



SPRING, 2019

Aspen Mine Center, Cripple Creek, Colorado

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AMC Gift and Thrift Shop gets new location, new look

If you happened to be in the Aspen Mine Center or our Gift and Thrift Shop directly across the street anytime in April, you couldn't help but get the feeling that something important was going on and big changes were in the works.

You were right. At the Gift Shop, endless boxes and containers were being carefully packed with the store's entire inventory, clothing was being sorted and bundled, and choices were being made as to what was to be kept and what was to be disposed of.

At the Center, a hefty chunk of the main floor was being cleared, cleaned and made ready to serve an entirely different purpose. What that purpose was became obvious late in the month, as a parade of AMC personnel and volunteers began hauling boxes, bags and bundles from the Gift Shop to the awaiting space at the Aspen Mine Center. The Gift and Thrift Shop was moving to a brand new home, and with it would come an exciting and brand new look.

of its operation by renting us the space at a very modest rate. And for that, we owe Bronco Billy's a very public and heartfelt THANK YOU! for their generosity, dedication to improving the variety of Cripple Creek's business offerings for locals and tourists, and their community spirit.



Out with the old...



...In with the new.

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For the past four years, the Gift Shop has been housed in the ground floor of the old Independence Hotel. That building is owned by Bronco Billy's Casino. The good folks at Bronco Billy's made it possible for us to establish the Gift Shop and hold down the ongoing expense

Bronco Billy's is in the planning stages for a massive expansion project, a project which will transform their entire location, including the Independence Hotel and adjacent parking lot. It was time for our Gift Shop to vacate. But it gave us the opportunity to bring its operation within our main facility, side by side with all else that we offer, nestled in a highly attractive spot accented by our scenic wall murals and rustic interior design.

Thanks to the recent acquisition of a large amount of commercial shelving and glass display cases gifted by a generous donor, our new Gift Shop has a look and feel that we're sure you'll love to explore. The store's hours remain the same as they were at their previous location. Open Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. during the summer season, winter hours are same days and open 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

(cont. with new store photos p. 4)

AMC Volunteers score big at awards event

They work quietly, tirelessly. Some constantly seek new and better ways to overcome hardships faced by the less fortunate among us. Some strengthen and expand time-tested programs that have proved successful in providing assistance and continue to be valuable. And some are simply there to help wherever and whenever any sort of need arises.

They do it all without any expectation or desire for public acclaim. They do it because they know it needs to be done, because of how much it matters, and because each and every act of help and generosity not only lessens someone's burden but improves the overall health, unity and quality of living for every Teller County resident.

They are the unsung heroes who have made contributing their time and talents into an art form of caring and kindness—the volunteers within Teller County—maybe your friends, maybe your neighbors, or more than likely maybe someone you've never heard of.

For the past 16 years, Teller County Cares has held an annual breakfast Awards ceremony to recognize organizations, service groups and individuals who have provided extraordinary volunteer service to our communities. Any Teller County resident can nominate a person or group they feel is worthy of special recognition. The Teller County Cares Awards Committee reviews all submissions and then selects awardees from those nominated.

The 17th annual Awards breakfast was held on April 10 at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park. Aspen Mine Center and Community of Caring were proudly represented, as two of the seven Individual Volunteer of the Year awards went to our very own priceless volunteers.

John Sammons received his award for co-managing the Aspen Mine Center's Commodities program, for helping to distribute donated clothing to the Center's clients, and for doing anything and everything else on a daily basis that helps AMC function smoothly and efficiently. He's our jack of all trades, and absolutely second to none...an invaluable asset that we are enormously lucky to have with us.

Rich Ingold is an established member of Community of Caring's Board of Directors. Rich spent much time and effort with a project of American Legion Post No. 171, helping to refurbish a condemned home in Cripple Creek for an Iraq war veteran and his son. He is also an active member of Cripple Creek Fire Corps and has contributed in many ways to the formation and success of the Aspen Mine Center's Gift & Thrift Shop. The store's proceeds go toward direct financial assistance to AMC clients needing emergency help with utilities, rent, car repairs and more.

The Awards breakfast saw even further participation by members of the AMC-COC family. Marc Dettenreider, Teller County Commissioner and Community of Caring Board of Directors member, served as master of ceremonies. Mary Bielz, founder of Community of Caring and the Aspen Mine Center, presented the Volunteer Awards to John Sammons and Rich Ingold.

