was suggested to replace "Helping people help themselves". The new slogan is "Unity in Caring". This reflects the unity of the churches of different denominations in caring for the needs of SW Denver. All of the time toward this endeavor is being donated.



## Commodities Coming

The city of Denver has turned over the distribution of commodities for seniors, children under six and infants to the Food Bank of the Rockies (FBR) because it was costing them too much. Food Bank of the Rockies has been looking for distribution sights at established food banks across Denver. After several meetings it was decided that CM would be one of the locations beginning October 8. FBR brings in their own certifiers and volunteers but they could use more volunteers. They will use the facility on Fridays when we are closed to clients. In exchange for using the facility CM will receive one ton of food each month FREE. That is equivalent to the amount that we have been purchasing. We anticipate that this may also bring additional clients to our current load.

## Food Bank Statistics

The number of clients seen by the food bank continues to increase. The large incoming food number in June is the result of a generous donation from The Salvation Army.

	June 2004	July 2004	August 2003
Families	473	396	511
Individuals	1,618	1310	1,815
Gas	17	15	14
Bus Tokens	545	425	400
Incoming Food	\$50,794	\$33,133	n/a
Out Going Food	\$30,634	\$32,785	\$30,455.00