



FALL, 2018

Aspen Mine Center, Cripple Creek, Colorado

Vol. 8, No. 1

We're back! Newsletter wakes after long snooze!

Yawn. Stretch. OH MY GOSH, WHAT YEAR IS THIS? 2018? *REALLY???*

What can we say? It certainly has been a good long while since you last saw us. Six years, to be exact. Sorry about that. With everything that's been going on here at the Aspen Mine Center, we just flat-bang dropped the ball on this newsletter thing. Ted says he takes full responsibility, ha ha!

We'll try very hard to make it up to you. Did you miss us? We certainly have missed telling you about our growth, our new or expanded programs that offer more help to Teller County residents than ever before, the changes we've made to include more of our clients and friends in our ongoing activities that benefit us all, and loads of other good stuff you'll want to know about.

Now that we're awake and rolling once again, you'll hear all about those items and much more in every issue.

The current plan is to publish this

newsletter quarterly, a brand new one once every season, to help you plan to join in upcoming events, discover new opportunities for assistance when you need it right now, and to keep you aware of the ever-changing world of social services that can help you achieve a better, healthier, fuller life.

Our resurrected newsletter has a new name, a new look, a new approach that we hope you'll find informative and entertaining. You'll see ongoing features of special interest in every issue. A column called "AMC Success Stories", (*cont. p. 4*)



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PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE BRINGING HELP AND HOPE TO TELLER COUNTY RESIDENTS. VOTE YES ON BALLOT QUESTION 2A!

Cripple Creek City Question 2A asks whether the current 3/10ths of 1% (0.3%) of Cripple Creek city sales taxes should continue to be directed to the Aspen Mine Center to support the programs it provides to area residents. **NO TAX INCREASE IS INVOLVED, only a continuation of the existing allocation.**

We're counting on your support to help us help individuals and families in Teller County who count on us in their time of need.

(*cont. p. 4*)

AMC SUCCESS STORIES: Don't Pay What You Don't Owe!

A new client came to our Medicaid Health Care Coordinator, Krys Arrick, claiming that Medicaid charges of over \$650 for an emergency room visit had been billed in error and were not owing. The client had kept good records of the event and her Medicaid coverage was in force. After discussing the problem and reviewing supporting documentation, Krys immediately went to work in support of the client's claims.

Krys called the Medicaid office involved, presenting facts and reasons why the billing was not valid. At the end of the conversation, it appeared that the matter had been successfully resolved. Turned out it wasn't quite that easy.

A few months later, the client notified Krys that she had received



a bill collector's letter demanding the entire original amount. Our Medicaid Health Care Coordinator quickly sent a letter to Medicaid, the emergency room health provider and the collection agency, documenting the client's eligibility for covered Medicaid services regarding the ER visit.

One month later, Krys received a letter from Medicaid saying the client was indeed covered, that Medicaid had instructed the health provider to correct all billing issues and had also contacted the

collection agency with instructions to make no further attempts at collection.

Our client was extremely happy with the results, and very pleased to know that AMC had a Medicaid help department and Coordinator ready and able to address problems and assist in clearing them up. Krys added, "I was really tickled that I could guide the process that fixed the problem. The client made it much easier because she paid attention to keeping complete records and documentation. But even when that isn't the case, we have methods and resources that can prove to be very helpful."

AMC's Medicaid Health Care Coordination Program deals with all things Medicaid from checking to determine eligibility to applying for coverage to any subsequent problems or issues that arise. Contact Krys Arrick at (719) 689-3584, ext. 111 for assistance.

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS: Now's the Time to Research Medicare Supplement Plans for Better Coverage

BY REBECCA BLAIR

Question: I know that I have Medicare A and B and D. I've been told I should also look into getting an advantage plan or supplemental plan. Can I do that at any time, or are there only certain times of the year I can make changes to Medicare?

Answer: What a great question and with perfect timing! The open enrollment period for Medicare begins Oct. 15 and lasts until Dec. 7. This is an opportunity to make changes that can benefit you for years to come. Don't wait and be surprised with original Medicare when they don't give you any out of pocket limits to cap your costs.

Medicare is not like employer health insurance. You will definitely want to check on the Medicare Supplement Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan to guard against any surprises—and there are some great plans in Teller County. As a matter of fact, there is going to be a new one introduced this month for people who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid and are thus considered "dual eligible". A dual eligible special needs plan may include dental, vision and hearing aid coverage as well as transportation vouchers for medical appointments.

