

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER
OF
CROSSROADS
MINISTRY

Jan and Carolyn Evans, Editors



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

Volume 7, Issue 3

September 2015



Vintage 2015
Wine Tasting
October 25



See back page for details

Annual
Coat Collection
Oct. 19 – Nov. 13
Bring your donations of
new and gently worn
coats for all ages/sizes
for our annual
Thanksgiving distribution

Crossroads Mission
Statement

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

“SOWING SEEDS”

Mr. and Mrs. E. first became clients of Crossroads in December 2010, when they received about 50 pounds of food from our pantry. At the time, they subsisted on a small pension and disability check, as well as food stamps. As continuing Crossroads clients, they completed our financial self-sufficiency and energy conservation classes. Through the course of the next four years, they received approximately 3,500 pounds of food valued at \$5,717.92, additional assistance in the form of vouchers for gasoline (\$202) and rent (\$600), and miscellaneous household items (linens, toiletries, and similar, valued at \$98.46).

On August 5, 2015, Crossroads received the following note from Mr. and Mrs. E., addressed to our case manager, Eva Bañuelos: “We can’t thank you enough for all the help you have given us over the past 4 years – it’s been a hard 4 years of financial roller coasting... Both of our Social Security checks have begun, so we are finally where we can be on our own. Enclosed is a small ‘thank you’ donation to this food ministry – we won’t need to be in the program anymore, but we will never, never be able to thank you enough for blessing us – touching our lives – meeting our needs – and blessing others...” Enclosed with the unexpected thank you card was a sacrificial gift in the form of a personal check for \$50.

The results are not always so dramatic or visible, of course. Sometimes it seems the cycle of poverty is endless and the needs are perpetuated from generation to generation.

But other times, as this story reminds us, our wide range of ministries bears fruit:

- for long-term clients receiving a variety of assistance;
- for individuals or families who suffer temporary financial straits and count on Crossroads for short-term help;
- for persons passing through who need a little boost to get from where they’ve come to where they’re heading.



Tim McLemore
Executive Director

Jesus began to teach many things in parables, and in his teaching he said: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

—from Mark 4:2–9 (NRSV)

Sowing Seeds: Vital Statistics

Thanks to the many volunteers, generous donors, and able staff members who keep Crossroads Ministry functioning on a daily basis, we sow seeds of love every time a client walks through the door. We sow with gratitude for the privilege of offering a wide range of help to people in need.

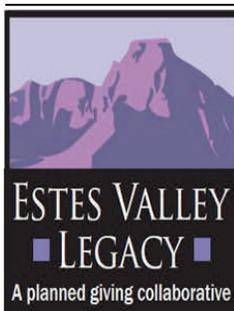
This season, in partnership with "Bright Christmas," we distributed school supplies for 79 children in the Estes Valley. Additionally, from January through August 31, 2015, Crossroads Ministry has:

- served 902 different persons (295 children and 607 adults);
- distributed 79,500 pounds of food, valued at \$128,971;
- in partnership with many faithful donors and area agencies, provided assistance with housing and utilities, prescriptions, transportation, referrals to other resources, clothing and other household items, and similar needs, in the form of 3,265 vouchers with a total value of \$90,464.

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

FOURTH OF JULY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Fun, food, and fellowship started the Fourth of July celebration for many Estes Park residents and visitors. The annual Pancake Breakfast hosted by Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church and prepared by the Knights of Columbus was a great success. In total 657 people came and enjoyed the hearty breakfast on this beautiful, sunny morning. At the end of the event more than \$4,550 was raised to benefit Crossroads and food was collected to restock the pantry shelves. Thank you to everyone who donated to this event including: The Egg & I, The Wapiti, Mountain Home Restaurant, Rambo Liquors, The Other Side Restaurant, Hobert Office Services, Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, Estes Park Rent All, Estes Park News, Estes Park Trail Gazette, and all of the volunteers who helped set up and serve. See you next year!



Marsha Yelick, Independent Counselor for Estes Valley Legacy, has arranged for free seminars in October to provide residents with financial education and understanding of planned giving. There is no charge, but please pre-register at estesvalleylibrary.org, or call 586-8116.

Giving is Easy: Find Out How!

7:00–8:30 p.m., Wednesday Oct. 26, Hondius Room at the Public Library.
This short informative seminar is to help participants learn ways to optimize gift dollars. Discussion will include both the easily implemented methods (no professional assistance required) and the more complex tax-advantage strategies.

