

Turning Point

A Newsletter published by the Greeley Transitional House
Where we help homeless families help themselves

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Holidays 2006



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Teddy Sanchez, *Follow-Up Programs*

Coordinator

Anna Sanchez, *Admin./Volunteer*
Coordinator

Message from the Board of Directors



As we approach the upcoming holiday season, it is a time to reflect on the year that is quickly fading as well as look forward to 2007 and the excitement that it brings.

The Board is pleased with the accomplishments of the Greeley Transitional House during 2006. First and foremost, we continue to provide outstanding services to our clients in our never ending effort to help homeless families help themselves. This year will represent the first full year of operations in our new facility and we are proud to say that we were able to provide our essential services to over 100 Weld County families. Our caring staff continues a tradition of excellence in serving our clients and represents nearly 16 years of service at GTH and over 40(?) years in the industry.

Our emergence back into the community special event calendar was a huge success. Summerfest! held on August 19 at the St. Michaels Event Center hosted nearly 200 people for a great dinner and comedy entertainment. We are beginning plans for Summerfest! 2007 which will be even bigger and better.

Our Board continues to grow as we have added Chris Gentle of Cache Bank & Trust. Chris was on our Board several years ago before moving to Grand Junction. He has moved back to the Greeley area and we welcome him back to the GTH Board. In addition, we anticipate the addition of at least two more Board members in the next few weeks that will expand our exposure into the Greeley community.

As we look forward to 2007, we plan on growing Summerfest! into a bigger event with a larger audience, exploring additional funding sources, expanding our Board, increasing the public awareness of GTH and investigating the possibilities of planned giving and an endowment fund. These goals represent an aggressive work plan for the Board during 2007 but unfortunately the needs in our community make these action steps necessary. We believe we have the ability, energy and commitment from the Board to accomplish these goals and more!

We thank all of you for your continued support, both financial and volunteering, of the Greeley Transitional House. We wish all of you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Travis W. Gillmore
Board President



GET INVOLVED!

Volunteers are one of our greatest assets, and volunteering does as much good for the giver as the receiver! Here are a few examples of ways you could volunteer at GTH:

- Mentor or tutor children
- Spring or Fall Clean-up
- Organize holiday parties for children
- Develop a birthday club for kids
- Organize a mini-fundraiser - we have lots of fun ideas!

CONTINUING SUPPORT TO INSURE LONG-TERM STABILITY

By Michelle Frounfelker, former Board Member

Greeley Transitional House is “helping homeless families help themselves.” We provide a hand up, not a hand out, to give our families tools to become successful. Success is self-sufficiency – meeting basic needs with minimal, if any, outside assistance. Most often we have great success—occasionally we do not.

This is the final installment in our year-long series of profiling what GTH provides through the experience of one family. We first profiled Mitch and Andrea’s journey before they arrived at the shelter. They were young with a toddler and baby on the way, eager to put the uncertainty of living with family members behind them, and acquire a home of their own. Realizing education was the path to success; they completed their G.E.D. together at Aims while living at the shelter. GTH staff celebrated with them on their graduation. With their case manager they established short term goals and they found employment and housing before they left the shelter. The couple eagerly joined the optional Follow-up program to continue the support they received at the shelter. The Follow-up program supports families as they move

from homelessness to independence. GTH Case Manager, Teddy Sanchez, helps clients assess needs for education, job readiness, employment assistance, health care, personal hygiene, family planning, parenting skills, life skills, mental health, and substance abuse. During monthly meetings she monitors family stability in food, clothing, utilities, transportation, and housing. Teddy provides the family with support, information, referrals, advocacy, even serving as a liaison with community services to help the family become self-sufficient. Families receive these services for up to 24 months as long as they are compliant with the program’s requirements.

Mitch and Andrea were initially stable in the Follow-up program. They developed a plan for their future with Teddy. She provided guidance, particularly on their monthly budget. Unfortunately, through a series of poor decisions and negative peer pressure, Mitch became unemployed and was arrested for involvement with drugs. As their personal lives crumbled, they missed appointments with Teddy and eventually lost their housing, despite Teddy’s attempts to intervene. It saddens us to watch helplessly as a young family with so much potential loses the progress that was made during their work with GTH.

For every discouraging story, there are many positive and truly heart warming stories. Maria (name has been changed) arrived at GTH with her two school-aged children in July of 2005. During her initial interview, her children were crying. They were tired of moving from place to place with no permanent place to call home. In a year and a half of working with Teddy in our Follow-up program she is employed full-time, maintains stable housing, and only receives outside assistance of food stamps. Maria says, “The Follow-up program is such a good program – it has really helped me to get back on my feet. Teddy gives me so much support and is like a family member to me. I am so appreciative of her help.” Maria is one of many successes of the Follow-up program. Eighty-percent of the 35 families currently enrolled in our Follow-up program are employed. Ninety-two percent are stable in their housing. Only three out of 52 families this year have dropped out of the program.

