



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INSIDER

March/April 2012

Partnerships in Action

Loveland Habitat for Humanity Celebrates 25 Years

It's been 25 years since the first homeowner with Loveland Habitat for Humanity moved into their home. Since then, the affiliate, which serves families in Loveland, has built in excess of 100 homes and changed countless lives in the process.

Loveland Habitat recently celebrated the kick off of its 25th Anniversary milestone with a 5-event celebration in Willow Park, its newest subdivision. On Saturday, February 18, a ribbon cutting, a home dedication, a ground breaking, a Thrivent brunch and the 25th Kick Off took place with more than 100 in attendance.

The day started with an official Loveland Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting, opening the door to the next 25 years of service in Loveland. Habitat's newest homeowner,

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INSIDE The Community Partnership Office

The **Community Partnership Office** is Staff Liaison to the **Human Services Commission**. There is currently one open position. Go to www.cityofloveland.com or [click here to apply](#).

We have begun the **2012 Grant** process for the City's Human Services Grant and HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Proposals for both are due March 7th.

The **Loveland Alliance of Non-Profits'** next meeting is **March 14th** in the Loveland Public Library's Gertrude Scott Room at **300 N. Adams**. 8:00 coffee and networking, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. presentation on **Bridges Out of Poverty, Part 2**. The **April 11th** meeting will be in the City Council Chambers at **500 E. 3rd Street**. 8:30 coffee and networking, 9:00-10:00 a.m. presentation on **Mobility Coordination and Travel Training**. The LANP is co-sponsored by the United Way of Larimer County and the City of Loveland.



Community Partnership Office
500 E. 3rd Street Suite 210
Loveland, CO 80537

Phone: 970.962.2705
Fax: 970.962.2903
Email: walkeb@ci.loveland.co.us

Like us **facebook**

Visit us on the Web:
[http://www.cityofloveland.org/
communitypartnership](http://www.cityofloveland.org/communitypartnership)



Your Participation is Requested...

COMPASS of Larimer County, funded by **United Way of Larimer County** and a federal grant managed by **Larimer County**, needs your help. The federal grant operates on a year-by-year basis, so COMPASS never knows if federal dollars will be available.



Because of the current global financial crisis, Congress is looking to cut many programs. Rather than wait for the funding to be removed, COMPASS wants to begin thinking about how it would continue if federal funding were no longer available.

COMPASS would like to know more about what type of organizations/individuals use the website/data and how the information is being used. To help in this process, please consider taking a few minutes to complete this short, **10-question survey**. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZMQBMVH>

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated.



THE TASTE returns on April 19

With flavorful food, complementing beverages and a passion for helping the hungry and homeless, Fort Collins's top chefs, restaurants, wineries, and breweries will gather for "THE TASTE" benefit for Larimer County. This annual fundraiser will provide support to fight hunger and homelessness in this community. All proceeds directly benefit the **Food Bank for Larimer County** and **Neighbor to Neighbor**, two of the area's largest non-profit organizations designed to provide resources for the hungry and homeless.

Held at the Fort Collins Hilton, 425 W. Prospect, from 6 to 9 p.m. with a VIP reception beginning at 5:00 p.m. To learn more and to purchase your tickets, visit www.tastebenefit.org

HAND UP COOPERATIVE SEEKS VOLUNTEER MENTORS



Hand Up Cooperative
from our streets...to our workforce

Hand Up Cooperative is a social benefit organization that empowers Loveland's homeless and low-income neighbors to achieve self-sufficiency by providing a personalized pathway to gain and maintain employment. Last year we placed over 50 homeless individuals in stable jobs allowing them to obtain or retain permanent housing. As a mentor, you will meet with and support participants of our program as they seek to find work or maintain their current positions. This is a flexible and rewarding chance for you to give back to your community and, at the same time, a highly-personal way for you to make a difference in one person's life. It only takes an hour per week and you will make a friend for life.

Please contact Daniel Covey for details at 970-494-9700 or dcovey@handupcooperative.org.

