



# OUR News

## Outreach United Resource Center, Inc.

### Two Stories. One Theme—Hope & Gratitude

As we enter the holiday season, we are reminded in these stories of hope and gratitude, one from an OUR Center client and the other from the mother of a client, of the importance of our mission—helping people move toward self-sufficiency.

"The OUR Center has benefited me in simple and yet profound ways: it provided food when I couldn't afford to buy it, paid my utilities when they would have been shut off, and above all-- it has renewed my faith in myself and in humanity.

It saved me from the debilitating despair of feeling alone, unsupported, and overwhelmed.

Everyone in trouble needs a soft place to fall, and the OUR Center has been that for me.

Every person and service of the OUR Center is focused on my well-being, and each time I go there I feel respected, renewed, and inspired -- inspired to build a life in which I can use my talents to be of service to



the world as the OUR Center has been to me and so many others.

It's a beautiful thing you all do... precious and important work that doesn't often get the attention it deserves, but lives forever in the hearts of your clients." ~BW

~ ~ ~ ~

"I'd like to testify to you that your faith and generosity to the OUR Center is well spent.

My son is a college graduate and a nationally certified paralegal that had always gotten straight A's. However, he also has a mental illness.

My son is from a home where education was valued and esteemed. But mental illness can strike in any family and put anyone at risk of homelessness, as it did my son.

Because of his situation, my son had given up hope and was suicidal. The OUR Center saved his life.

Through its services, the OUR Center offers hope for a different life. Today, the OUR Center is helping my son get his government benefits, and he has hope for a better future.

The staff at the OUR Center is smart. They know their way through the system. They work very hard to achieve the best outcomes for their clients. They are compassionate to families – because mental illness deeply affects families, both emotionally and financially.

Thank you for giving hope to the hopeless. You will be forever in my gratitude and my prayers.

God bless you!" ~CP

### Colorado Gives Day—December 6, 2011

On Tues., Dec.. 6, 2011, Colorado citizens will come together again to raise millions of dollars for nonprofits like ours in **Colorado Gives Day—24 hours to give where you live.**

Your generous support of the OUR Center in the first Colorado Gives Day last year raised an incredible more than \$24,000, and we are very grateful. Our goal for this year is at least \$30,000, and with your help, we can get there!

Presented once again this year by the Community First Foundation and FirstBank, when you give to the OUR Center through GivingFirst.org

at any time on Colorado Gives Day, 100-percent of your donation will come to us to help fund the vital programs we provide to the



Remember us on Colorado Gives Day **Tuesday, December 6**

online at [GivingFirst.org](http://GivingFirst.org)  
The value of your donation increases when you donate any time on December 6.

community. Plus, the value of your donation will be increased by the FirstBank Incentive Fund. Mark your calendar and plan to donate online at [www.GivingFirst.org/OURCenter](http://www.GivingFirst.org/OURCenter) on 12/6/11.

On Colorado Gives Day, the OUR Center is also planning a special giving event at our Warming Center on our main campus in Longmont. If you'd like to join with other community members in the excitement of the day, please come. Visit [www.ourcenter.org](http://www.ourcenter.org) or call 303-772-5529 for details.

#### Holiday 2011

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**This is the time of year to give thanks**

**To our donors**

**To our volunteers**

**To all who support the OUR Center.**

**To YOU!**

**We are thankful for all you do.**





Bill Hyatt, President  
Board of Directors

**Board of Directors:**

- Bill Hyatt, President
- Tracey Bennett, Vice President
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*“It was really hard for me to admit that I needed help – but I had to do it for my kids. Everyone here is really wonderful. I feel so grateful that there is a resource like this in my community, and I feel so blessed that there was a place I could go to get the help that I really needed.”*  
~ OUR Center Client

## President’s Message

The holiday season is the time for making wishes and hoping they’ll come true.

I’d like to take a moment to share just a few of the wishes I have for the OUR Center and for our community.

I wish poverty would cease.

I wish the OUR Center wasn’t growing.

I wish there were no more clients to serve.

I wish there was no need for what we do.

I’ll even going to go so far as to say that I wish the OUR Center did not exist at all.

My guess is that most of you share these same wishes.

