

And Then Everything Changedbut we still need **YOU**

It was on St. Patrick's Day when we implemented our new mode of operation to combat the coronavirus allowing us to continue serving people struggling to navigate the uncertainties of the new normal. Shortly after our food pantry opened, I went to greet our volunteers and then headed out to the parking lot. While outside I noticed a young man who was waiting to receive a box of groceries. As I got closer I recognized he was a technician who had fixed our heater a few weeks earlier. We talked a bit and he shared how work had been slowing down and that he needed to get some food for his family. As I was walking back to my office a deep sense of grief came over me as to how this virus was going to impact the workers we had relationship with. **The reality was:** people were putting off necessary repairs and services until the COVID-19 issues were resolved and this was having a domino effect on service workers. And then a month later, tourist season opened, but everything was closed so this left more of our neighbors without jobs.

In April we were averaging 18-26 people every day coming in for assistance and this number was steady until the beginning of July when we settled into an average of 12-14 people on a daily basis. Seasonal jobs began to pick back up as well as many of the service industry positions which provided paychecks for people to get back on their feet. Of course, the unemployment benefits were great for those who qualified and were able to get them, but a majority of our clients weren't so fortunate. July and August maintained a slowing down of services for us, but still the numbers were significantly higher than normal for this time of year. Just a few weeks ago we have experienced an uptick in people coming in. We're projecting the numbers will continue to climb as the seasonal jobs fade away and the winter months set in.

Since March 1st, we have distributed over 85,000 pounds of groceries to individuals and families. If you can imagine a typical Safeway bag of groceries that weighs 15lbs being loaded and carried out to your car, then we've done this 5,667 times. We've had 1,845 service encounters which represents one person coming to us asking for help. Of these 1,845 encounters there are additional people included in this count representing family members that they are housing, feeding, and taking care of. This pushes our numbers over 5,000 people that we've impacted during this Road to Recovery. On top of the food assistance, we've distributed \$127,008 in rent payments for 130 households and given \$20,991 to pay utility bills to keep the lights on for 66 households. During this time period we have served 145 new households that had never come to Crossroads for services. We're connecting with new families that have never needed our services before, so I can only imagine times are still pretty tough.



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We have done our best to steward every gift that has come in and this has increased our food inventory to a 4-5 week reserve of food if we were to continue serving the numbers we are now without any additional food coming in. This is not where we'd like to be, because if the Food Bank for Larimer County is shut down due to a quarantine, then we will eat into the reserves quickly. I'd like to see us have the capacity to double our inventory to be better prepared for whatever may come in the future. In way of finances, we have been fortunate to keep our staff in place during these challenging times, because during the big rush of people coming for help we needed all of them on the front lines working with our volunteers to ensure everyone was getting individualized attention and care. As with most nonprofits, we keep very little finances in reserves because we want to put the money into the services we provide our clients. However, when COVID-19 hit, our board had in-depth discussions on what's a good balance to keep in reserves so we can sustain Crossroads Ministry as an organization. We want to be good stewards of the work that was started 38 years ago and sometimes this means we put a little more into savings to ensure we can

make it through the tough times such as the one we're in now. I can say with great confidence that Crossroads has competent board members who care deeply for our neighbors in need and will make the right decisions to preserve the work we've been doing since 1982. So, long story short, we could use more financial donations.

As the pandemic wears on and some aspects of life return more to normal, it's easy to forget that the consequences of the worst economic disruption since the 1930s continues to torment millions of Americans, including many who call the Estes Valley home.

Hunger is a constant companion for far too many of our neighbors. They continue to need your help. Will you consider partnering with us this year with a financial gift to keep food on the table and a roof over the heads of the people who come to us for help?!

BRIAN SCHAFFER
Executive Director

Our Mission

to practice Christian love by providing basic human services to Estes Valley residents in need

Find Us On Facebook



crossroads ministry of estes park

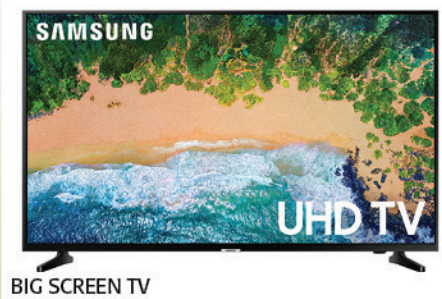
Come Together

Coming together during a global pandemic looks different, but is not impossible. In fact, we would like to invite you to **Come Together** for our online auction on Saturday, November 14th, at 5:00pm.

