



voices

Summer 2023

Imagine if these were the voice mail messages you got on your phone:

“Hello, I am looking for guidance and financial help as I get through a challenging time in my life. I have autism and was denied disability benefits and am looking for resources to help me get back on track.”

“Hello, I am seeking help with food and utility bill payment. Single father, low income.”

“Currently 9 months pregnant with 3 younger children and looking for family resources - diapers, clothing, baby equipment, etc.”

“Hello OUR Center –I need help with getting emergency housing.”

These are a few of the calls the OUR Center got in just one week. Hundreds more calls come in and many people walk through the front door looking for assistance. In fact, so far this year, we've assisted with:

- 5,798 OUR Center visits
- 16,654 Individuals served
- 385,347 pounds of groceries distributed
- 316 Utility shut-off preventions
- 316 Rent and shelter assistance

We do our best to provide timely and supportive services to help families reach and maintain stability. We want families in our community to thrive not just survive. And generous and caring people like you make it possible.

over, please

“I am 23 years old and a single mother to my 3-month-old daughter. I am looking for somewhere me and my baby can go that helps with a roof over my head. I have been struggling with homelessness for four years and working on sobriety three years.”



OUR CENTER

Paving the Road to Self Sufficiency

220 Collyer Street • Longmont, CO 80501
303.772.5529 www.ourcenter.org



I need housing quickly because my spouse just passed away. I need to exit my current home by the end of the month. I also have a dog. Do you have any hotel vouchers or short-term vouchers while I settle my husband's affairs?"

Right now, we need your continued support as we navigate assistance through the summer months and into the fall.

Our most immediate need is to help provide rent and utilities to families who face unforeseen challenges. Facing higher costs for basic needs, and wages not keeping up with inflation, many low-income and even 'middle-income' families are strained. The OUR Center is often their last option before homelessness or making the difficult decision to leave the community they call home.

Our staff meet with each family individually, confidentially, and in-depth to determine their challenges and struggles and help them find solutions. Our resources and community partners help them discover their options. We provide opportunities for ongoing personal development once the family has stabilized.

Here's what your gift will help make possible

- \$1,000 can support a family with one month's rent assistance
- \$500 can help a family with utilities (gas, heat, electricity)
- \$250 can help us provide food pantry products
- \$100 can provide one month's worth of lunches in our Café

Thanks to people like you, the OUR Center provided over \$1.8 million in assistance in 2022 to our St. Vrain Valley families in need. We are on target to surpass that number this year. Many COVID-19 relief programs have gone away, but people's financial challenges have not.

Your past support has been critical to keeping families in their homes, keeping the heat and lights on, keeping families fed and clothed. Thank you for your additional support of \$2,500 during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Marc Cowell
Executive Director

PS I recently received this note - *"I want to take this opportunity to say how much I appreciate your generosity, hard work, and care for the community. You truly are so instrumental in keeping all in the community safe and well cared for. What would we do without you?"* **Thanks in advance for your gift of \$2,500 and making our important community work possible.**



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