

Turning Point

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

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Summer 2006



Greeley Transitional House
1206 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80631

Message from the Board of Directors

After a three year hiatus from conducting a special event, we are finalizing the plans for what will be a fun and exciting new event for Greeley. Summer Fest! is quickly approaching! On the evening of August 19th at the St. Michael's Event Center, GTH will present an evening of dining and improvisational comedy. The dinner will be catered by Kenny's Steakhouse and the entertainment will be provided by the Denver based improvisational group "Chicken Lips." In addition, it will be a great opportunity for us to reconnect with many of our great supporters in a fun and relaxing environment. Please see the insert for more information about the event and how to order tickets. We hope to see all of you at Summer Fest!

This event would not be possible without the tremendous support of the entire community. I want to specifically mention the event sponsors that have made major contributions to the event: Wells Fargo, Flood & Peterson, Kerr McGee, Antiques at Lincoln Park, the Greeley Tribune, New Frontier Bank, KFKA-1310 Newstalk, Kenny's Steakhouse, Chicken Lips, and St. Michael's. I want to also thank those organizations and individuals that have purchased tables for the event. The support from the Greeley community is amazing and we appreciate your support for what is truly an essential program within Weld County.

We have also added two new Board members in the last few months. Deb Deboutez is a program coordinator with Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and brings a wealth of knowledge to the Board in the area of homelessness. Debbie Ulibarri has also joined us from Wells Fargo. She brings a great deal of energy to the Board and continues our long standing relationship with one of our great corporate sponsors, Wells Fargo. If you are interested in joining a great group of people that like to work hard (and play hard!) to promote the Greeley Transitional House as a Board member, please contact me or Jodi Hartmann, our Executive Director, for more information.

If you have not had a chance to stop by and see the new facility or meet Jodi, please do so. Also, mark your calendars for August 19th and reserve your tickets today for Summer Fest. This is sure to become one of the "can't miss" charity events in Greeley and it will be great to say you were there from the beginning. Besides, it is another great opportunity to "help homeless families help themselves".

Travis W. Gillmore
Board President



Buy your tickets now for
the 1st Annual
"Summer Fest!"

a fundraiser to benefit GTH

- Located at the new St. Michael's Event Center Depot Room and Outdoor Amphitheatre
- Catered Dinner by Kenny's Steakhouse
- Hilarious entertainment by the Denver Improv Group, "Chicken Lips" with a Beer Garden sponsored by Crabtree Brewing Company
- Silent Auction with many unique items!

SEE ENCLOSED FLYER
FOR DETAILS



Did you know that the vast majority of the clients we shelter at the Greeley Transitional House are children? In 2006 we will:

- Serve 150 children (compared to 100 adults)
- Serve almost 75 children ages 0-5
- Provide mentoring, advocacy and other supportive services to over 75 school age children

Providing Stability & A Plan for the Future

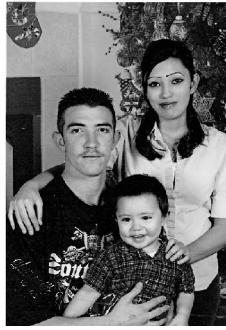
By Michelle Frounfelker, GTH Board Member

The Greeley Transitional House, a nonprofit agency, provides emergency shelter and support services for homeless Greeley area families. In our continuing effort to help the community put a face on the realities of homelessness, we are offering this second installment in a series of stories about one of the families Greeley Transitional House has served in recent months. In our first installment we shared the story of Mitch and Andrea and what they experienced as a homeless family with their young son. After months of living with relatives, sleeping on couches and not being able to save enough money for a place of their own, a life of their own complete with independence and confidence for their future, they arrived at GTH. The second phase of Mitch and Andrea's journey out of homelessness chronicles their experience while staying at the shelter.

A typical stay at GTH is 45 days long and begins with a meeting with the Case Manager to determine eligibility for the program. Mitch, Andrea and their young son arrived full of hope for a new start. They had heard about the program from Andrea's sister who advised them that the program would help them get on track with a place to live and the support they needed to meet their future goals. The program is designed for those willing to do the work to help themselves and Mitch and Andrea's willingness to do the work meant they had the foundation for being able to end this cycle for their family. So, the first step for change includes gaining an accurate picture of a family's current financial situation followed by setting goals that can be attained during the course of the stay and beyond.