To John and Rich, our hearty congratulations for the much-deserved recognition you've received. And to every one of our volunteers, our deepest appreciation for your participation, commitment and the endless help you give to our community. Each of you is an award winner in our hearts.

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS: Lifesaving help for dementia wanderers

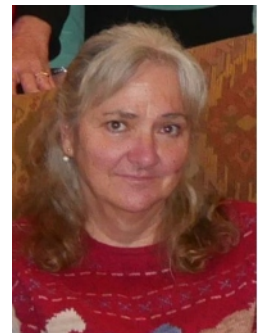
By Rebecca Blair

Question: My husband has been diagnosed with dementia recently and sometimes he doesn't recognize places here in Teller County that he has known since childhood. He has a daily routine of walking to the mailbox and I'm afraid that one day soon he will get to the mailbox and won't remember his way back to the house! What do you advise?

Answer: Thankfully the Teller County Sheriff has a wonderful

program that can help you with this situation and it is free of charge! It is called the LifeTrak program and it is for county residents who have medical conditions that may cause them to wander. It is accomplished with a wristband that the person wears that emits a radio tracking signal 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Caregivers notify the Teller County Sheriff's office when a participant is missing. A search and rescue team responds to the call and uses a mobile locator tracking system to find the Colorado LifeTrak participant. This saves lives by saving a lot of time locating loved ones!! Just call the Teller County

Sheriff's office at 719-687-9652 to sign up your loved one.



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

I am frequently asked by friends, family or other professionals what the Aspen Mine Center is and what I do here. My reply is always enthusiastic and usually includes something about it being a "one stop shop, a collaboration of agencies and programs for residents of Teller County, which provide streamlined, efficient access to services and encourage clients toward greater self sufficiency and quality of life."

That's the long answer. The short answer is that we offer hope to people who are having a tough time, and a place of connection for everyone in the community to enjoy.

In tough economic times there is a tendency to fear the "what ifs." There is also a tendency to blame the system or the government for the current state we're in. It's easier sometimes to go to that negative place, to doubt the path we're on as well as our own value and ability. My experience in working with people in this capacity has taught me that the tough times can be opportunities to shine, to bring people together, be more compassionate, and appreciate the things that we may have taken for granted before.

I have witnessed resilience and a resolve in clients facing challenges that is deeply inspiring. They have demonstrated a willingness to lift others up with words of encouragement or deeds of kindness despite dealing with great adversity themselves. To the clients, friends and



neighbors I see at the Aspen Mine Center, thank you for teaching me that in the midst of life's greatest challenges, the greatest gift we give ourselves is the by-product of the hope and compassion we give to those around us.

There is always hope. Give it to others and you will find it in yourself.

Ted Borden

Executive Director, Community of Caring

Food for Thought....a project of Medicaid Health Care

Coordinator Program — Krys Arrick

"No one has ever become poor by giving."

~ Anne Frank

NEW! Donate to COC on mobile devices! GIVE4TELLER to 44321

Make a contribution to Community of Caring today!

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ Or donate 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

AMC Gift and Thrift Shop relocates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Special thanks go to Rich and Barb Ingold, Dianne Wasson, Dave and John, and all the volunteers who worked so hard for so many hours in moving the entire store inventory and setting up its new location.

We invite you to experience all that the Gift and Thrift shop now has to offer. But one thing hasn't changed. Every item is still an incredible bargain, and all proceeds go to the Aspen Mine Center's program providing emergency financial assistance for the needy.



*So much
to see...
So much
to love...
At such
tiny prices.*



AMC-UCCS marketing study updates

The four-month collaboration between Aspen Mine Center/Community of Caring and a Communications Department student team at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs rolls on. After an initial meeting in February held at UCCS to introduce everyone to each other and discuss some basic goals and potential approaches, our student team hit the ground running.

As their thoughts and ideas began to take shape, emails from the student team leader began to flow toward our AMC team, filled with questions designed to provide them with more information about certain areas of the study, how we had approached community outreach efforts in the past, and what our strengths and limitations were toward creating effective marketing campaigns.

The increased outreach project has two main goals. One, to increase community awareness of the programs and services Community of Caring Foundation provides through the Aspen Mine Center...making more Teller County citizens conscious that we are here and well-established locally, we can help alleviate hardships in many ways, and we do it successfully every day. Greater overall awareness also speaks to our constant search for potential new donors and volunteers. Increased funding and volunteer participation in

our activities means our programs can increase in depth and scope, helping more of the needy and providing us with more of the human assistance that process requires.