Continued from front page

Tracy, then celebrated her home's dedication with community members, her family and lots of friends. Hers is the first home completed in Willow Park, which is on 27th Street just south of the Loveland Post Office. Thirteen homes are planned for the neighborhood.

"I never thought I'd be a homeowner. I thought there was no way I could do it on my own," she said during her dedication. "I really feel for the first time I have a community and a neighborhood with good friends. We all know each other because we are all working on each other's home."

Gwen Stephenson, Executive Director for Loveland Habitat, says this is what makes the habitat model unique, "That's what's exciting about Habitat: You just don't build homes, you build humanity," she said.

The affiliate's 25th Anniversary Kick Off was celebrated right after Tracy's dedication and took place in the 100th home currently under construction. Guest speakers, including Pastor Edward Smith – one of Loveland Habitat's original founders – and Veronica – one of the original home owners who just paid off her mortgage – shared their insights with the crowd. Loveland Mayor Cecil Gutierrez was present and accepted a plaque from Stephenson, commemorating the strong partnership between Loveland Habitat and the City of Loveland.

The day also saw the groundbreaking for Luis, Ruth and their 5 children. The family is the recipient of the Thrivent home, which is funded through a partnership among Thrivent Financial, Habitat for Humanity International and Loveland Habitat for Humanity. Loveland Habitat has been participating in the program for six years to construct one home a year, paying only 35 percent of the costs. Like any other Loveland Habitat Family, Luis and Ruth had to qualify for the home – criteria includes good credit, a need for housing, Loveland residency, income guidelines and a willingness to partner through 250 sweat equity hours per adult in the household. When complete, their home will be Loveland Habitat's 105th. The groundbreaking was followed by a special Thrivent luncheon attended by Luis and Ruth, along with other members of the Lutheran Community.

Loveland Habitat for Humanity built eight homes in 2011 and expects to build 12 by the end of this year. Half a decade ago, the average was four to five homes a year. "It's a huge accomplishment. We're celebrating our affiliate and our community," Stephenson said. "A number of affiliates have suffered through this recession. Our organization has built capacity. We are so very grateful for the support of our community."

Loveland Habitat for Humanity 970-669-9769



United Way of Larimer County has announced this year's dates for our Board Bank Trainings.

Dates:

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

United Way
of Larimer County

United
Way



General Information

Event Description:

United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center is recruiting skilled, interested and available volunteers for the Board Bank program. The Volunteer Center recruits and trains community professionals to become valuable board members, and assists in matching volunteers with the needs of local non-profit organizations. During this two hour training, participants will discuss and learn more about the role and importance of a Board of Directors. Topics include, but are not limited to: leadership roles, responsibilities, planning, evaluation, fundraising, and finances.

Time:

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location:

Good Samaritan Village in Fort Collins, located at 508 West Trilby Road

Cost:

\$20 cost includes a class on the expectations and general policies of serving on a Board of Directors, allows the volunteer to learn about possible nonprofits to be paired with, and each volunteer gets a book on the responsibilities of a board member.

Contact:

Interested volunteers should register for the training by completing the Board Bank candidate application, which is available by contacting Erin Zimmermann, Volunteer Center Specialist, at 970-407-7064 or ezimmermann@uwaylc.org, or online at <http://uwaylc.org/volunteer/general-volunteerism/serve-on-a-board-of-directors/>

Got News?

Send your submissions to

Beverly Walker

Walkerb
@ci.loveland.co
.us

by Apr 15th
to be
included
in the
May/Jun
issue!

The Larimer Home Ownership Program (LHOP) and Larimer Home Improvement Program (LHIP)

are taking applications NOW! Contact Amy Irwin, Manager/Homeownership Programs, Housing Authority of the City of Loveland at 970-635-5931.



Make tax time pay and get your taxes done for free!

2 Easy Ways to Make Tax Time Pay

1—Claim all the tax credits you're due

If you make less than about \$49,000 and have children at home, the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit can reduce the income tax you pay and may even mean a much bigger tax refund – as much as \$5,000 or more! Plus, there are tax credits that can help you pay for college.



