



COMMUNITY OF CARING FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2008

Aspen Mine Center, Cripple Creek, Colorado

Vol. 5, No. 1

Successful Gold Camp Christmas

For the first time since the Gold Camp has been celebrating Christmas with a weekend event, weather forced cancellations, including the Colorado Chorale, and kept visitors away in droves. But those present or able to get here were not deterred, resulting in a successful fund-raiser for the Aspen Mine Senior Club and a lot of fun for everyone at the Holiday Bazaar, Christmas tree contest and auction, one-entrant parade, hot chestnuts and hot chocolate, Mrs. Santa storytelling and Santa greeting children inside the Aspen Mine Center front door.

After numerous parade cancellations early Saturday morning, a decision was made to cancel the parade entirely. But the intrepid Living Nativity folks, complete with Sam the Donkey, decided to have a one-float parade down Bennett Avenue anyway. They read the Christmas story in front of the Aspen Mine Center and several other times along the avenue, much to the delight of the crowd, which poured onto Bennett as the news spread.



Roasting chestnuts in front of Aspen Mine Center

The 2008 Community Christmas Planning Committee is already working on "Christmas in the Mountains" for Dec. 6 and 13 weekends.

At a thank you dinner for volunteers, a plaque was presented to retiring chairperson Laura Jeffery, recognizing her years of service to the Gold Camp Christmas event.

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YES ON 2A !



The Community of Caring and Aspen Mine Center staff, volunteers and board members were thrilled with and grateful for the overwhelming response from Cripple Creek area voters last November, when a requested ballot measure asking to extend the .03 percent city sales tax dedicated to the nonprofit work of the Center passed by the incredible margin of

72 percent. In addition to extending the 5-year-old tax for another 10 years, voters also removed the financial cap on the amount given to the nonprofit. These two measures will enable Community of Caring to continue funding both personnel and facilities. THANK YOU, one and all!

Imperial Hotel donates cash, supplies



Imperial Hotel staff members and HR manager Beth Duncan, second from right, were on hand to help Community of Caring's Ted Borden and Mary Bielz, second and third from left, collect a substantial check and many boxes of nonperishable food and other supplies collected during the holidays.

The Imperial Hotel management and employees chose Community of Caring and the Aspen Mine Center as the beneficiary of its 2007 holiday charitable collections.

"THANK YOU!" from all of us.

ATTN SENIORS!

If you are 55 years old or older, low income, seeking to re-enter the workforce but needing some new skills, call Hank or Suzanne at 689-3584. Community of Caring is a Host Agency for RM-SER's SCSEP (Senior Community Service Employment) program. We currently have openings for a Volunteer Coordinator trainee and a Resource Center trainee.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN!

Two HABITAT Homes Occupied; Two Under Construction



One of the two unfinished Victorians stands next to one of the two finished Victorians on Porphry St

ceived the keys to their new home in February.

Rehabilitation of two of the four Victorian houses donated to Habitat for Humanity through the City of Cripple Creek has been completed. A single mother and her teenage son and daughter moved into their home over the holidays. A single dad and his two preteen sons re-

Habitat will begin working on the next two rehabs in April. One family has already been selected for one of these homes, a single dad with one young son. The selection process is ongoing for the remaining homes, which includes the fourth Victorian and two new homes to be built.

"As always, volunteers are needed as much as they are appreciated," said local Habitat president Jill Sievers.

"We are going to try and arrange special build days throughout the summer."

To volunteer, call the Habitat office at 687-4447 and leave a message, or email jillmsievers@earthlink.net.



SPOTLIGHT

An Aspen Mine Center program or agency spotlight will be a regular newsletter feature beginning with this issue.



Maria Medina and Hank Nelson staff the Pikes Peak Workforce Center at the Aspen Mine.

New Faces at Pikes Peak WorkForce Center

Community of Caring staffer Hank Nelson, and PPWFC staffer Maria Medina keep the Workforce Center jumping upstairs at the Aspen Mine Center. Maria comes from Colorado Springs twice a month, the second and fourth Tuesdays. She is a fluent Spanish speaker, adding a new dimension to WFC services here. Hank provides one-on-one employment assistance daily the rest of the month, expanding the AMC jobs programs.

We recently hosted a mini job fair at which 15 jobs were filled. Another job fair is on the

horizon, which will include the new Wildwood Casino. More are being planned.

In addition, the WFC numbers served are increasing. The past five months show:

October 2007	55 served
November 2007	39 served
December 2007	40 served
January 2008	59 served
February 2008	63 served

Coordinator's Corner by Ted Borden

One of the most remarkable phenomena I have noticed over the past several years of working with people facing challenges is the therapeutic benefits to the spirit of these individuals that occur when they are committed to helping others whose problems may be more daunting than their own.

When problems appear to be insurmountable, individuals who look for opportunities to help others often experience greater healing in their own hearts. I have noticed that those who are willing to step outside of themselves and focus on the needs of others are far more likely to conquer the challenges they face, learn from the experiences, and gain a newfound respect for themselves and a great empathy for others.