Our second goal involves donor recognition...how to build an ever-increasing donor base, how to find effective ways of thanking our donors for their continuing gifts, and how to make donors aware of various ways they can be helpful by donating money, goods or their services.

To give our student team a better idea of who we are and what we do, we invited them to spend an afternoon at the Aspen Mine Center, touring the facility and gaining a better understanding of our many social services. On Friday, March 22, members of the team joined us. They were visibly impressed with what they saw and heard.

A two-hour meeting with the AMC team followed, a highly productive discussion that further sharpened our intended goals and brought interesting new ideas for accomplishing them to the table.

The UCCS team is now hard at work developing a plan of action and methods to implement it. We look forward to their semester-ending final report in May. Our summer newsletter will provide full details and offer insights into how we plan to bring the fruits of this worthy collaboration to life.

A photograph showing a person's hands holding an open book, reading it. In the background, a fireplace with a warm fire is visible. The scene is cozy and inviting.

**Fill those quiet hours on chilly evenings
with a good book.**

Our Lending Library is open
Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
We also usually have DVD and
VHS tape movies available.

FREE bookmarks too!

Help us help others!

VOLUNTEER!

**No experience required.
Your time and a smiling face
are all you need to bring.**

**Call (719) 689-3584 to
find out more. Or see
our Receptionist.**

Wild Wednesday Lunch special servers

It isn't just the good food and good fellowship among our patrons that make our free Wednesday lunches such a crowd pleaser. It's also the way that they're served...by friendly, dedicated Aspen Mine Center personnel and volunteers who want to make sure everyone is well-fed and happy.

We don't call our mid-week gala freebie "Wild Wonderful Wednesday" for nothing. Because from time to time, you never know who you might see on the other side of the warming dishes and salad bar, serving spoon or tongs in hand, ready to fill your plate with a healthy meal.

AMC is all about community spirit. Fortunately for us and our lunch munchers, this community is filled with people and organizations that feel the same way. One of the ways they show it is as special lunch servers, connecting directly with our patrons to greet and meet and feed them all, in support of what has become a growing local tradition.

In the past six months, three instances of community solidarity and caring have graced our serving tables. In November of 2018, student volunteer members of CC-V High School's Pioneers in Public Service club came with smiling faces, winning personalities and devoted effort to make that day's lunch a memorable event. They not only did a great job, they showed everyone in the room what some of the finest Cripple Creek teenagers are really about.

Early in 2019, employees of the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company (Newmont Mining Corporation) supplied not only the servers but the food as well. A terrific Mexican lunch gathered many compliments. Based in Victor,

CC & V Gold Mining is a highly visible contributor to countless local charitable endeavors throughout Teller County, offering funding, heavy equipment, manpower and materials to worthy projects.

In March, members of Cripple Creek's Police Department, headed by Chief Mike Rulo, took command of the server positions. They not only supplied all the food, they brought a lighthearted attitude to go with it. Decked out in outrageous comedic aprons, they gathered a lot of laughs from hungry lunch goers as they dished out the chow.

In a first for the department, the food was paid for by a fund started especially for this event. Police officers and personnel each kicked in \$20 to "No Shave November", allowing for growing beards for the men and off-the-wall hair coloring for the ladies – a total no-no under normal police protocol. If you happened to see some rather bushy guys on patrol or gawked at a station dispatcher crowned with multi-colored tresses during the several months spanning the New Year, now you know why.

A fabulous Tex-Mex fiesta was featured, with fun for all from start to finish. To top it all off, the Boys in Blue added a welcome bonus to the festivities. Not one late-arriving patron desperately in a hurry to make it to lunch received a ticket for

sloppy parking, and not a single famished soul got hauled off to the pokey for stealthily sneaking a second helping off the dessert tray.

Said Chief Mike Rulo about the day, "This is value we have as a local department. We love to participate in worthy local activities, and Aspen Mine Center is a perfect example of that. It gives us a chance to meet with locals and be accessible to our citizens. We had a great time."



CC cops wield spoons and tongs, giving a brand new meaning to the phrase, "To Protect and Serve."



Chief Rulo, left, and his two cohorts demonstrate the fine art of serving vegetables safely. Don't try this at home unless supervised by law enforcement.



