

CROSSROADS
MINISTRY
NEWSLETTER

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www.crossroadsep.org
MinistryAtTheCrossroads.blogspot.com



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SAVE-THE-DATE

October 23rd



Vintage 2016

August 8th



Back-to-School
Supplies

Crossroads Mission
Statement

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

Thanks for Helping Your *Neighbors In Need!*

Crossroads Ministry offers grateful appreciation to our many friends in Estes Park and across the United States for helping us qualify for a \$50,000 challenge grant from a private foundation as part of our 2016 "Neighbors In Need" appeal. Because of your generosity, **\$76,321.62 in eligible donations was given, enabling Crossroads to receive the entire \$50,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant.** By rallying to help us help our Neighbors In Need, our caring supporters have inspired the donors of the matching grant and confirmed their reasons for making such a generous investment!



The outpouring of support was especially noteworthy since it closely followed many additional donations designated for families affected by the March 4 fire that destroyed an apartment complex on Chapin Lane in Estes Park. Of the \$19,204.51 given specifically to help those families in crisis, Crossroads already has applied a total of \$18,212.74, with the \$991.77 balance allocated to assist with additional upcoming costs related to housing. Two of the four displaced families still need long-term housing. Please contact Eva Bañuelos if you are aware of affordable housing opportunities.

Help Crossroads Maintain a *Power-full Presence in Time of Crisis*

(1) It is not hard to imagine how a major power outage might affect Crossroads Ministry for an extended period of time. Vital food supplies in our large walk-in freezer, separate walk-in refrigerator, and additional refrigerator/freezer units, would soon spoil and have to be discarded. Moreover, the likelihood of a devastating loss of power is greatest precisely during emergency/catastrophic situations when the need to distribute food for an extended period could be especially urgent.

We are thankful to the Northern Colorado Community Foundation for a generous \$6,000 grant in 2015 toward the \$9,000 cost of installing a backup generator with transfer switch to preserve food and enable continued operations during extended power outages. The project includes integrating the backup generator into our existing electrical system with a new electrical panel and single meter, to maximize safety and efficiency.

One generous donor family recently added a \$1,000 contribution, moving us to \$7,000 toward the \$9,000 needed to get this project completed. Contact me if you can help us get closer to our \$9,000 goal in the next few weeks.

(2) Earlier this year, our annual health inspection report faulted us only for a single dented can! However, the inspector also indicated that we must replace our client services refrigerator/freezer with a commercial model, estimated to cost about \$5,000. Let us know if you would like to help with this special need between now and the inspector's February 2017 deadline.

(3) Visit <http://MinistryAtTheCrossroads.blogspot.com> to read about some of the many clients Crossroads Ministry serves each week. *Thanks to all who help make it possible for Crossroads Ministry to serve our many "Neighbors In Need."*

—Rev. Dr. Tim McLemore, Executive Director

2016 SPRING SALE — A Blessing for All

The annual Spring Sale organized by **Crossroads Ministry** and **Lifelong Learning of Estes Valley** was a big success again this year, but the benefits of this event went far beyond the money raised for these two non-profit agencies. Earlier this year the Chapin Lane fire and the Glen Haven fire displaced five families. Crossroads has disbursed more than \$18,000 to help these individuals; but since they lost everything, their need was great. One additional way to provide assistance was to give them an opportunity to have first access to items at the Spring Sale. For them, being able to obtain a variety of household goods was a major blessing.



Besides being able to address this extreme need, many shoppers at the Spring Sale found much-needed personal items and even some special treasures. For the second year, bake sale items were available and were literally gobbled up as not a crumb was left. In addition, many donors to the event appreciated the fact that their spring cleaning could benefit the community. After everything was packed, sorted, distributed and cleaned up, this year's gross revenue slightly exceeded last year, resulting in Crossroads and LLEV sharing more than \$9,000.

Thank you to everyone!

HAPPY CAMPERS!

