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Food Bank Manager

David T. Gonzalez

Clothing Bank

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**Mission
Statement**

“to meet the basic needs of qualified people in Southwest Denver who are experiencing economic hardships and related problems.”

Making a Difference Every day

Everyday Community Ministry staff and volunteers are able to share not just food and clothing resources but a part of themselves with the clients who come in need of assistance. They do this by sharing a smile, a kind word and information about what other resources are available to them. Many times we do not know if we have made a difference until we get a note. Following are some of the notes that we have received that encourage us to continue doing what we do.

“Thank you for the blessings of food for my children.”

“We are very thankful about everything you wonderful people do every year for people like us who don’t have much.”

“I am most grateful for the Ministries kind, generous, funny volunteers and the good works that the Ministry performs. So many depend on your continued efforts. Bless you all.”

“I just want to thank everyone for everything you’ve done. You do a very good job.”

“Thank for everything you do for our family and kids.”

Thank you. You have been a good help to me and my daughter. Thanks for being able to help so many people.”

Comments like these, a smile, a “thank you”, these are the rewards we receive that remind us that we are making a difference everyday.



Community Ministry will be celebrating 40 years of service to the Denver community by hosting a fund-raiser called Celebración del Corazón. Since 1968, Community Ministry has been meeting the basic needs of qualified people in southwest Denver who are experiencing economic hardship and related problems. Services include a food bank, children’s clothing bank, utilities assistance, back to school supplies, and holiday food & gift programs.

Anne Trujillo of 7News has graciously agreed to serve as Honorary Chairperson of our first “Celebration of the Heart,” which will be held at the El Jebel Shrine Center on Sunday afternoon, May 18th from 2-5 p.m. There will be music provided by the Manuel

Lopez Latin Jazz Project, dancing (including Latin dance demonstrations), children’s activities, Mexican appetizers, a Silent Auction and more.

Tickets for this fund-raiser are:

\$40.00 per person

\$75.00 for a couple

\$125 for a family (up to 2 adults and 4 children 12 and under)

You may reserve a table for 10 for \$400.00 as a Silver sponsor.

Tickets may be purchased through CM or online through the CM website.

Event sponsorship is available at a variety of levels. Please call CM if you, your company or someone you know should be contacted for sponsorship.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Food Bank
- Food Pickups
- Clothing Bank
- Coupon Clippers
- Clerical Work
- Computer Maintenance
- Newsletter
- Events Photographer
- Quilting Club (baby blankets)
- School Supply Drive
- Annual Walk
- Holiday Gift Program
- Souper Bowl Sunday (soup canned food drive)

Wish List

- Copier
- Refrigerator/Freezer
- Upright freezer
- Outdoor sign for front of building
- White semi-gloss paint to paint shelves in food bank
- New underwear and socks for 0 - 12yrs for children's clothing bank
- Macaroni and cheese, crackers, dry beans, rice, elbow macaroni, spaghetti noodles, egg noodles
- Diapers – all sizes and baby wipes

New Board Members

Board members were elected in December to two-year terms. Each person brings special skills and enthusiasm to the board. New members are: Larry Bartz, Susan Castillo, Kathy Gaasivg, Mary Ortega. The board of trustees meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church unless otherwise announced.

Staffing Updates

David V. Gonzales joined the CM staff as Food Bank Manager in October. She brings over 20 years of non-profit experience, most recently with Volunteers of America; Meals on Wheels Jefferson County as their program coordinator. She has also worked for Curtis Park Community Center, Denver Alternative Youth Services and Westside Action Center. We are glad to have her. CM is also pleased to have Larry Lightfoot working as warehouse manager. He is a part of the Senior Resource Center job training program and is a valuable asset to our work.

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Spring will have sprung by April 25 when we have the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event. Invitations will be sent out soon. Mark your calendar now for this special day.

Statistics

Food bank clients 2007

	Families	Individuals
Total for the year	5,418	19,625

Clothing bank clients 2007

	Families	Children
Total for the year	283	934
Coats given out in 6 weeks		1,847

Donations Make a Difference

On December 4th CM was the recipient of 1,000 pounds of chicken donated by Tyson foods and sponsored by Lift Up America, Kroenke Sports and Food Bank of the Rockies. The Denver Nuggets Cheerleaders were on hand to help with the distribution. Large donations are critical to providing our clients with nutritious well rounded meals. Special food drives such as Souper Sunday are also very important. This years Souper Sunday, February 3, showed CM again how the generous donations of canned soup from coming from churches, schools and individuals can make an impact on our clients. A total of 8,858 lbs. worth \$17,184 were received by Community Ministry. Thank you to all those who contribute so generously for the special events as well as on a regular basis.

School Food Drives

School food drives are an excellent source of food each year. Thank you to Heidi Binazi for coordinating this years drives



Below are the schools that have held food drives this school year.