We are partnering with Seniors Choice Benefits to hold community meetings during open enrollment: Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Bronco Billy's Casino Lounge, 243 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, Oct. 30 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Florissant Grange, #420, 2009

County Road 31, Florissant; and Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Woodland Park Library, 218 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park.



Rebecca Blair is a Senior Advocate at Aspen Mine Center. Contact her with questions on and help with senior living in Teller County at rebecca@aspenminecenter.org or (719) 689-3584, ext. 101.

Director's Corner

by Ted Borden

Sixteen Years! Time goes incredibly fast and waits, as they say, for no one. I think the vast majority of us hope to make the most of the time we are given to live on this Earth. It certainly is the way I want to live my life. The older I get, the less I take for granted, the more I treasure each interaction, each opportunity to learn, and each experience which all too soon will become a memory, realizing more and more that each day is a precious gift.

I try to carry these thoughts as I work in this community; with the clients I have come to know, the heroes (and sometimes villains), the characters who make up this unique corner of the world. I cherish more than ever the dedicated mentors in my life who gave their time, energy and creativity to make this community a better place. There are so many who influence me each day. There are also many whose impact on my life I did not fully appreciate until many years after they had gone.

A lot has happened in the sixteen years since we opened the doors to the Aspen Mine Center in June of 2002. Community of Caring was a fledgling nonprofit, barely in its infancy. Mary Bielz and a small group of dedicated and compassionate teachers and community members recognized the needs of this rapidly changing community following the advent of gaming. What they did about it has become legendary. Now the Aspen Mine Center has turned "Sweet 16" and Community of Caring is nearly 20 years old.

We have weathered great challenges and made some mistakes, but hopefully have helped to make this a better, healthier, more cohesive community. I am a firm believer that every person who crosses our path is put here for a reason and it is up to us—it is our responsibility—to make the most of every interaction. Each relationship with every client, each partner agency relationship we have

forged, each donor and volunteer has been priceless.

I believe that each experience in our lives is an opportunity for growth. But it is not always an easy thing to see problems as opportunities and is much easier said than done! One of the great wonders of this one-stop help center is how tirelessly, devotedly and compassionately every one of our employees and volunteers work to solve the problems and improve the lives of those who reach out to us. It is a humbling and deeply rewarding experience to watch happening and to be a part of.

I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve in this community. I am thankful for the residents and clients we get to see each day...for the lessons they teach us, the resiliency they show, and the contributions and commitments they make despite overwhelming challenges. I am grateful for our amazing staff and volunteers, our partner agencies and the community's constant support. I am humbled to think of the vision, selflessness, passion and great work done by Mary and that original Community of Caring Board.

Let us know beyond all doubt that we are all blessed, each of us who live in this amazing community. Let us always remember that it is *our choice* to make this community a better place, to appreciate the value of the people who are placed along our path each day, and to rejoice in the opportunity to grow through the experiences that each moment brings. To each and every one I have had the opportunity to get to know over the past 16 years: for all you have taught me, the memories you have helped to create and the community you have helped to build, I cannot possibly thank you enough. Here's to another 16 years!

Ted Borden

Executive Director, Community of Caring



Make a tax-deductible contribution to Community of Caring today!

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

Or pay using PayPal, click here

PAYPAL

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Aspen Mine Center, ATTN Veldean, PO Box 1587, Cripple Creek CO 80813 or online @www.aspenminecenter.org

Newsletter is back!

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highlighting a client's problem that one of our departments brought to a successful and satisfying resolution. Another called "Support for Seniors", offering valuable information and resources for things like health care, taxes, independent living and lots more. All the things that seniors need to hear about and take advantage of.

It feels so very nice to be back and to again be a contributing part of AMC's mission: Ready to help *any and all* of Teller County's individuals and families in their time of need. To offer support in every possible way, when it matters most. To do all of this knowing that it leads to creating a more productive, cohesive, safer and friendlier community for each of us to enjoy and live in.

We'll be here to spread the word, to invite you to share good times, to remind you how your participation in helping someone else not only helps them, it rewards you too, in more ways than you might realize. A great community is at its best when it's all for one and one for all. For you and with you every step of the way, we'll be here. We're back!