We hope this series informs, inspires and provides you with insight into the vital services we provide. GTH is more than just a shelter for homeless families. To paraphrase an old adage: *“Give a family emergency shelter and you house them for a night. Teach a family how to find and keep a home, and you house them permanently.”* We hope you will join us

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Follow-up Program Coordinator. Teddy Sanchez joined Greeley Transitional House in 2002 as a part time House Manager and quickly moved to positions of increasing responsibility. She has coordinated the Follow-up Program for 3 ½ years. Teddy has over 15 years experience working with at-risk youth and families having served as the Crisis Coordinator and Youth Care Supervisor at Attention Homes in Cheyenne, Wyoming for 12 years prior to moving to Greeley in 2001 to be near family. She also worked as a Residential Specialist at Southeast Wyoming Mental Health while living in Cheyenne. Teddy possesses exceptional skills in crisis management, advocacy, service coordination, and client case management.



Message from the Executive Director by Jodi Hartmann

Do What You Can.....

The directive phrase, "do what you can" recently caught my attention as I was half listening to the television. It was during a commercial and I can honestly say I have no idea what the commercial was about but something inside of me heard that message. Anyone who has received an e-mail from me in recent months knows that at the bottom of my e-mail signature is one of my favorite quotes by John Wesley: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can." This quote inspires me every time I read it!

The beauty of this simple truth is that doing good is something everyone can do in as many ways as there are people to do good. Doing what each of us can to spread goodness and kindness in everything we do can change the world!



At Greeley Transitional House the staff, Board of Directors, and our community and funding partners do all that we can every day to try to end homelessness and support struggling families. We do this first and foremost by *simply caring* that there is a need for emergency shelter and supportive services for homeless men, women, and children in our community. We care that there are more than 700 individuals who are homeless in Greeley at any one time – the majority of whom are families living in unstable and substandard living conditions. We care that 185 children lived at our shelter this year and that 70 of those children were school age and needed our support to make sure they stayed in school during this difficult period of instability in their families.

We do all that we can to spread the message to the community that homelessness in Greeley is real and that it is a growing problem. We do all that we can to provide services that will help the 100+ families we serve each year find employment, housing, and the

support they need to become and remain self-sufficient.

We need your help. We need your financial support more than ever to continue these vital services. We need your in-kind donations of food, clothing, household goods and furniture to help our families get back on their feet. We need your volunteer time to help us keep our facility maintained and safe, to mentor our children and adults, to help us fundraise, and to help us govern the organization on our board of directors.

Greeley and Weld County have been very generous and supportive of Greeley Transitional House over its 21 year history and we are extremely grateful.

Please continue to "do what you can" to help us help homeless families help themselves. Imagine the profound effect on our community if all of us do all the good we can in all the ways we can.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Wonderful New Year!

We gratefully thank the following individual, corporate, foundation and church donors for their financial support from July through October:

Deb Deboutez
The Rock of Greeley
Steve & Laura Connolly
Monfort Family Foundation
St. Johns United Church of Christ
First United Methodist Church
Bryce & Michelle Sowitch
Mary Etta Moore
Edwin & Marjorie Kadlub
Kenneth & Lora Hester
Richard & Marcielle Trahan
Window World
Colorado Coalition for Homeless
Alliance Construction Solutions
Deborah & Ray Ullbarri
Family of Christ Presbyterian Church
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Verda Slaton
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The Tribune
Kennedy's Steakhouse
St. Michael's Event Center
Masoud & Vonda Shirazi
Todd & Pam Deschamps
Lowell & Margy Lewis
Shatraw Lowell
Michael Micozzi

Learn more about our program by visiting us on the Web:

www.greeleytransitionalhouse.org

E-mail us at:

info@greeleytransitionalhouse.org

We would like to create a "Friends of GTH" e-mail newsletter list. If you would like to be included please send us your e-mail address.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to assist highly motivated homeless families in attaining self-sufficiency by providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, and support services.



Client Services: July – Oct.

- Provided 3,775 Nights of Shelter
- 43 homeless families served
- 130 persons sheltered – 44 adults & 86 children
- Provided 35 Life Skills Classes for Families
- 37 of these families found permanent affordable housing
- 35 of the adults were working before or found employment
- Provided 525 hours of case management to 39 families in our Follow-up Services Program
- 100 volunteers provided 604 hours of volunteer service to GTH

Yes!

I want to help Greeley Transitional House Help homeless families help themselves.

Here is \$ _____

Name

Address

Phone Number

Please mail this form along with your donation (check made payable to GTH) to 1206 10th Street, Greeley, CO 80631.

Please send me information on how I can receive a 25% state income tax credit under the state enterprise zone contribution project guidelines for my contribution of \$100 or more to GTH.



Greeley Transitional House
1206 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80631

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