2—Get your taxes done for free

Visit Tax Help Colorado sites statewide and get your tax return prepared and e-filed for free by IRS-certified college students. Services are free to taxpayers with household income less than \$49,000.



For location sites in Loveland and Fort Collins go to:

<http://www.piton.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=TaxSites.SearchResults>

For more information Dial 2-1-1 or go to www.piton.org/eitc



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Larimer County is currently seeking caring, community volunteers to advocate on behalf of abused and neglected children who have open cases in the 8th Judicial District. Join us at our Volunteer Information Meeting to find out how 10 - 15 hours a month can make a difference in the life of a child.

Thursday March 1st 2012, 5:30.p.m.-6:30.p.m.

Larimer County Justice Center, 201 Laporte Ave, Ft. Collins

Please RSVP to Serena Robb at 970-377-9445 or Serena@CASALarimer.com. Our next volunteer training class begins in April, so this is the perfect opportunity to learn about and get involved with this wonderful organization. More info at <http://www.fortnet.org/CASA>



Project Self-Sufficiency Cars for Families Program

Reliable transportation is critical as single parents enrolled in PS-S take steps to increase their education, gain work experience, and accomplish personal goals.

In response to these needs, Project Self-Sufficiency created the Cars for Families Program.

How You Can Help

Project Self-Sufficiency accepts vehicles that are in working condition. A selection committee reviews applications from families who are already PS-S participants.

Your donated car is then made available to a selected family and becomes their daily mode of transportation to work, school, child care, and medical appointments. With your help, a family in need is able to move forward in reaching their goals for self-sufficiency.

Contact Information

For more information about the Cars for Families program, please contact Susan Dominica at (970) 407-0305, extension 5, or email Susan at SUSAN@PS-S.ORG.



FastTrack to GED Success: Earn a GED in 8 weeks for \$30!

Enroll now at the Center for Adult Learning in downtown Loveland to graduate in May. Already this year, 17 students have passed the GED test, and more are joining them each week! For less than the cost of a tank of gas, you can earn your GED—opening doors for future education and employment. We even have scholarships available to help pay for the GED test.

You could have a GED by May! Enroll today!



CASA of Larimer County invites you and your friends to attend our

Light of Hope Breakfast

on **Wednesday April 4, 2012.**

This free, informational breakfast will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Fort Collins. Registration will be held at 7am and the program will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end promptly at 8:30 a.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about CASA services for our most needy children and to make a pledge, with no minimum or maximum, to support these services.

CASA Mission: We provide a voice in court for abused and neglected children and a safe place in the community for conflict-free family interactions.

For questions or to RSVP please call DeAnn Zamora at (970)488-1634 or email deann@casalarimer.com

Senior Nutrition Services

Congregate Dining Cafes



Caregiver Support Services

Caring Companion – Free Respite

Programs are provided on a donation only basis

The lunch is catered and served at Noon at each location.

Everyone is welcome over the age of 60 for a requested donation only.

Anyone may attend any of these locations.

we feed. we shelter. we support.



we care

Chilson Senior Center (700 East 4th Street)

Serving - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Call for more information

(970) 472-9630

Silver Leaf 1 (2100 Maple Drive)

Serving - Monday, Friday

Silver Leaf 2 (2000 Maple Drive)

Serving - Tuesday, Thursday

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION AWARDS FUNDS TO MCKEE CANCER CENTER

Center Will Expand Services Offered in Northern Colorado

The National Breast Cancer Foundation has recently awarded McKee Medical Center's Cancer Center with a \$25,200 grant. The grant is part of the National Breast Cancer Foundation's National Mammography Program, and will provide mammograms and ultrasounds for the medically underserved in Northern Colorado.



Banner Health

The mission of the National Breast Cancer Foundation is to save lives through early detection and to provide mammograms for those in need.