Aspen Mine Center's Bucket List

Volunteer help and donated items we need NOW!

CLOTHES CLOSET- Snow's comin'! WINTER WEAR: jackets, parkas, hoodies, boots, knitted hats, gloves & mittens, woolen neck wraps, sweaters for immediate donation. All sizes from toddler to adult. Clean blankets and fleece items too.

DINING ROOM- Urgent need for volunteers for Wednesday lunches. Light duty cleanup & tidying during & after meal, only a couple hours weekly. Also possible special events.

LENDING LIBRARY - Books, paperbacks, DVD or VHS movies always welcome.

COMMODITIES DAY - Last Friday of each month, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., volunteer for all or part. Voucher takers at counter, runners (help load groceries in cars).

See or call Receptionist, main floor, (719) 689-3584

RazMaTaz is now open on AMC's main floor, Mon-Fri 10-4. Brand and nearly new designer fashions at absurdly low prices. WOW!

VOTE YES ON BALLOT QUESTION 2A!

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As a Cripple Creek resident, you are probably aware of the Aspen Mine Center. You may well know people whom we've helped. Maybe we've even helped you.

The sales tax allocation we receive from Cripple Creek makes up a very important part of our funding. It's money that goes toward direct assistance to children, low income families, students, seniors, anyone in need of a helping hand when times get tough.

Your YES vote will keep our programs and efforts at full throttle. A major part of many of our programs involves educating clients in valuable ways. We teach them how to become more personally productive, creating better living conditions and improved lifestyles for themselves and their families.

What's the result? They begin to "pay it forward", giving back positive contributions to their neighbors and community with the talents to succeed, the heightened awareness of common interests shared within their locality, and the renewed spirit and strength they've found through us. And the benefits to you, our voter, mean living in a safer, more productive, vibrant, compassionate and happy community.

Register to vote through November 6 at the Teller County Clerk & Recorder Office in the county courthouse at 101 West Bennett Ave. in Cripple Creek, or even on Election Day at polling locations, with proper ID. Call them at (719) 689-2951, option 2, for information on registering online or by mail. Registration applications must be received by October 29 to allow you to receive a mail ballot.

Please make this small effort that will mean so much to so many, and then vote! We deeply thank you for your support.

Wild Wonderful Wednesday lunches. Yummy and FREE!

Every Wednesday, 11:30-1:00

Way back when, AMC started something called Lunch Program for Seniors. It didn't take long for the word to get around and quickly become a hit with the Social Security crowd. A delicious lunch, every Wednesday. A comfortable dining room to enjoy a meal with old friends and make new ones. All for a couple of bucks. Suggested price for non-senior guests was a few dollars more. A pretty good deal, right?

A lot of very smart folks thought so, and told their friends about it. And those friends told more friends. And one day, we at the Aspen Mine Center came up with an even better idea, realizing that something this good should be good for everyone, not just for



seniors. Why not make it a *community* meal, open to everybody? And while we're at it, let's do something really crazy. Let's make it FREE!

So we did. And has it ever worked out beautifully. We gave it a new name, "Wild Wonderful Wednesdays", just to let everybody know what to expect. Great food, really great

opportunities for socializing, a fun time for all.

You're welcome to join us. We'll serve you a hot, healthy lunch complete with everything from salad through a scrumptious choice of desserts. For some, it's the only truly nutritious full meal they get all week. For others more fortunate, it's a terrific way to spend time with other locals at a grass roots level, exchanging ideas, concerns, or favorite recipes and anecdotes.

Like we said, it's free. There's no obligation, but we do appreciate voluntary contributions in whatever amount you can afford. The more you can contribute, the more folks we can feed each week. Come see us, no reservation necessary. We think you're likely to make it a habit.



**Join us for Aspen Mine Center's
Gold Camp Christmas
celebrations!**

"O Christmas Tree"

Sat, Nov 3 Christmas Tea 11:30-1:30
~ A Fundraiser Luncheon, special holiday entertainment ~
Reserve a table with your friends or business associates!
Advance tickets \$15 per person. Seating begins 11:15 a.m.

