

CROSSROADS  
MINISTRY OF  
ESTES PARK, INC.

851 Dry Gulch Road  
PO Box 3616  
Estes Park, CO 80517

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Hours of Operation  
Mon & Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Tue & Thu: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
Wed: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



#### Crossroads Staff

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CROSSROADS  
MINISTRY  
NEWSLETTER



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Volume 7, Issue 4

December 2015

Christmas

“For to us  
a child is born,  
unto us a son is  
given; and  
the government  
shall be upon his  
shoulder; and  
his name shall be  
called Wonderful  
Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting  
Father,  
Prince of Peace.”  
—Isaiah 9:6

#### Crossroads Mission Statement

Crossroads Ministry exhibits Christian love by providing basic human services to residents in need in the Estes Valley.

### BEING POOR IS HARD!

I saw them trudging through the slush leftover from heavy snow the day before, during my morning commute to Crossroads Ministry a couple of weeks ago. One of them was carrying a gasoline can as they huddled against the wind on the sidewalk of northbound Highway 7.

When the two of them climbed into the car and thanked me for offering a lift, the fellow in the front seat noticed my Crossroads Ministry name badge. “Oh,” he said, “Crossroads helped a friend of mine get to his home in [another state] a couple of weeks ago. He was in pretty bad shape, but he’s doing much better now. We really appreciate the help Crossroads provided.”

They were headed to Safeway to pick up a MoneyGram, so that they’d have enough cash to buy gasoline and make it to their job a few miles away. Their truck did have a little gas left in the tank the night before, they explained; but, because they were parked on an incline, it seems there wasn’t quite enough fuel remaining to get the vehicle started that morning. Fortunately, the MoneyGram they were expecting was indeed waiting for them at the grocery store. We filled their plastic gas can, and I drove them back down Highway 7 to their apartment parking lot.

After dropping them off, my first reaction to the little chain of events was a warm feeling: How nice to meet two random persons in our community and discover that Crossroads Ministry had made such an important difference in the life of a friend only a few days earlier.

But the second reaction that gripped me was more overwhelming, and more enduring: *Being poor is hard!*

You see, when I need gasoline, I simply pull out my wallet and fill up the tank at my convenience. I enjoy the luxury of deciding



Executive Director  
Tim McLemore

when and where to refuel depending on my schedule and the best available price per gallon. During those seasons in my life when cash flow was tight, I could at least resort to a credit card in order to proceed with the obligations before me.

For these two working men, getting a tank of gas was an ordeal that took an hour-and-a-half. To get even enough cash for fuel, they had to make a trip to the store and pay fees they could scarcely afford for the MoneyGram. Moreover, apart from the frustration of a vehicle that unexpectedly would not start on a bitterly cold morning, they both suffered hours of lost wages due to the delays.

***Being poor is hard! Simple tasks become complicated. Small complications quickly become costly. Trying to get by from day to day leaves little time for trying to get ahead and little opportunity for self-improvement. An unexpected medical bill or car repair can be catastrophic.***

For the working poor, seniors trying to live on low fixed incomes, the temporarily unemployed, single parents or persons with disabilities who are struggling to make ends meet, and in countless other difficult situations and circumstances, Crossroads Ministry strives to practice Christian love by providing basic human services to residents of the Estes Valley who are in need.

*Being poor is hard!* We are thankful for the compassionate hearts and cheerful labors of volunteers, donors, and our many partners in ministry as we endeavor to lighten the load – one person, one family, one need at a time.

*All the days of the poor are hard, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast.*

—Proverbs 15:15 (NRSV)

### THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

Because the holiday season often puts a strain on the budgets of Crossroads Ministry clients, many years ago Crossroads began offering a Thanksgiving Distribution. Recently, food distribution expanded to include winter coats, gloves, scarfs, and hats for everyone – men, women, and children.



This year Crossroads distributed 107 turkey boxes to our clients. Each box included a turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, green bean casserole, candied yams, fruit salad, rolls, pumpkin pie and lots of extras. The high school Key Club and middle school BIONIC club helped collect additional food needed and, with assistance from the Presbyterian ladies, also assembled all the ingredients needed for each side dish – including recipes. Thanks to the Donut Haus who supplied fresh baked rolls, and to Safeway and the Larimer County Food Bank who helped procure turkeys and sides!

The “Winter Closet” was arranged upstairs at Crossroads with many new and gently used coats and winter wear. By the end of the day, more than 250 garments were handed out just in time to beat those brisk, cold winds of Estes Park. Because this was the first distribution some Crossroad staff members had experienced, there was a little anxious anticipation; but, typical of Crossroads, over 30 volunteers showed up to help and the entire day ran smoothly. The Crossroads staff expresses their sincere gratitude for this much needed assistance!

**The next big event is the December 18 Christmas Distribution. To help, contact Bill McNamara.**

### We Appreciate Our Volunteers!

About 40 persons attended the first Crossroads Ministry Christmastide Open House for volunteers and friends on December 2. We especially thank Susan Newendorp, assisted by husband Mark Newendorp and volunteer Cleone Beall, for generously giving of herself and working with Crossroads staff to provide such wonderful refreshments and festive decorations.

In addition to time for volunteers from many different areas to get better acquainted and enjoy visiting friends, the event included an opportunity for Crossroads to share a small, specially created Christmas gift for each of our treasured volunteer partners in ministry.

If you are a Crossroads Ministry volunteer but did not receive a printed invitation via U.S. Mail or email, please contact the Crossroads office right away to ensure we get you added to our records. We are updating administrative processes and would like to be sure those volunteers who were unable to attend the reception receive their gift.