According to Kristen Freund, an Oncology Social Worker at McKee's

Cancer Center, "The grant from the National Breast Cancer Foundation will be instrumental in serving uninsured and underinsured women and men in Northern Colorado with breast cancer screenings that would otherwise be unattainable. With budget cuts occurring at the state and federal level, the need for free breast cancer screenings will continue to grow."

**McKee Medical Center
Foundation**

McKee's Cancer Center provides integrated cancer treatment programs, clinical trial participation and education and prevention programs. Freund states, "At McKee we are able to provide women and men with the full continuum of care for breast cancer. If a person is diagnosed with breast cancer we also have funds from Susan G. Komen to offer treatment services at our Cancer Center. It is wonderful to be able to offer this service in Northern Colorado and help ease the financial burden that prevents many in our community from life-saving breast cancer screenings and treatment."

The McKee Medical Center Foundation raises funds and friends for the health and wellbeing of the Loveland community. We exist to make a difference in people's lives through excellent patient care.

McKee Medical Center Foundation / (970)203-2503 / brooke.vanderwal@bannerhealth.com

WINE FEST 30

A Tradition



This is the 30th year of Wine Fest, **Disabled Resource Services** major fundraising event and the premier wine tasting in Northern Colorado. The event will feature fine wines from around the world, scrumptious food from local establishments and locally brewed beer from the three major breweries in Fort Collins. It will be held at the Hilton Fort Collins, 425 West Prospect in Fort Collins on March 23rd. Call 482-2626 and ask about Wine Fest room rates.

The silent auction is always magnificent; something you have to see to believe.

There are two ticket prices this year. If you would like to attend the VIP tasting (6:00 to 10:00), the admission is \$100. You will be able to experience some wines that will not be available for general admission. General admission tickets (7:00 to 10:00) will be \$75. An easy way to buy is through PayPal. This method puts you in a drawing for Wine Fest night free at the Hilton. You can also purchase admission at Pringle's Fine Wines, Supermarket Liquors, and Wilbur's Total Beverage.

A really exciting addition to Wine Fest is the Reserve Tasting from 5:00 to 6:00 hosted by Mark Eppel. You will experience the best of the best and the admission price is only \$50. This tasting will be limited to 20 people so don't miss out.

For complete information, visit our new website: www.winefestfc.org or call (970) 482-2700.

Got News?

Send your submissions to

Beverly Walker
Walkeb
@ci.loveland.co.us

by Apr 15th to be included in the May/Jun issue!

Safe Kids Larimer County and partners are pleased to offer car seat classes for families in need of a car seat/booster seat for their child.

Registration is REQUIRED by calling 970.495.7508. Distribution is limited to one (1) seat per family, per year, and in lieu of a class fee a \$20 donation is kindly requested (but not required). Classes are offered in both English and Spanish. Se habla español.

Upcoming classes dates, times and locations are as follows:

Tuesday, March 20th 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. at Loveland Fire Station #6 (Loveland)

Friday, March 30th 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. SPANISH only at The Family Center/La Familia (Fort Collins)

Saturday, March 31st 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Fullana Learning Center (Fort Collins)

Tuesday, April 10th 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. at Salud Family Health Center (Fort Collins)

Friday, April 27th 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. SPANISH only at The Family Center/La Familia (Fort Collins)

Saturday, April 28th 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at Fullana Learning Center (Fort Collins)

For more information, visit our website at: www.safekidslcc.org



Loveland Youth Gardeners Celebrating 15 Years of Service

We have grown from one summer program to currently offering three youth educational programs for ages 5-21!

We have successfully:

- Served more than 500 young people ages 5-21
- Provided programs for at-risk and special needs teenagers and young adults
- Provided more than 50,000 lbs. of produce to House of Neighborly Service for low-income residents



Educated several thousand people over the last eight years about sustainable gardening and resource conservation through our public education classes and the Loveland Garden Tour.

Loveland Youth Gardeners is taking applications for its Board of Directors. If you would be interested to learn more about how you can be involved in helping this organization to keep growing, please contact Joanna Rago, Executive Director at 669-7182 or joanna@lovelandyouthgardeners.org.

