



Turning Point

A Newsletter published by the Greeley Transitional House

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Spring 2007

The Invisible Homeless by Jodi Hartmann, Executive Director

Carla and Randy arrived at GTH looking anything but homeless. They were a middle-aged couple. She was educated and dressed professionally. He was an independent, stocky redhead. They both worked hard every day that they lived at the shelter, sometimes with temporary services, other times with day labor. They struggled to get their feet on the ground and to get re-established in housing. They had lost their housing through a series of employment layoffs. Carla and Randy did not outwardly fit the stereotype of the chronically homeless that might come to mind. But their pain, uncertainty and instability were just as real.

We see families like Carla and Randy on a monthly basis at GTH. They are our neighbors, our families, our fellow church members, our co-workers. They are families trapped in the terrible dichotomy between low wages and high housing costs. Frequently they have made bad choices or poor decisions. Many have broken marriages and relationships. All of them, like us, have dreams for their children

and the desire to have a stable, permanent home.

How prevalent is homelessness in Weld County, particularly among families? According to the Colorado Statewide Homeless Count conducted in August 2006 (GTH participated in this count), there were 529 homeless persons in Region 3, including Weld County, as well as the six sparsely populated counties in northeastern Colorado. It is reasonable to conclude that the largest percentage of these surveys came from the Weld County area. Of course, as noted in the survey, the one consistent finding in all research on homelessness is that surveys undercount the homeless. It is particularly difficult to count those homeless persons who are unsheltered (i.e. living temporarily with family or friends - the majority of cases of families that GTH serves).

Of the survey respondents, a majority (77%) were households with children. According to the Greeley Dream Team, a nonprofit program that provides services to homeless children in the Greeley-Evans School District, there were

290 homeless children (unduplicated) receiving services through this program this school year. Conservatively, these children represent 1,000+ homeless persons in our community alone, if you multiply those children by just 3.2 (the average family size served by GTH). We believe the statewide count significantly undercounted the number of homeless in the Greeley and Weld County area.

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The majority of families we serve are single parent families (primarily women) with very young children and infants.

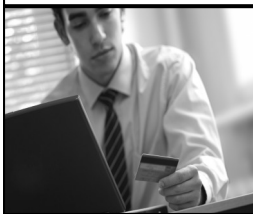
SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 11, 2007 will be the date of our 2nd annual SummerFest! This event is GTH's premiere fundraiser and is sure to be an evening you will look forward to year after year. Save the date now!

SummerFest!

An evening of casual fun, delicious food & laughter

It will soon be easier than ever to make a donation to the Greeley Transitional House. We are adding an electronic payment option to our Website in April for your convenience. Visit our Website at www.greeleytransitionalhouse.org



If you end up with extra furniture during your annual spring cleaning,, consider donating it to the

Weld Furniture Bank



Call us at **352-3215** and we will make arrangements for pick-up

**CLIENT SERVICES
JAN-MAR**

- Provided **2,886 Nights of Shelter**
- **32 homeless families served**
- **105 persons sheltered** – 39 adults & 66 children
- Provided **26 Life Skills Classes** for Families
- **25 of these families found** permanent affordable housing
- **28 of the adults were working** before or **found employment**
- Provided **526 hours of case management** to **43 families** in our **Follow-up Services Program**

Endowment Fund Established

Greeley Transitional House is very pleased to announce that thanks to the generosity of three of our key supporters, we now have an agency fund established at the Community Foundation serving Greeley and Weld County. We are very grateful to Florence Winograd, the Tointon Family Foundation, and Travis and Jennifer Gillmore for their

generous seed funding to establish the fund.

Even though day-to-day operational funding is critical to the survival of any operation, long-term planning and vision through investments such as the endowment and our new facility are equally as important. In the last three years GTH has become a much stronger and viable

organization because of the future-thinking support of donors like these who have supported these long-term investments.

We've established an endowment fund through the Community Foundation to make us stronger, now and in the future. Please call us to learn how you can support our agency forever.

Arby's Supports GTH with Fundraiser

Treat your family to a night out and help GTH at the same time. Arby's is sponsoring a Fundraiser Night to benefit GTH on the following dates and times:

Thursday, April 19

5:00—8:00 p.m.

~ and ~

Monday, May 14

6:00—9:00 p.m.

Arby's is located at 3010 W. 10th Street



20% of your purchase will be donated to the Greeley Transitional House.

You must present a fundraiser certificate when paying in order for GTH to get the donation. Call or stop by our office to get a copy of the certificate.

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

James & Pamela Shaddock
Willis & Evelyn Kulp
Sylvia Perchlik
The Comcast Foundation
Deb Deboutez
Ruth Hoffman
Derek & D'Anne Evans
Douglas Blanz
Chapter CR-PEO
Joe & MaryEtta Moore
Glenna Henderson

Travis & Jennifer Gillmore
Tointon Family Foundation
Associated Pharmacists, Inc.
Kathleen Hill
The Colorado Episcopal Foundation
Kathleen Power & Marty Ariano
Robert Waltman
Richard & Mary Kemme
Bank of Choice
Agape Fellowship of the Greeley Place
Steve & Laura Connolly

Ernest Martin Family Fund
Florence Winograd Foundation
Raymond Storck
Helen K & Arthur E. Johnson Foundation
Christian Women's Fellowship, First Christian Church
Dwayne & Nancy Kurtz
El Pomar Foundation
Suzanne Schulze
Roger Harbert
Debra Mauck

Message from the Board of Directors

The first quarter of 2007 has been active at GTH. In addition to the shelter being full more than 90% of the time, we have added some new faces and programs.