Mitch and Andrea met with Case Manager Lori Casares and spelled out how they would meet their immediate goals of finding an apartment, completing their GED certificates that they had already started, as well as securing a job for both of them. Andrea was pregnant with their second child so she would have to wait until the baby was born for a more permanent job.

Daily life at GTH meant work on these goals but also a schedule of fitting their family into the greater group of families currently staying at GTH. There are daily chores that are rotated throughout the group like cleaning the living room areas and yard work. Each family has its own room and bathroom and must clean



"To be strong and independent and self-confident and always have future goals to feel good about ourselves."

---Andrea's vision of being self-sufficient

those daily. Families must also provide their own groceries and cook their own meals. Most families don't come to GTH with money in the bank to be able to buy basic necessities, so the staff at GTH helps them with the process of applying for food stamps and even Medicaid when necessary. An emergency food pantry, and supplemental hygiene items and diapers are available on a limited basis until the family secures other resources. For Mitch and Andrea this was vital considering their second child was on the way.

Their days at the shelter were also filled with completing job applications, job interviews and attending the mandatory evening life skills classes on parenting, budgeting, nutrition, etc. provided by GTH. On the bad days, and we've all had them, they were able to end the day on a safe, clean comfortable place filled with people who respected them for their efforts and believed they could go out and try again the next day. GTH strives to provide opportunities for individuals and families to gain the skills and confidence necessary to end the cycle of homelessness forever.

In Andrea's own words, "I felt like I was lost (when I arrived at the shelter) and my self confidence was low. But I accomplished getting my G.E.D. and I feel proud that I have started a new life and I got my confidence back. Through GTH my husband got his G.E.D. and a job and we found a place to call home."

Self-sufficiency is an important aspect of the GTH program but also the piece that Mitch and Andrea focused on. When asked what self-sufficiency meant to them they answered, "To be strong and independent and self-confident and always have future goals to feel good about ourselves." Today, after choosing not to give up each day, they are a family of four, living in their own apartment. In the next installment of this series we'll share details about their experience after the leaving the shelter and participating in the follow-up program that GTH provides.

NEXT INSTALLMENT:

Mitch & Andrea leave the Emergency Shelter and enter our Follow-up Program

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF



Assistant Director & Program Director Lori Casares has been an integral part of the growth of

the Greeley Transitional House since 1997. During her time with GTH, Lori has held several positions including; Follow-up Case Management, Follow-up Services Coordinator, and Interim Executive Director during the 2005 search for the new director.

Lori holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Family Sciences from the University of Northern Colorado. She also has an extensive background working with homeless families and children who have been abused or are at risk of being abused. Lori's training and skills in crisis intervention, advocacy, and assessments make her a valuable member of the GTH team!

Lori has the unique ability to convey empathy and compassion while enforcing accountability with her clients. She sprinkles her counseling sessions with a generous dose of humor, making her a trusted case manager and confidant to our shelter families.

Do you have used furniture that you need to get rid of?

Greeley Transitional House is a partnering agency in the **WELD CO. FURNITURE BANK**. The Furniture Bank is in need of furniture of all kinds YEAR ROUND to help our families get started in new homes.

Call (970) 978-8753 for pick-up/drop-off information
Or call GTH at 352-3215



Message from the Executive Director by Jodi Hartmann

It has been a very busy spring and early summer at the shelter. Since April 1 we have provided emergency shelter for 30 families (35 adults, 45 children). We have also worked with 34 families in our Follow-up program to provide support for these families that have left the shelter to remain stable and successful in permanent housing.

The demographics of our clients are changing. We are serving more families from the city of Greeley than in the past couple of years, and we are serving significantly more single mothers. Our clients are younger, and increasingly Anglo. While it is difficult to know if this is a permanent trend, tracking the statistics of our programs and demographics is an important activity that we maintain in order to keep our Board, funding partners, and the community informed of the needs of the low income population.