The reality is though that the OUR Center does exist, and that is because there is a tremendous need for everything that the organization does for this community.

Truth be told, that need continues to grow. Each and every day. Each and every year.

In fact, demand for OUR Center services has increased as much as 80-percent over the last two years.

What you may not know is that **every day** at the OUR Center:

- As many as **400** free hot meals are served in our Hospitality Center.
- **70** families come to us seeking services through our Intake Center.
- **30** families get help with rent, utilities, shelter, budget counseling, and other basic needs through Casework Services.
- **30** single, homeless clients are provided basic needs through our Day Shelter.
- **60** children are provided care and child development programs at Aspen Center for Child Development.

On top of that, we distribute:

- **680** items of clothing through the Clothing Bank.
- **3,500** pounds of groceries through our Food Pantry

Again, that is **every day**.

These are just a few of the numbers behind real stories of real need, and they truly are staggering.

As you might imagine, the faces of those in need are changing in today’s economy.

Many who walk through our doors today never expected to be in a place where they’d need to ask for help. They never imagined that they’d be barely holding on. But they are – and they can be anyone.

Sure, OUR Center clients can be the homeless man or woman on the street. They can be single mothers struggling to keep their families together. They can be the elderly couple living on a fixed income. But they can also be just like you or me. They can be our friends, families, and neighbors.

No matter who they are, they need the OUR Center, and because of that, the OUR Center needs you.

We can and should continue wishing for a day when poverty will no longer exist. Meantime, during the holidays, and 365 days a year, we can and should also continue to help and give hope to those in our community who need it the most.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

*~ Joy to you and yours this holiday season.*

## Join us for Breakfast & Get to Know the OUR Center

Interested in learning more about the OUR Center? Join us for our “Getting to Know OUR Center” outreach breakfasts. Every other month, on the first Wednesday, hot breakfast is served at OUR Warming Center (309 Atwood Street ) at 7:45 a.m., followed by a 30-minute

presentation and Q&A. It’s a great way to get to know us and to learn all about the ways you can get involved. To be notified of upcoming events, contact Christine at 303-772-5529 ext. 232 or [christine@ourcenter.org](mailto:christine@ourcenter.org).

We are also available for off-site presentations at your office, church or club as well.



Holiday 2011

Annual Spirit of Thanksgiving Dinner

The OUR Center is again partnering with Old Chicago and the CraftWorks Foundation for a traditional Thanksgiving feast on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Old Chicago restaurant in Longmont.

Join us for a complimentary holiday meal, including roast turkey, gravy, stuffing, green

bean casserole, mashed potatoes, cranberries, pie, and beverages. This festive family celebration is open to all and features strolling musicians, face painting for the kids, and



more! Monetary donations to help offset the cost of the meal can be made at www.craftworksfoundation.org under Holiday Programs, Donate Now—Thanksgiving Gathering, or mail to OUR Center, 303 Atwood St., Longmont CO 80501. For more information, contact the OUR Center at 303-772-5529.

HPAP—A Tax Check-Off to Prevent Homelessness

The Homeless Prevention Activities Program provides funding through a voluntary state income tax check-off to assist people who would become homeless if they were not to receive community assistance. Colorado taxpayers

donate \$200,000 annually to help prevent homelessness. Funds are distributed based on the number of individuals receiving food stamps and the number of unemployed persons in a county.

The OUR Center receives HPAP

funding to assist families on the verge of homelessness to keep their homes. When filing your Colorado State Tax Form, please consider using the tax check-off to help prevent St. Vrain families from losing their homes. Thank you!

Citizens' Option to Provide Energy

You can help those facing utility shut-offs for just pennies a month!

COPE is a program that allows you to provide financial assistance to families in need in Longmont. Your monthly contribution is added to your

City of Longmont utility bill and then all funds collected are distributed by the OUR Center to those citizens that qualify. Many OUR Center clients are the working poor, whose income barely covers necessities such as rent and food. The ability to pay utilities often makes the differ-

ence in preventing homelessness. You also have the opportunity to "round up" your monthly City of Longmont utility bill balance to the nearest dollar or you can make a contribution to COPE instead. Please complete and return the coupon below. Donations are tax-deductible.