Following initial interviews with clients, I have on occasion suggested that in the midst of these times of darkness, they look for opportunities to help others in even the tiniest way: help someone carry a package, assist a stranded motorist, smile big at the weary convenience store clerk. The human connection, that willingness to build a bridge to the heart of another, can be the key to rising above our own challenges and inviting the miracles of life to unfold before our eyes. None of us are exempt from life's problems, but those who are the greatest inspiration are the ones who by their humility and compassion transcend the fires and nudge us onward to follow in their footsteps.



Aspen Mine Center director Ted Borden and U.S. Senator Ken Salazar share a few words during Salazar's fall tour of the Center.

Thanks to Mary Barron:

You will notice this first 2008 newsletter has a brand new look. That is because the newsletter also has a brand new (well, somewhat used) writer, photographer and editor as well. For the past several years, the newsletter has been produced by volunteer Mary Barron, who was also hired as webmaster for the Aspen Mine Center Web site the past few years. Mary recently moved out of Teller County to pursue her career interests. In fact, if you read the Catholic Register, you will be able to see her work for them during the Democratic

Convention in Denver in August 2008. Due to her move and her getting busy with other things, the Foundation's new project coordinator is taking over responsibility for the newsletter. A HUGE THANKS to Mary Barron for all her good work for the Foundation and a BIG WELCOME to Suzanne Core.

WATCH FOR A
JOB FAIR AT
THE ASPEN
MINE CENTER
IN APRIL

Gold Camp Christmas, cont.

MANY volunteers are needed, for a new Caroling Competition subcommittee, the Christmas tree decorating and undecorating committee, the parade subcommittee and others.

There will be NO snow dates and NO cancellations of any event within the committee's control. There will be events in both Cripple Creek and Victor, with Victor Mayor Serena Bielz a committee chairperson.

The weekend of Dec. 6 will be reserved for a true community celebration, open to all locals and their guests.

The Local Celebration subcommittee is headed by Nancy McDonald and also needs volunteers. The weekend of Dec. 13 will be the traditional Gold Camp Christmas public event, with Friday night's lighted headframe tour, Saturday's popular parade including a high school marching band competition, the afternoon Chorale performance, the evening Butte Opera House show, and the many Aspen Mine Center activities.

The planning committee meets on the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting is April 10, 10 a.m., at the Aspen Mine Senior Center. All are welcome.



Santa and Friend



The Aspen Mine Center newsletter is published semi-annually by the **Community of Caring Foundation**

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The Community of Caring Foundation is a 501c3 organization.



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Services and Office Hours at the Aspen Mine Center

Services accessible through the Aspen Mine Center, 166 E. Bennett Avenue, Cripple Creek, 689-3584:

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings ... 7 p.m. Mondays

Aspen Mine Food Pantry ... 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

Aspen Mine Senior Club ... Hot meals 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.; for information on activities and resources, call 689-3584.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) ... By appointment. Call 447-9898 x1007

Commodities... 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. last Friday of each month.

Community of Caring (assistance programs) ... 9 a.m.— 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Community Health Centers ... Peak Vista's clinic in Divide is open 7:30 a.m.— 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. For appointments, call 687-4460. For transportation, call Ted or Veldean at 689-3584.

Community Partnership ... For information on programs, call 686-0705 or see Ted or Veldean.

Cripple Creek Coffee (and Internet Café) ... winter hours: 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Disability Services of Colorado ... Free hearing tests, last Friday of month, 9 a.m.—noon.

Dressing Room (clothing center) ... 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Grandparents Support Group ... 6 p.m. first and third Thursdays.

Journeys Counseling Center ... Group classes 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Thursdays or by appointment. To schedule, call Barbara at 687-6927.

Legal Help ... Third Thursdays: "Call a Lawyer" 7 pm—9 pm; Legal Aid by appointment. 471-0381.

Pikes Peak Mental Health Center ... 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Call 572-6330 or 689-3584.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center ... 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday; see Hank. Second and fourth Tuesdays Spanish-speaking assistance by appointment. Call for more information 689-3584.

Prospect Home Care & Hospice ... By appointment at the Aspen Mine or your home. Call 687-0549.

Salvation Army ... 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Teller County Dept. of Social Services (Medicaid) ... 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.; 8:30 to noon, Tuesday.

Teller County Public Health (TCPH) ... Every Wednesday, by appointment 11 a.m.—noon and the last Friday of each month by appointment 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 687-6416 for information/appointments.

Well-Child exams and preschool physicals; Child/Adult Immunizations;

Health Screenings (cholesterol, blood pressure, glucose, oxygen level);

Women's and Men's Health Services; Nutrition/Weight education; Smoking Cessation

Teller Pregnancy Resource Center (ultrasound) ... 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Fridays; Woodland Park noon to 4 p.m. Monday—Friday. Call 687-1200.

TESSA (advocacy and therapy for victims of domestic violence) ... 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday—Friday; call 689-3584 x118. Crisis line 719 633-3819.

Vocational Rehab ... As needed; call for appointment.

Weight Watchers ... 6 p.m. Tuesdays.