Thu, Dec 6 Winter Wonderland Reception

Fri, Dec 7 Soup for the Soul 11:30-1:30

Sat, Dec 8 Cripple Creek Parade at noon

Sat, Dec 8 Christmas Chorale 3:30-5:00
Colorado Springs Chorale performs to benefit Aspen Mine Center. *FREE, your donations are gratefully appreciated.*

Sat, Dec 8 Park & Rec Craft Fair 9:00-3:00

Sat, Dec 8 Fundraiser Luncheon 11:30-2:00

*For event reservations or inquiries, contact Linda Lyons
(310) 926-8457 or Aspen Mine Center (719) 689-3584*



**Free community
THANKSGIVING
Dinner**

Wednesday, November 21
11:30-3:00 at the Aspen Mine Center

**Bring your family, bring your friends,
bring your appetite.**

**An old-fashioned holiday dinner, just the way you
like it. Roast turkey with all the trimmings, a
celebration of all we're blessed with, shared with
loved ones and folks from your own community.**

**It's on us. Free. No reservations required.
Our thanks to you for all you do for us.**



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

Ring a bell for the Salvation Army this holiday season!

All proceeds stay local to benefit families
and residents of Teller County.

Bell ringer locations include Woodland Park, Divide and Cripple Creek.
Just click on the Kettle image above and you will be taken to
a signup page to reserve your time slot.

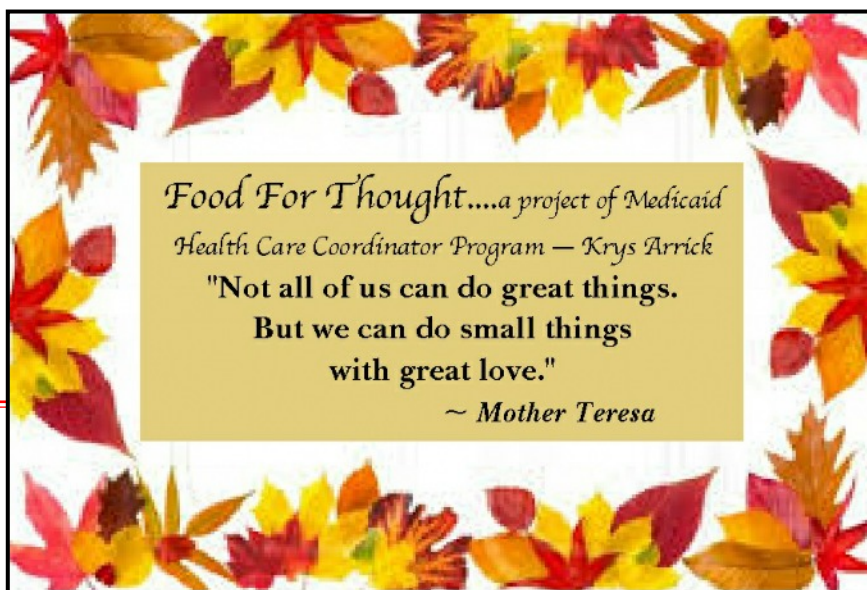
It's fun, it's easy, it's incredibly rewarding to you and the many you'll
help. You can dress up in your tackiest Christmas sweater, wear crazy
Christmas glasses, costume as Santa or Mrs. Claus, an elf or reindeer—
anything to draw attention, cause a friendly laugh, start a conversation!

*"The Teller County Salvation Army Kettle Campaign is such a vital part of our
community I cannot imagine not having it. My sincerest thanks to all the bell
ringers who work so hard to ease the burden of our neighbors in their time of
need. Your efforts call others to see the greatness of the human spirit, the beauty
of living in Teller County, the value of each life, and the change that can take
place in the heart of another by giving them hope.*

Please consider joining us in this amazing Christmas tradition."

Ted Borden

Executive Director, Aspen Mine Center, Cripple Creek



Food For Thought....a project of Medicaid

Health Care Coordinator Program — Kry's Arrick

"Not all of us can do great things.

*But we can do small things
with great love."*

~ Mother Teresa

Keep dreaming, keep doing. Always with love, all the time.

The Aspen Mine Center

Community Clarion newsletter

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Our Board of Directors:

Mary Bielz

Judge Jackson Peters

Mark Sievers

Joan Rook

Reed Grainger

Martha Hubbard

Richard Ingold

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Veldean Myers, Admin. Asst.

**Angie Trelstad, Client Services
Coordinator**

A complete list of our services,
agencies, partners and affiliates is on
our website:

www.aspenminecenter.org

A comprehensive contact list of
helpful area resources is also found
there. Or call us for assistance