Loveland Youth Gardeners and High Plains Environmental Center present their 2012 Nourishing Stewardship Lecture Series

Mondays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

March 12: Designing a Xeriscape Garden, Jim Tolstrup

April 9: Growing Fruit in the Home Garden, Jack Fetig

May 14: Beekeeping, Beth Conrey

\$15/class. Call 669-7182 for more info, check website: www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org



Educational Experiences to Grow a Healthy Body & World!

Developing stewardship and healthy living skills through a variety of activities, including gardening, science, art, creative writing and nutrition. Classes for 5-12 year olds taught by Bill Wride

Saturdays: 9:00am-Noon

At High Plains Environmental Center

Cost: \$15 per adventure or \$55 for all four. Scholarships available.

Space is limited. Advance registration required: Call 669-7182 for details

March 10: **The Magnificent, Marvelous Seed!**

Registration Deadline: March 9

Did you know that coconut and popcorn are seeds? Spend a morning exploring seeds, planting seeds indoors and doing a creative project. We'll have a "seedy" snack, too!

April 14: **On Your Mark, Get Seeds, Grow!**

Registration Deadline: April 13

Seeds: indoors and out! We'll plant seeds that like cool weather out in the garden and seeds that like it warm in the greenhouse. We'll also plant wildflower gardens to take home! Fun!



GREEN ADVENTURES



Thompson School District is pulling together resources from our community and making them available for any district staff to access to help provide services to our kids and families. Please fill out the form found at this link [ThompsonR2Jform](#) and email it to Laurie Smith, Outreach Counselor and Homeless Liaison, smithl@thompson.k12.co.us. You may also contact Laurie by email address to request a form to fill out.

Advocacy Training

United Way of Larimer County would like to invite you to attend **Speak Up: Freeing Your Inner Advocate**. This event is free and open to the public and will help you learn what you can do to support and advocate for the issues you are most passionate about. It will feature an opening presentation on "What is Advocacy?" and a panel of elected officials available to answer questions relating to best practices for advocating. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Monday, March 26

5:00-7:30 p.m.

Plymouth Congregational UCC

916 W. Prospect Road ~ Fort Collins, CO 80526

RSVP [here](#) or contact [Jamie Sueess](#) (970) 407-7065.

**United Way
of Larimer County**



Celebrate People in Action

April is National Volunteer Month

National Volunteer Month is about honoring the people who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in our community. United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center is recognizing National Volunteer Month, "Celebrating People in Action," by advocating and recognizing volunteerism and individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in Larimer County. Organizations throughout the community are encouraged to participate in National Volunteer Month.

Here are just a few ways to get involved:

Recognize Your Volunteers

We are accepting volunteer nominations for the State of the Community event. When you nominate your outstanding volunteers, they will be recognized by United Way with a certificate of appreciation, an invitation to the State of the Community event in June and a small gift from United Way. Winners of the award will receive an award and be recognized on stage at the event. Contact [Stephanie Ashley](#) (970) 407-7054 for the nomination form.

Recruit Youth Volunteers

Global Youth Service Day is the largest and longest-running day of service and the only one dedicated to engaging youth in volunteerism. Millions of youth across 100 countries will band together in April to address critical issues and change the world. If you have a project that can be completed by youth and you would like us to share that with our volunteers, contact [Stephanie Ashley](#) (970) 407-7054.

Education & Life Training Center—Register for Spring Session!

ELTC offers affordable classes in computer, medical, and job-preparation skills, as well as open enrollment GED and literacy classes. **Registration for spring session begins March 5, 2012. Registration hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at ELTC. Classes begin the week of March 26, 2012.** Discounts based on income are available! Ask about our payment plan options and discounts for taking two or more classes.

We encourage students who are on a job-seeking path to enroll in our JobReady program. Students will aim to complete the program with a researched career path, up-to-date computer and applied workplace skills, and a job-seeking portfolio. **The next JobReady Orientation is on Wednesday, March 21 at 9 a.m.** The spring session classes include:

- Must Have Career Tools
- Microsoft Office—The Big 4
- A+ Certification Preparation
- GED Preparation
- Phlebotomy



ELTC is partnering with the Loveland Public Library to provide computer workshops beginning in March. Contact ELTC to learn more about this new venture!

