

challenges overcome

Fall 2023

There are times in life when challenges seem to surround us. That's how it felt for Ken.

Ken and his family moved to Longmont understanding they were on a short waiting list for affordable housing, and there was a job for his wife Amy. Shortly after getting here, the housing fell through and Amy's job didn't pan out. Ken and his family of five found themselves living with Amy's parents while they explored options.

That's when they found the OUR Center and our resources.

Thanks to generous support from people like you, we provide a fountain of information for thousands of families in need. Families with different challenges and obstacles to overcome. In Ken's family's case – his disability, and inability to work at the time, allowed us to explore affordable housing options. The process takes a while – often months.

Ken and his family decided to wait and go through the process when they faced another challenge. Their oldest daughter was suffering with mental illness and they found themselves dealing with her in a care facility, and then a series of alternative home arrangements. The OUR Center assisted them through this period as they remained on their waitlist.

This is just one of the ways your generous support of \$25 or more goes to work in our community.

When Ken and Amy got word housing had opened up – they were thrilled. Generous donors in Longmont came through with furniture, we assisted with finding a shelter until move-in, needed clothes and shoes, and nutritious meals in our Cafe. Our resource Specialist got them connected with our local Mental Health Partners agency to help them navigate the challenges with their daughter.

over, please

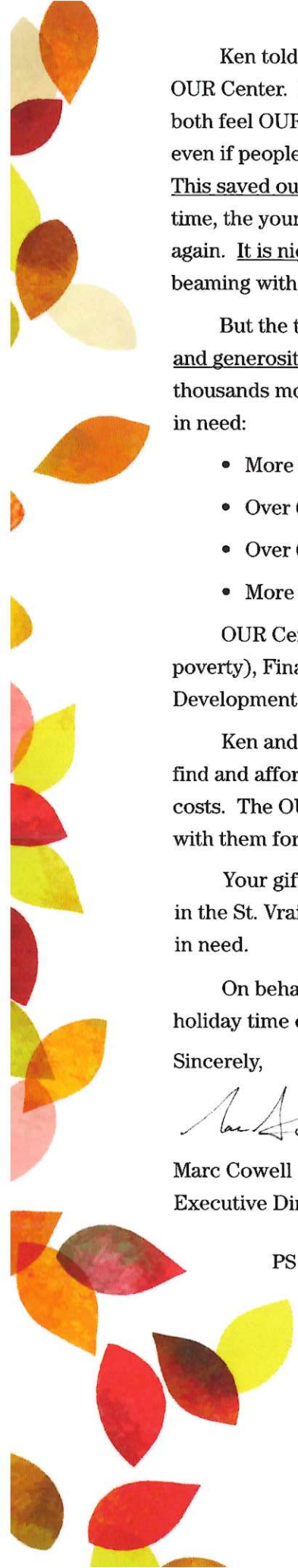


Many families struggle to find and afford a place to call home, keep up with heating bills and soaring electricity costs. The OUR Center will be here for them.



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Ken told me they couldn't have made it through and accomplish all they have without the OUR Center. He's taking classes to gain additional skills, and Amy has a rewarding job. They both feel OUR Center helped them save time searching for resources. Their children learned that even if people don't know you, you can count on them. "OUR Center gave us stability and safety. This saved our daughter's life. She is sleeping through the night, and for the first time in a long time, the younger children (ages 4 and 7) are happy to have a place to play and their own toys again. It is nice that the kids can be kids again – they are thriving right now," Ken told me beaming with thanks.

But the thanks are really to you! All of us at the OUR Center are grateful for the support and generosity of people like you. A gift of \$25 or more will make it possible for us to assist thousands more people in need this year. In 2023 we've provided these services to neighbors in need:

- More than 23,360 individuals served in the Community Market
- Over 656,000 pounds of groceries provided in our Community Market
- Over 600 utility shut-off preventions
- More than 574 families supported with rent assistance

OUR Center also provides classes and education in Getting Ahead (to break the cycle of poverty), Financial Skills, Nurturing Parenting, Computer Skills, and much more in our Personal Development Programs.

Ken and Amy's story is far from unique. Many families this holiday season will struggle to find and afford a place to call home, keep up with heating bills and soaring electricity and food costs. The OUR Center will be here for them and we'll work to put promising plans together with them for brighter days ahead.

Your gift of \$25 or more will help provide vital services and basic needs for our neighbors in the St. Vrain Valley. Thank you for being a part of the possibilities and hope for so many in need.

On behalf of Ken and Amy and many families like theirs, thank you for supporting us at this holiday time of year.

Sincerely,



Marc Cowell
Executive Director

PS – Your gift of \$25 or more helps our neighbors maintain stability and provides basic needs in challenging times. Thank you.



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