Basic Financial Education

Beginning Thursday, Oct. 22 and for five consecutive Thursdays. 7:00–8:30 p.m., Hondius Room.
This is the classic five-seminar financial education series that provides all the tools necessary for personal financial management. Although financial knowledge builds at each session, you may attend only those that interest you. Printed material is distributed in each seminar for additional study. No need to register.

Sign up to receive the Crossroads Ministry quarterly newsletter by email!

Send your email address to admin@crossroadsministryofep.org.

Put NEWSLETTER in the subject line!

BRAD AND MARY SUE ROHWER—DISTINGUISHED SERVANTS



It is with heavy hearts that everyone at Crossroads says good-bye to Brad and Mary Sue, because no one reflected the Crossroads mission more than these two special people. They expressed love to all and received love from all... staff, volunteers, and clients. For 22 of the 33 years of our existence, the Rohwer name has been associated with Crossroads. Mary Sue served faithfully on the Crossroads Board for many years, greeted clients at the front desk for more than a decade, and along with Brad coordinated go-fers who collect food in the community.

Brad and Mary Sue say of this ministry, "It has been wonderful to watch Crossroads grow from one room downtown into the ministry it is today. It is incredible!" Their consistent praise of Crossroads has been contagious and resulted in many volunteers connecting with this ministry to offer their services. Their humble hearts and encouragement of others is why there has not been an article about them sooner. Every time Mary Sue was asked to be highlighted as a volunteer, she always recommended that someone else was more deserving and would add, "People know about me, maybe next time." As former Executive Director Virgil Good said, "They've been model volunteers."

Before leaving, Brad and Mary Sue received a Distinguished Service Award for their service to this ministry and the Estes Park community. Executive Director Tim McLemore spoke for many when he said, "Their warm smiles and dedicated labors will be sorely missed."

Brad and Mary Sue have moved to Grand Rapids to be closer to family. The community here is praying for them to have an easy transition to their new life and to be assured that their "family" here will not forget them. **May God continue to bless both of you!**

CALLING VOLUNTEERS!

The mission statement of this ministry states, "Crossroads Ministry exhibits Christian love by providing basic human services to Estes Valley residents in need." The ongoing success of fulfilling this mission is due to the incredible volunteers that continue to offer their time. Right now there are a few volunteer opportunities available and you may be just the person to fill one of these needs!

Are you a morning person? Crossroads needs a go-fer to collect food items donated from Safeway, Starbucks, etc.

Are you a detail person who is able to organize a team? Crossroads will soon need a manager for the repackaging room.

Do you like to drive? Crossroads occasionally needs a van driver to make trips to the valley for food.

Do you have 3–4 hours free every other week? You can help Crossroads in the client services area.

The outreach of Crossroads touches the Estes community in personal and unique ways. If you feel called to help with this outreach, please call Crossroads at 577-0610 and ask to speak with Executive Director Tim McLemore.

Crossroads Online: New Blog, and More!

Crossroads Ministry now has a blog, with client stories like the article on the first page of this newsletter, and more: MinistryAtTheCrossroads.blogspot.com/

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, too, for up-to-the-minute updates on items we need for the food pantry and for volunteer opportunities. It's also a great way to learn about our many programs. And don't forget to visit our website: crossroadsministryofep.org.



Connect with
Crossroads Online!

crossroadsministryofep.org



ministryatthecrossroads.blogspot.com/



www.facebook.com/pages/Crossroads-Ministry-of-Estes-Park/158771290860767



[@crossroadsMEP](https://twitter.com/crossroadsMEP)



970.577.0610
Fax 970.577.9692



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

Tim McLemore
Executive Director

Bill McNamara
Program Director

Eva Bañuelos
Case Manager

Martha Gilmore
Executive Assistant
Bookkeeper

Paula Foster
Food Pantry Manager
Volunteer Coordinator

Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park, Inc.
PO Box 3616
Estes Park, CO 80517

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*Dunraven Inn, the Rome of the Rockies,
invites you to a unique evening to benefit
Crossroads Ministry of Estes Park, Inc.
Sunday, October 25, 4:00–7:00 p.m.*

Enjoy an evening of food, wine tasting, music and a lively auction of fabulous items, plus, a chance to win a trip to Italy, including airfare and accommodations through Columbine Travel Agency, a \$6,500 value !

You can enjoy all of this and help Crossroads of Estes Park.

Only 250 tickets will be sold, so get yours soon!

Tickets cost \$100 each and may be purchased at

*Dunraven Inn – 2470 Colorado 66, Estes Park, CO 80517
or call Crossroads at 577-0617, or Carolyn at 586-5811.*

You need *not* be present to win. (Raffle ticket purchases are not tax deductible.)