OUR Wish List:

Hospitality Center and Day Shelter

250 3rd Ave., Longmont 303-772-5529 x241

8am-5pm M-F, 10am-2pm Sat. & Sun.

- Macaroni & Cheese
• Pasta
• Cereal
• Canned fruit in lite sauce
• Re-usable water bottles
• New warm socks
• Adult's winter boots
• Thermal crew tops & bottoms (both genders)
• Warm hats & gloves

Clothing Bank

50 E. Rogers Rd. 303-772-7773

8am-12pm Mon.-Sat.

- Coats of any size
• Blankets
• Warm socks, gloves
• Outerwear for winter

Aspen Center for Child Development

501 5th Ave. 303-772-4320

6:30am—5:30pm Mon.-Fri.

- Contact paper
• Plaster of Paris
• Cornstarch
• Tempera paint
• Large rolls of colored paper

COPE Contribution

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Round up my monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar\*

\_\_\_\_\_ Add \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my utility bill monthly\*

Enclosed is my check made payable to COPE for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\*Will be deducted monthly unless you cancel through Utility Billing.

Send this coupon to: City of Longmont Utilities, 350 Kimbark St., Longmont, CO 80501

Faces of the OUR Center



**Mark Your Calendar!**

The 9th Annual Empty Bowls, one of the community's favorite events, is on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at Longmont High School. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for viewing the bowls and auction items; lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call 303-772-5529 or visit [www.ourcenter.org](http://www.ourcenter.org) for more information.

## What Does a Warm & Cozy Holiday Mean to You?



A hot toasty fire? Family and friends to celebrate with?

Watching a holiday movie under a favorite blanket? What if you did not know if you would even **have** a home for the holidays?

this winter to help a family stay in their home and keep it warm. Please mail your donation in the enclosed envelope and note "Warm and Cozy Holiday" Program. We will let you know how your contribution helped a specific family, if you'd like.

new items for distribution at Christmastime: blankets, coats, sweaters, socks, boots, bedding, sweatshirts, pajamas, winter gloves, hats, sleeping bags, and adult backpacks.

(Clean, gently used items are taken at our Clothing Bank at 50 E. Rogers Rd. for distribution throughout the year.)

Financial contributions and the above gift items are being accepted at the OUR Center Intake Office, 303 Atwood Street, Longmont, CO 80501 via mail or in person Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **until December 12.**

Please call 303-772-5529 or email [elaine@ourcenter.org](mailto:elaine@ourcenter.org) for more information.

### You can make a difference in someone's life this holiday season.

At the OUR Center, we work to ensure families in the community have their basic needs met, including providing food, clothing, and rent and utility assistance to prevent homelessness for the most vulnerable in our community.

Join the OUR Center in providing a "Warm and Cozy Holiday". You **can** make a difference in someone's life this holiday season in one of several ways:

- Provide financial assistance for rent or utility payments

- Provide financial assistance to our Day Shelter program to help homeless individuals with basic needs such as food, personal care items, shelter, clothing, laundry and shower services, mail service, medical screenings, housing options, and job searches. Note "Day Shelter" on your contribution.
- Donate gift cards for local grocery and discount stores.
- Purchase the following



## Future Home of The Basic Needs Program

Just in case you've yet to hear the exciting news — one day in the not-too-distant future, the OUR Center's Basic Needs Program, as well as our Intake and Administrative offices will relocate. The new consolidated campus will be at 220 Collyer in Longmont, directly across from our existing loca-

tion. We are in the initial phases of planning for this important project.

Once completed, this new facility will enable us to more efficiently and effectively serve our clients, while positioning us for expansion as community needs grow and

change through the years.

This is a much-needed undertaking for the OUR Center, and we hope you will join us in making this vision a reality. You can expect to hear more about our new facility as the capital campaign to raise funds for this project unfolds.

## In the Spirit of the Season—Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

Year-round, a great deal of our work at the OUR Center revolves around food and feeding people. Last year, our Food Pantry distributed nearly one million pounds of food to over 16,000 households in need. More than 132,000 hot meals were served in the Hospitality Center. People are hungry.

How do we manage to feed so many individuals and families in need of food, this basic necessity of life? Only with the support of the Longmont area community members, can the OUR Center put compassion to work day and day out.