School Drives in 2007/2008

Force Elementary	1,981 lbs
Grant Ranch Elementary.....	528 lbs
Goldrick Elementary	2,275 lbs
Godsman Elementary	1,936 lbs
Green Mountain High.....	199 lbs
Henry Middle School.....	2,830 lbs
Kaiser Elementary School.....	1,257 lbs
Kennedy High School.....	4,185 lbs
Kepner Middle School	515 lbs
Kipp Elementary	685 lbs
Westridge Elementary	1,753 lbs
St. Rose of Lima School.....	300 lbs
Sabin Elementary.....	1,220 lbs
Traylor Elementary.....	3,000 lbs

Holiday Wrap up

“Thanks to you and God our Christmas was very happy.” “Thank you for everything and best wishes for you and your family.” “Thank you very much for all the gifts.”



These are just a few of the comments and notes that we received during the holidays. 150 food boxes were given out at Thanksgiving this year. 325 children received gifts, and an additional 160 food boxes were given out for Christmas. A special thank you to Ruth Weiderman and Livy Murry for organizing the Holiday Gift distribution and to the many volunteers that organized the food boxes. Thank you to all the churches and community organizations who provided food for the food boxes. Our clients also appreciate all the time and effort that made the holiday distribution a success. Thank you to everyone for giving of your time and energy to make this year's holiday distribution a success. Your efforts were appreciated by the clients and staff of CM.

Did you know...

- ... Community Ministry was highlighted in the January 4 Rocky Mountain News article by Season to Share?
- ...food bank volunteers put in over 5000 hours and clothing bank volunteers put in almost 700 hours in 2007?
- ...the coupon clippers cut for over 3,600 hours and raised over \$8,000.00?
- ...that 1,500 bus tokens and over 33 gas vouchers were given out in 2007?
- ...119 families received utility assistance?
- ...Community Ministry had 18 volunteers for the canning project putting in 72 hours?
- ...the school supply drive had 21 volunteers that worked 96 hours providing 400 children with school supplies?
- ...that 141 people gave 350 to the holiday programs?
- ...the board of trustees and governing council donated over 1,500 hours to leading CM?

Mark your Calendars

1st Tuesday of each month - Cici's Pizza night
April 15 - Governing Council
April 25 - Volunteer Appreciation
May 18 - Celebración del Corazón
June 10 - Volunteer Training
June 17 - Governing Council
August 19 - Governing Council
September 6 or 7- Annual Walk
September 12 - Volunteer Training

Partnership Benefits

Community Ministry partners with Garden Park Job Assistance Center to help our clients toward self sufficiency. In 2007, 500 clients came to the job center and 150 clients reported that they had found employment. If you know of companies with job openings please let the job center know at 303-975-2602.

Volunteer Training

Volunteer training is critical to the work at Community Ministry. Two training sessions were held in January to inform volunteers about our policies and procedures. Volunteers were also updated on sources of income, food purchasing power and problems as well as other services offered by CM. The training sessions were a great opportunity to meet volunteers that work on different days, jobs or locations. Some lucky volunteers went home with lovely door prizes. The training session was well received by all the volunteers who attended. “The best training we've had since I've been here.” “As a coupon clipper I didn't know all that goes on.” “I got to learn about all the programs Community Ministry has.” Volunteers were asked to complete new information and medical forms. If you are a volunteer who did not have the opportunity to attend a training session and complete new forms, please contact the food bank and an information packet will be sent to you.

Thank you to our supporters:

Thank you to our grant foundation and sponsor churches who supported us financially in 2007:

- Burt Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Synod ELCA
- Schlessman Family Foundation
- Kenneth Kendall King Foundation
- Wal-Mart
- Colorado State Bank
- Rocky Mountain Conference United Church of Christ
- Daniels Fund
- Gannett Foundation
- Light of the World Catholic Parish
- St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Parish
- St. Jude Catholic Parish
- St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
- Harvey Park Christian Church
- Harvey Park Baptist Church
- Christ Congregational Church
- Denver Grace Brethren Church
- Brentwood United Methodist Church
- The Rock
- Christ the King Lutheran Church
- The Light of Christ Anglican Church
- 1st Avenue Presbyterian Church
- All Saints Catholic

Thank you to our supporters cont.

- Church
- St Phillip and St James Episcopal Church
- 1st Assembly of God Church
- Trinity Lutheran Church
- Atonement Lutheran Church
- St Rose of Lima Catholic Community
- Bear Valley Christian Church
- Garden Park Mennonite Brethren Church

Volunteer Needs

- Volunteer drivers with a pick-up or large SUV to pick up food at Food Bank of the Rockies and/or COMPA Ministries on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesday mornings.
- In-take counselor on Thursdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Basic computer skills preferable but not necessary. Will train.
- Stockers on Fridays from 10:00 - 2:00 pm.
- Back door receiving help on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 - 2:00 pm.
- On-call volunteers

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or want more information, please call CM. We would LOVE to have you help us help others in need.

Important Information

Food Bank

Mon, Wed, Thurs 10a-2p

Tuesday 2p - 5p

Clothing Bank Thurs 9a-12p

Food and Clothing donations may be dropped off between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

Main Phone: 303-935-3428

Food Bank: 303-936-0469

Fax: 303-975-9917

Email: contact@comministry-denver.org

website: www.comministry-denver.org

Community
Ministry

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