Ready for action, Pioneers in Public Service student volunteers surround AMC's Chef Lucas (2nd from right). Shown left to right are Skye, Anna, Josh, Shelby and Ashton.

Our thanks go out to all of the special server participants and their organizations. Indeed, community spirit truly abounds in Cripple Creek and throughout our area.

Big help for young job seekers

Are you 16 to 24 years old? Do you have some difficulties in your background or current situation? Been looking for meaningful work but turned down repeatedly because of your history or limited education? Are you a parent with a son, daughter or relative in this predicament? Is there a young person in a family you know who is looking for employment help? Then this message is definitely for you.

The U.S. Department of Labor funds a program called the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), designed to assist teens and young adults who need extra help attaining their education and career goals. It's packed with the help and support that motivated 16-24 year olds need to advance and veterans are entitled to priority for their service.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Individual with a disability
- School dropout

- Not attended school for at least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter
- A high school graduate who is: basic skills deficient, low income, or an English language learner
- Offender
- Homeless, runaway, or foster child
- Pregnant or parenting

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Job search assistance
- Paid internships
- One-on-one career guidance
- Help paying for school
- Tutoring
- GED preparation
- Supportive services
- Leadership development opportunities
- Referrals to community services
- Follow-up services

You can connect with WIOA locally at the Pikes Peak Workforce Center branch located

inside the Aspen Mine Center. The branch is run by Hank Nelson, Employment Specialist, ably assisted by Employment Specialist Brent Kennedy. Contact Hank at (719) 667-3806 or hanknelson@elpasoco.com for an appointment. WIOA may be exactly the right move to put you on your path to success.



Hank Nelson



Brent Kennedy



ARF! MEOW!
Please remember us.
We're hungry too!

THE AMC FOOD PANTRY NEEDS DONATIONS IMMEDIATELY FOR PEOPLE AND PETS!

It's been a long, cold winter. A LOT of hungry folks and their pets needed emergency assistance to survive. Our reserves are depleted. The hungry are still out there.

Bring canned and packaged goods for people and pets to us for distribution to the needy, "Best if used by" date still fresh. Open Mon-Fri 8-5. We and they thank you for your kindness.

Meet AMC family member Erin Patterson

If a list is ever made of Aspen Mine Center volunteers who have given their all and then more, Erin Patterson's name will be right at the top. Erin is our Receptionist, our front desk introduction to everyone who walks through our doors. And in that position or another, she has been a faithful full-time volunteer for an amazing nine years.

Erin came to the Aspen Mine Center through her aunt, Mary Bielz, the founder of Community of Caring and the Center. After spending her first year and a half assisting in our Food Pantry, she became our Receptionist. She's been there ever since, every working day.

Her front desk duties are many and varied. Answering incoming calls, routing them to AMC personnel, taking messages. Guiding new clients to the correct department for services needed. Entering data into our computers. Assisting with Gift and Thrift Shop sales. For the homeless or those living

in primitive shelter, arranging for a hot shower to brighten the day and reinvigorate the body. For emergency assistance, opening our Clothes Closet to clients when otherwise unmanned. All of that, plus offering to help with special event setup and execution whenever needed.

Says Erin about her job, "I really love it...all the neat people I meet and know, both clients and AMC staff. They're so varied and interesting. I feel wanted and useful, especially in aiding clients to relieve their stress and achieve their needs. Sometimes, even just a hug will help."

So when you come to our reception desk with a question, comment or problem, know you're in good hands. And if you're troubled, know that a comforting hug is available too. Thank you, Erin, for all you do and all you are.



The Aspen Mine Center Community Clarion newsletter is published by the Community of Caring Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization.

Our Board of Directors:

Mary Bielz

Judge Jackson Peters

Mark Sievers

Joan Rook

Reed Grainger

Martha Hubbard

Richard Ingold

Marc Dettenrieder

Crystal Petersen

Scott Porter

Mike Rulo

Aspen Mine Center's Bucket List

Volunteer help and donated items we need **NOW!**

CLOTHES CLOSET - Clean, usable clothing, all sizes from toddler to adult. Clean blankets, comforters, bedspreads and bedding 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

The Aspen Mine Center

166 E. Bennett Ave.

Cripple Creek, CO 80813

(719) 689-3584

www.aspenminecenter.org

Open Mon-Fri 8-5

Ted Borden, Executive Director

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.