Another important activity for our agency is active involvement in community forums where policies, initiatives and funding decisions

affecting our programs and clients are made. We are active participants in: United Way's Emergency Services network, the North Front Range (Housing) Continuum of Care, Housing Colorado (affordable housing advocacy), the Colorado Nonprofit Association, and others. Why is this important to you, a friend and supporter of GTH? Because we want you to know that GTH is a leader in the nonprofit community and we are at the forefront in developing solutions for the needs of the low-income population through advocacy, planning, collaboration and program development. Not only are we providing essential emergency services for the community, but we are dedicated to being a part of the efforts to find solutions to the growing needs of the low-income population in our community.

WE CANNOT DO THE IMPORTANT WORK WE DO IN HELPING HOMELESS FAMILIES WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY. Funding remains a major challenge for our program

and we are dependent on individual, corporate, and church donations to meet our operating needs. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to GTH today using the form on the back of this newsletter. Also, remember that donations of \$100 or more are eligible for a 25% state income tax credit through the Greeley-Weld Enterprise Zone – meaning that the net cost of your donation would be \$75! Call me and I would be glad to help you utilize this financial tool.

Our upcoming Summer Fest! is another opportunity for you to provide valuable support for the shelter while having an incredibly good time! We are very excited about the new format of our annual special event – an evening that will include delicious food, casual fun, and lots of laughter. Who doesn't need an evening like that in their hectic lives?

We also welcome you to come by the shelter any time for a tour and to learn more about what we do. We love visitors and enjoy showing off our new facility. Call me at 352-3215 to schedule a visit.

"If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."

- Dalai Lama

Volunteer Opportunities at GTH:

- Handyman to help with minor maintenance
- Computer support & service
- Assist with Children's program Tuesday & Thursday evenings
- Reading, tutoring, mentoring children & youth
- Teach life skills classes in a variety of subjects
- Help make Summer Fest! an overwhelming success!

Call Anna Sanchez at 352-3215 for these and other volunteer opportunities.

We gratefully thank the following individual, corporate, foundation and church donors for their financial support this quarter:

Phillip Reichel & Eva Jewell
Deb Deboutez
Westside Carwash
Thomas & Doris Myers
Fellowship Christian Reformed Church
United Way of Weld County
Lorraine Bayer
Glenn W. McDonald
Kathleen Klein
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
United Way of Weld County
Willis & Evelyn Kulp
Beta Sigma Phi Council
Anschutz Family Foundation
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Agape Fellowship of the Greeley Place

Ruth Hoffman
Kalli Maher & Turner Hall Residents
Wells Fargo
Willis & Evelyn Kulp
The Rock
Walter H. Stewart
Wayne & Carolyn Maxwell
Steve & Laura Connolly
Robert & Lynn Waltman
Housing Authority City of Greeley/Weld Co.
Phillip & Gay Isis
Joe & Mary Etta Moore
Winograd Family Fund at the Community Foundation
Solecki Chiropractic & P.T. Clinic, P.C.

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

www.greeleytransitionalhouse.org

E-mail us at:

info@greeleytransitionalhouse.org

Mission Statement:

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

Your tax-deductible gift to GTH supports emergency shelter and support services for homeless families

GREELEY TRANSITIONAL HOUSE NEEDS THE GENEROSITY OF THE COMMUNITY TO SUSTAIN OUR SERVICES.

We are supported by a variety of public and private resources, but rely heavily on local individual and business donations. Over \$50,000 must be raised annually from private donations in order to continue these vital services for our community. Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

YES, I want to help homeless families help themselves with my gift of:

- \$50
- \$100
- \$25
- Other: _____

I would like to learn how to receive a 25% state income tax credit for my donation of \$100 or more through the Greeley/Weld Enterprise Zone.

Please make your check payable to Greeley Transitional House and mail it to: 1206 10th Street, Greeley, CO 80631

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPASSION & SUPPORT!

(please detach this form and mail it along with your check)



Greeley Transitional House
1206 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80631

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