Auction items include: Big screen TV, Snow blower, Traeger Grill, 2-Mountain Bikes, Professional Art Print by Richard Hahn, and Handcrafted Entryway Table by Sticks & Stones.

We're looking to connect with hundreds of people who love and support Crossroads, so plan to join us. Details on how to connect to the online auction are on our website at www.CrossroadsEP.org

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION \$50,000
Matching funds available thru 12.31.20



BIG SCREEN TV



SNOW BLOWER



PROFESSIONAL ART PRINT BY RICHARD HAHN



TRAEGER GRILL



2 - MOUNTAIN BIKES



HANDCRAFTED ENTRYWAY TABLE

Save More by Giving More in 2020

Earlier this year on March 27, the Congress passed and the President signed into law the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act**, a \$2 trillion economic stimulus package legislated to provide immediate relief for nonprofits like Crossroads Ministry.

A couple items that came out of the Cares Act directly related to donors are:

1. New Deduction Available: Up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) in annual charitable contributions. This is available only to people who take the standard deduction (for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions). It is an “above the line” adjustment to income that will reduce a donor’s adjusted gross income (AGI), and thereby reduce taxable income. A donation to a donor advised fund (DAF) does not qualify for this new deduction.

2. New Charitable Deduction Limits: As part of the bill, individuals and corporations that itemize can deduct much greater amounts of their contributions. Individuals can elect to deduct donations up to 100% of their 2020 AGI (up from 60% previously). Corporations may deduct up to 25% of taxable income, up from the previous limit of 10%. The new deduction is for gifts that go to a public charity, such as Crossroads Ministry. The old deduction rules apply to gifts to private foundations. The higher deduction does not apply to donations directly to a DAF.

If you’re able to extend your generosity in this unprecedented challenge, this major tax incentive may be an important part of your calculus; whether you were already planning on making personal contributions to public charities, or are just getting started on your direct giving journey. I realize everyone’s case is unique, so make sure to consult with your tax advisor before getting your pen out.

Being Grateful

Thanksgiving Blessing is our annual food distribution that helps individuals and families celebrate the season of thanksgiving. We are accepting food and cash donations from now until November 18th. Consider donating **\$40** to bless a family with enough groceries for a nice dinner together!



ESTES VALLEY MEALS ON WHEELS
A Service of Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park, Inc.

MEALS ON WHEELS is rolling along at high speed thanks to a healthy donation from The Salvation Army that helps us subsidize a portion of the meal costs for our neighbors.



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crossroadsep.org



*Working for You
and the Community*

DONATIONS GO DIRECTLY TOWARD THE WORK OF CROSSROADS MINISTRY OF ESTES PARK

Please accept my gift of

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park, Inc.**

ONLINE DONATIONS CAN BE SET UP USING A CREDIT CARD AT www.CrossroadsEP.org/GIVE



MAIL TO: **851 Dry Gulch Road, Estes Park, CO 80517**

Your financial gift is providing food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, care of the sick, and hope for the weary. We are committed to lovingly journey with neighbors in need for as long as it takes to help them get to a place of self-reliance. Your regular giving allows us to uphold our promise to the kids, teens, and families we serve, and ensures that Crossroads is sustainable for years to come.



P.O. Box 3616
Estes Park, CO 80517

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Stories of people touched through the work of Crossroads

"My family and I would just like to thank you for all of the support and guidance you have offered us over the last two months. I know it has been hard for a lot of people all over the world. It has made the biggest difference to me and my family. We would not have made it without your help"

"It is a joy to share this bit of my government stimulus money with you! Your help with the security deposit for this wonderful apartment that I'm living in now allowed me to get out of a 1-room log cabin with no running water for 13 years and move into a new and much better life! Before that your help with food, firewood, vouchers for laundry and showers kept me alive and able to keep working toward this goal! Thank you for all that you do for so many! With love..."

CROSSROADS VOLUNTEER HELPING A FAMILY LOAD THEIR GROCERIES




GIVE
where you
LIVE

DONATE
TUES, DEC 8
ColoradoGivesDay.org

COLORADO COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION
GIVESDAY.
12.8.20

FYBANK
Corporate Partner

Please consider Giving. Contributions may be mailed to:
Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park
PO Box 3616 • Estes Park, CO 80517
Online donations at www.CrossroadsEP.org