Crossroads Ministry and the **Salvation Army** have worked together again this year to send children to summer camp. The Salvation Army graciously makes scholarships available for Crossroads Ministry Case Manager Eva Bañuelos to administer, with 11 campers scheduled to attend camp the week of July 11–16. Crossroads Ministry provides a complimentary toiletry bag, bath towel, and sleeping bag to help each camper prepare for an awesome experience full of activities.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES



Each year about two weeks before school begins, Crossroads Ministry works with Nancy Gregg and Jean Austin of **Bright Christmas** to organize the distribution of school supplies. Crossroads sorts the supplies and provides the venue for distribution. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Snowy Peaks Winery for providing backpacks. We typically serve about 80 students, and this year's distribution starts August 8, 2016.

Sign up to receive the Crossroads Ministry quarterly newsletter by email!
Send your email address to admin@crossroadsep.org. Put NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

Ministry at the Crossroads: "It's a miracle!"

"It's a miracle!" she exclaimed, again and again. Remarkably, even in that special moment the opportunity to help others – rather than her own considerable needs, was uppermost in her heart.

She was taking a neighbor to a doctor appointment in Denver when the radiator blew. With a total monthly income of less than \$900, a \$600 car repair can be catastrophic.

The kindly woman has been a Crossroads client since July 2000, but her requests have always been modest – mostly food, occasional help getting a prescription, assistance with rent twice in the course of the past 16 years, two recent repairs for her old car.

It is heart-rending to review the financial situation of this disabled senior citizen who lives alone. Even with a small food stamp allowance and low-income housing, her disability and pension income is barely enough to survive on.

So it is that, when Crossroads received a call from a generous neighbor who had a reliable car to donate, our Case Manager knew right away where the vehicle was most needed.



The Estes Park Extension of the Salvation Army agreed to make the much-needed gift complete by covering the cost of license plates, which otherwise would have been beyond the client's means.

She and the Crossroads staff all brushed away tears of joy as we presented the vehicle.

"It's a miracle!" she exclaimed, again and again. "Now I can take my neighbor to her doctor appointment in Denver without being afraid of breaking down." Remarkably, even in that special moment the opportunity to help others – rather than her own considerable needs, was uppermost in her heart.

Crossroads Ministry cannot cure chronic poverty, but we are thankful to provide food for all in need in our community and blessed to stand in the gap with special assistance in times of crisis. It is the generosity of individuals and families, local churches and area businesses, and partner agencies like the Salvation Army, that makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission of *providing basic human services for Estes Valley residents in need.*

The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

–from Psalm 22:26 (NRSV)

CROSSROADS INCREASES HOURS FOR CLIENT SERVICES

Crossroads expanded hours of operation beginning May 31, 2016, after surveying clients, staff, and volunteers. Crossroads is now open for client services on Mondays and Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, Crossroads is open 11 am to 7 pm. The new schedule provides more evening hours for clients, and eliminates split hours in the previous Tuesday and Thursday schedule. Administrative office hours will continue to be Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. "The new hours will be reviewed in 100 days to determine if this schedule works more efficiently," said Executive Director Tim McLemore, "and we expect to make some adjustments after that to best help our clients."



**CROSSROADS
MINISTRY OF
ESTES PARK, INC.**

PO Box 3616
851 Dry Gulch Road
Estes Park, CO 80517
www.crossroadsep.org

970.577.0610
admin@crossroadsep.org

Hours of Operation

Monday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursday: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Crossroads Staff

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KICK-OFF YOUR FOURTH OF JULY WITH BREAKFAST!

Crossroads Ministry will hold our annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast at Our Lady of the Mountains Church. This event, which runs from 7:00 to 10:30 am on Monday, July 4th, is a great way to start the holiday. Family and friends can gather for a fine traditional American breakfast, while at the same time helping the most needy members of the local community. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under the age of 10, with a \$1 discount for a donation of non-perishable food items.



DID YOU KNOW?

For more than 12 years many local merchants have placed Round-Up Jars near their check-out area or on tables to allow their customers an opportunity to give a donation to Crossroads. Since 2004, **\$89,686.59** has been collected. Pennies, dimes, and quarters sure can add up!