We welcomed three new board members in recent months: **Steve Bytnar**, Director of Research & Quality at EnviroTech Services, Inc., **Andy Laycock**, Project Manager for Hall-Irwin Corporation, and **Nancy Nemec**, Opinion Page Editor at The Greeley Tribune. I personally want to thank each of these community members for taking time out of their busy professional lives and families to serve on our board. I know they will bring valuable perspective/

expertise to our board.

We are also excited about the new endowment fund and believe it will add another valuable tool to our long-term sustainability efforts. A special thanks to Florence Winograd, Bob Tointon and Travis Gillmore for their personal commitments to this fund.

Finally, we believe that one of the most valuable aspects of the Greeley Transitional House program is the intensive case management programs we have in place. Working one-on-one with families to link them to the resources they need and giving them on-going support has been a proven strategy for helping our families become

self-sufficient. Our new Champions Program gives us further opportunities to reach out



Bryce Sowitch
Board President

to the community and help even more at-risk families.

GTH is a dynamic and growing organization and we encourage our friends and supporters to become involved in helping us help homeless families help themselves.

Wish List:

- Furniture of all kinds (in good repair)
- Toiletries, hygiene items
- Over-counter meds
- Baby supplies of all kinds
- Nonperishable food
- Children's socks & underwear
- Garden tools/supplies
- Executive desk
- Office furniture/equipment
- Office supplies

Staff Spotlight - Anna Sanchez



The first face you see or the first voice you hear when contacting our office is likely our Administrative Assistant/Volunteer Coordinator, Anna Sanchez. Anna first worked for GTH from 2000 to 2003 as a House Manager. She left for a few years and returned in May 2005. In addition to providing receptionist and adminis-

trative tasks for the organization, Anna coordinates all of the volunteers and donations we receive—often an overwhelming task! Anna also represents GTH on the DOVIA Board (community agency volunteer coordinators board) and the Weld Furniture Bank. We appreciate Anna's coordination of these important tasks for the agency, and congratulate her and her husband Rick and son Elijah as they welcomed a new son/brother, Devin James, born March 23.

Invisible Homeless

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The statewide count also confirmed the circumstances of the families that GTH typically serves. Most of the homeless surveyed are working (61%), and the most frequent response for why they are homeless was because of housing costs (26%) followed by unemployment (24%), and domestic violence (20%). Survey respondents said that the service they most needed was help finding affordable housing and rent/utility assistance (36%) followed by employment (18%) and food (14%). Not surprisingly, homeless families struggle each day to meet the basic needs most of us take for granted (employment, housing, food, healthcare, transportation, and childcare).

Many, many families and individuals in our community are homeless because they simply cannot afford housing at their current wages. Most are young with limited skills and education, but with a strong desire to support their children and to be independent. One of the most important services we can provide for homeless families is to provide support and understanding for the difficult circumstances they face. By helping to remove the shame and indignity associated with being homeless they will cease to be invisible.

"I entered here
(GTH) with my
head hanging low,
but left here
holding it up high.
Thank you
everybody at
Greeley Transitional
House!"
- Sandy



Volunteers are critical to the success of our program. In 2006, 225+ volunteers provided more than 2,000 hours of service to GTH, and saved the organization incalculable dollars. We appreciate all of you!

Champions Program Up and Running

After more than a year of planning, the Champions Program funded by United Way of Weld County is finally a reality! Funded under the new "Strengthening Families and Individuals Initiative," the Champions Program is a collaboration of four agencies: GTH, Room at the Inn, Catholic Charities and Connections for Independent Living.

The basic mission of the Champions Program is to strengthen families and individuals who are chronic emergency services users through long-term case management. The ultimate goal of the program is to help these families become more self-reliant and free

from the cycle of reliance on emergency services. This will be accomplished through bi-weekly meetings with case managers and mentors who will provide support, information, and referrals to community services.

GTH has hired two part-time case managers, Brittany Williams and Adrienne Walker, both UNC Students, to help case manage our Champions families. We expect to serve 50 additional families through this program over the two year grant funding term.

Stay tuned for regular updates in our newsletter on this exciting new program for GTH!



Greeley Transitional
House
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Greeley, Colorado

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E-Mail: jhart@qwest.net

We're on the Web!

[www.greeleytransitional
house.org](http://www.greeleytransitionalhouse.org)

YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT TO GREELEY TRANSITIONAL HOUSE IS NEEDED TODAY!

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:

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

I would like to receive the 25% State income tax credit for my donation of \$100 or more through the State Enterprise Zone. In order to receive this credit I have made my check payable to: Greeley/Weld Urban Enterprise Zone. (We will process your check for you through the Upstate Colorado office and you will receive a form from them explaining how to claim the credit. First time donors through the Enterprise Zone must include their social security number or federal ID number on the check. This information will be kept confidential on file with the Upstate Colorado office.)

Please mail all checks to GTH at: 1206 10th Street, Greeley, CO 80631

Thank You for Your Compassion & Support!



Greeley Transitional House
1206 10th Street
Greeley, CO 80631

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