At ELTC we envision a community where all are empowered to succeed through education.

ELTC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides education and resources to build citizens' self-sufficiency and contribute to our community's economic prosperity. ELTC is also the lead agency in the Circles Larimer County Initiative, a high-impact strategy to end poverty in our community.

For questions about individual class descriptions, times, or prices, please contact us! Call (970) 482-4357 or visit us at 401 Linden Street, Fort Collins, CO 80524. Feel free to contact us by email as well at info@eltcenter.org.

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Beverly Walker
Walker
@ci.loveland.co.us

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A Child's Dream - 6th Annual Mardi Gras Fashion Show

benefitting A Child's Dream, is right around the corner, scheduled for March 10th, 2012 at the Drake Center. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$600 for a table of 10. Tickets include dinner, two beverages, a goody bag, and of course entrance to the event and all the festivities planned for the night. Live and silent auctions will be held along with a purse raffle. Items in the auctions include but are not limited to four tickets to the Fort Collins Symphony, a free night and \$100 food gift certificate at the Lodge Casino and even a trip to Disneyland. We still have plenty of tickets available- feel free to contact Katie at katie@achildsdreamfulfilled or by phone at (970) 667-6119 for more information or tickets.



Community Events....

MARCH

March 5 — [Education and Life Training Center](#) — Registration for the Spring session begins! Classes begin March 26th.

March 9 — [Larimer County Workforce Center](#) — **Overachieving Without Feeling Overwhelmed** *Bob Heavers, Priority Management International, Inc.* Loveland Police Services Building, 8 AM-9:30 AM. To reserve a seat for any Employers' Roundtable, register online at www.larimerworkforce.org/roundtables, or send an email to lzuccolin@larimer.org, or call 970.498.6606.

March 14 — [Loveland Alliance of Non-Profits](#) meeting — 8:00-10:30 AM Loveland Public Library, Gertrude Scott Room

March 24 — Look Both Ways presents — **Respect Yourself/Protect Yourself** - A free health & empowerment workshop for young women ages 14-16. Register today to ensure your spot! www.lkbthwys.org 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Loveland Museum

March 29 — Tour of Respite Care — 4:30 PM, Please contact Katie Compton at 970.207.9435 katie@respitcareinc.org to sign up. — www.respitcareinc.org

APRIL

April 6 — [Abby's Concert Series](#) — Our Final Year — First Presbyterian Church, Fort Collins at 10:00 AM

April 11 — [Loveland Alliance of Non-Profits](#) meeting — 8:30-10:00 AM Loveland City Council Chambers

April 13 — [Larimer County Workforce Center](#) — **Ten Steps to Achieve Success in Direct Marketing** *Joe Contrino, Henry Wurst, Inc.* — Loveland Police Services Building, 8 AM-9:30 AM. To reserve a seat for any Employers' Roundtable, register online at www.larimerworkforce.org/roundtables, or send an email to lzuccolin@larimer.org, or call 970.498.6606.

April 19 — Tour of Respite Care — 4:30 PM, Please contact Katie Compton at 970.207.9435 katie@respitcareinc.org to sign up. 6203 S. Lemay Ave., Fort Collins, CO www.respitcareinc.org

Job Search Resource Lab



The Larimer County Workforce Center's Loveland office has a Job Search Resource Lab that is open M-F 8 AM-4:30 PM where you can type your resume, complete on-line applications, and conduct other job search activities. Employment Specialists are available for walk-in services every Friday, 8:30 AM—4:30 PM to consult with you about job search questions.

To find out more information regarding these events and view other upcoming events, go to www.cityofloveland.org/communitypartnershipoffice and click More...on the Events display. You can sort by Community Events and Community Partnership.



SAVE THE DATE, May 3rd, for the Cultivate Hope Garden Party Benefit for the Matthews House.