(r-l) Susan & Jeanie share back-to-school supplies with a Crossroads friend



## A Crossroads Christmas VII Cultural Arts Council Benefit



For many Estes Park residents this event has become a “must do” to kick-off the Christmas season. The Cultural Arts Council has been a valuable partner of Crossroads and generously organizes two benefits every year. The three hours of continuous Christmas music performances ranged from country, cowboy to opera. Local artists who shared their musical gifts include Brad Fitch, Scott Anderson, Valerie Dascoli, Melissa Westover, Ron Ball, Ray Young, Gary Reeves, Dmitri Galcovski, Fr. Joe Hartman, Tim McLemore, Jack Overly, Roger Thorp, Verlene Thorp, and Bert Bergstrom.

Crossroads Ministry's own Melissa Westover (President of the Board) performed as a vocalist and Tim McLemore (Executive Director) performed with Elk Hollow on electric bass! Besides the wonderful music and tasty appetizers, approximately \$1,500 was raised for Crossroads and 80 lbs. of food was donated.

**Thank you to Executive Director Lars Sage and his staff for another memorable event!**



## BRIGHT CHRISTMAS

On Wednesday, December 9, there was a bevy of activity in the Hangar Restaurant at the Estes Park Golf Course. Every year the Recreation District sets up for Bright Christmas, an annual Christmas blessing for many local families in need. The days leading up to the 9th were busy with gifts being wrapped, bikes being assembled, food being sorted, and many more preparations to bless each family member from the oldest to the youngest.

This amazing outreach started in 1984 by Jim and Jean Austin in response to seeing how they, as a family, could help another family have a brighter Christmas. Each year more of their friends decided to do the same. Now the program has 501(c)3 non-profit status and people, service organizations, businesses, and churches throughout Estes Park adopt families to help make everyone's Christmas more joyous. The heart and soul of the program still lies with Jean Austin, but many others help, including Nancy Gregg, who oversees administrative functions.

This year Bright Christmas touched the lives of 133 families including 293 children. Recipient families must reside within the Estes Valley and are eligible for the program if they are Crossroads clients in good standing or meet other minimum requirements of income and residency. The scheduled sign-ups are all held at Crossroads, allowing both Crossroads staff and the Bright Christmas team an opportunity to get to know the families a little bit better. Bright Christmas absorbs the cost of food and gifts for most of the client families while Crossroads provides compassionate case management to qualify recipients. This year, Crossroads also was able to provide more than six dozen turkeys, thanks to the generosity of our local Safeway and the many people who make seasonal donations while shopping there.

The partnership between Crossroads Ministry and bright Christmas continues to open up more year round opportunities to assist these families in our community. Thank you to all who make this possible. Jim and Jean's goal – to provide a joyous Christmas for others – still burns Very Bright!

**Sign up to receive the Crossroads Ministry quarterly newsletter by email! Send your email address to [admin@crossroadsofep.org](mailto:admin@crossroadsofep.org). Put NEWSLETTER in the subject line!**

## Vintage 2015 – A Wonderful Success!

On Sunday evening, October 25, **Andy Morgan** of the Dunraven Inn hosted a wonderful evening of delicious food and delightful music to benefit the work of Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park. The rooms were filled with generosity from the host and the guests.

Crossroads Ministry thanks **Andy and Cindy** and the staff at the **Dunraven Inn**. Chef **Marty Metz** provided delicious food, beautifully prepared. Greeting guests and working throughout the evening, the Dunraven staff, **Melissa, Freddy, Brian, Ahikar, Tyler, Crystal, Lisa, Liesl, Sam, Colin, Ben, Sarah, Olga, Bianca, Erika, Jonna, Janelle, Courtney, Vasiliy, Brian, Jordan, Keith, and Dave**, made everyone feel welcome and well cared for.



The music of **Chuck and Julie Varlick** of Estes Park set the right tone for the evening and was enjoyed by all.

If you were not able to attend, you missed an incredible evening. **Kevin Rutter**, auctioneer, engaged everyone in a lively auction complete with jokes, laughter, games, and lots of fun. Auction items included vacation homes and safari trips! Thank you to everyone who attended and generously bid on items and to the many who just gave freely to Crossroads.



Toward the end of the evening the long awaited raffle took place for the prize of a \$6,500 travel voucher to Italy or a preferred destination. Andy Morgan drew out the winning ticket. Congratulations to **WINNERS Floyd and Susie Collins!**



Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park, Inc. Estes Park, Inc. is grateful for the community support which allows it to assist people in need on a daily basis through a food pantry, educational programs, assistance with housing, utility, medical and transportation needs. Our clients know that it is their community which helps when times get hard. **Thank you, all!**

Crossroads and the Dunraven Inn extend thanks to the following **friends who generously donated items** for auction packages, vacation destinations and art pieces:

**A la Carte**  
**Earthwood Artisans**  
**Christmas Shoppe**  
**Denver Broncos Football Club**  
**Fall River Jewelry Antiques & Coins**  
**The White Orchid**  
**Egg & I**  
**Ed's Cantina**  
**Estes Park Golf Course**  
**Charlene Rinehart**

**Riverspointe Spa**  
**Chrysalis at the Stanley**  
**Estes Park News**  
**Liz & Jo's**  
**Melissa and Mark Westover**  
**RMNP Images**  
**True Value Hardware**  
**Spruce House**  
**Reel Mountain Theater**

**Judy Brannon and Roger Jones**  
**Moon Kats Tea Shoppe**  
**The Village Store**  
**Kirk's Mountain Adventure**  
**Claire's on the Park**  
**Ramshorn Village**  
**Poppy's Pizza and Grill**  
**Hobert Office Services**  
**Tony and Sarah Fink**