As the economy continues to sputter, the Hospitality Center has become even more important, not only as a place where one can get groceries and a nutritious, hot meal seven days a week, but also as a destination that provides respite and camaraderie for our

clients, as well as for our donors and volunteers.

I'm often asked the question: 'How do you decide who can come in for a meal?' I reply that hunger knows no color, creed, nationality, age, gender, orientation, or social status. The same goes for the need for fellowship during tough times. If someone comes looking for a meal, then, through the kindness and generosity of their neighbors, they leave with their stomachs full and their spirits lifted.

Festive food has always been a way to celebrate the season. But for many in our community, because of our volatile economy and its impact on so many, the food of the season is not on the menu. People who are not working because of company closures, families who are experiencing foreclo-

tures, or older persons who have lost a large portion of their retirement savings, will not be feasting this holiday.

As a supporter of the OUR Center, how can you, through our food programs, embrace the season to help people in need?

Here is how your donations will help assure food is on the table for the holidays for the hurting individuals and families of Longmont:

- \$100 provides 50 hot nutritious noon meals
- \$200 provides 100 hot breakfasts for one day
- \$500 provides food boxes for a family of four for up to one month

You, in the generous Spirit of the Season, can put food on the holiday table for people who are hungry! ~ *Peace of the Season.*



Edwina Salazar,  
Executive Director



### Matching Programs

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Check with your Human Resources Department and make your donations go even further! Many companies offer matching gifts of up to 100 percent of your donation to a charitable organization. Some even give based on volunteer hours as well.

## Make a Difference in Just an Hour (Ring a Bell!)



Can you give just an hour of your time? Will you drop a gift into the next Salvation Army kettle you see? It takes hundreds of volunteers and hours to raise enough money to provide relief for those struggling financially with food, shelter, rent, prescriptions, or utilities. This is done

through the partnership of the local Salvation Army Service Extension Unit and the OUR Center. In 2010, the Kettle Campaign raised **more than \$67,000 — a new record!** However, these funds were nearly used up before the summer was over due to increasing demand.

Thousands of people will be helped this year due to the efforts of bell-ringing volunteers. If members of your

family, church, business, or other group can ring a bell between November 25 and December 24 at area stores, you can help provide a safety net of service for your neighbors in need.

To sign up or get information, contact Alicia at 720-439-0303 or nelson\_alicia@hotmail.com.

A little help goes a long way!





303 Atwood St.  
Longmont, CO 80501  
Phone 303-772-5529  
Fax 303-684-0856  
www.ourcenter.org

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## Interested in Volunteering?

The OUR Center has several one-time and ongoing opportunities for people looking to volunteer. With the cold weather upon us, we are especially in need of volunteers for our Warming Center. Our Day Shelter, Clothing Bank, Food Pantry, Kitchen, and Intake Office all have volunteer opportunities as well. Weekly shifts and/or special project opportunities are available.

Last year, over 1,000 volunteers gave 55,345 hours of work. We could not provide the tremendous services that we offer to our community without you! For information on volunteer opportunities or to attend an upcoming orientation session, contact Maggie at 303-772-5529 or [maggie@ourcenter.org](mailto:maggie@ourcenter.org). It feels good to do good!



## OUR Mission

We help people move toward self-sufficiency by unifying community resources.

## OUR Center's Twenty-Five Years of Impact

From 1986 through July 2011, OUR Center:  
Distributed **9,846,419** pounds of emergency groceries through the Food Pantry  
Clothed thousands of people with **3,691,370** items  
Served **2,108,676** hot meals in the Hospitality Center  
Provided groceries to **624,384** individuals  
Delivered utility shut-off prevention to **11,732** households  
Gave emergency shelter to **3,047** families  
Provided rent assistance to **3,035** families

## Sign up for monthly E-News!

Would you like to be on our email distribution list to receive our monthly "E-News"? If so, please send an email to [christine@ourcenter.org](mailto:christine@ourcenter.org) with "OUR E-News" as the subject or sign up via [www.ourcenter.org](http://www.ourcenter.org). This is a great way to keep up-to-date on our needs, news, and events. We do not share our mailing list with other organizations.