

Community Partnership Insider



Global Youth Service Week

April 19th—25th is Global Youth Service Week. The **United Way of Larimer County** is hosting their 9th Annual Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) - a week that promotes service among youth. Over the past 22 years, GYSD has brought together more than 40 million youth through service in over 100 countries worldwide. Last year alone, over 400 students in

Larimer County made a difference in their communities by serving in GYSD projects! Help us make sure the youth in our community are represented again this year.

United Way of Larimer County is looking for youth and educators interested in taking



part in organizing a service project. Participants can work within their schools or connect with local organizations to tackle problems they see in their community.

For information and a list of project ideas, contact Andrea Bloomquist at 970-407-7054 or

abloomquist@uwaylc.org.

APRIL is National Volunteer Month

Visit www.uwaylc.org and click on **VOLUNTEER** for more information on volunteer award submission deadlines or contact Jami McMannes at 970-407-7055 or jmcmannes@uwaylc.org

Crossroads Safehouse Begins 30th Year

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Crossroads Safehouse begins the new decade, and their 30th year in operation, with a countywide smile. Since 1980, Crossroads has been providing a place for victims of abuse and their children to receive safe housing. In our mission to eradicate domestic violence through education, advocacy support services, and promotion of social change in the community, we have expanded to include bilingual advocacy services to men, women and children; legal services; 25 transitional housing units; 24/7 crisis intervention via a toll-free hotline, **1.888.541.SAFE**; a Crossroads' staff member working in the TANF offices; a public outreach center; and round-the-clock on-scene response to law enforcement, hospitals, and Colorado State University when these entities page a Crossroads' representative to go to the scene of a domestic abuse incident. Our federally-funded legal program, **Bringing Justice**

Home, provides full legal representation in civil matters to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in five Northwest Colorado counties and in Weld.



crossroads safehouse

In 2008, we were gifted with a 29,000 square-foot facility that, with the help of JCL Architecture, is being renovated to accommodate all those from Larimer County who seek safe haven at Crossroads. The facility is so large that it will also take overflow clients from other Safehouses throughout Colorado, and, thus will become a statewide facility. This facility could not come at a more critical time. During 2009, we recorded a 32.5% increase in the number of residents staying in the Safehouse. Unfortunately, during this same year we had to

turn away 138 people due to lack of space.

The new facility will provide a "home" for more than four times the number of clients we can currently house. In addition to offering a men's suite, the new facility will provide a large meeting room, an interior play scape for children staying at the Safehouse, regular educational programs, weekly on-site healthcare, and job training. To ensure that domestic violence victims are able to access our facility, we will provide a DV Circuit Rider to transport people to the Safehouse from areas in and around Larimer County as well as throughout the entire state of Colorado.

We look forward to working on this community venture with all of you in a mutual effort to end domestic violence and to help those afflicted by it. We thank you for your support.

Habitat for Humanity Applications Begin

Loveland Habitat for Humanity The Family Selection Committee of the Loveland affiliate will open the application period **beginning March 1, 2010 and closing April 15, 2010.** We have discovered the number one factor for the successful acceptance into our program is the presence of a person who encourages and supports the family to apply. Low income families are so used to hearing "no", that the possibility of acceptance for a beautiful, new home seems impossible. Please take a minute to look over our qualifications and if you know of

someone who could benefit from a Habitat home, tell them about it. Encourage them to apply. Encourage them again. You could change their life!



Applicants must meet the following basic requirements:

1. Have lived or worked in Loveland for at least one year.
2. Have a need for adequate housing. (Are current living conditions overcrowded or

unsafe or do you pay 40% or more of your income for rent, or receive subsidized housing?) And can't qualify for a conventional loan.

3. Willing to partner with Habitat by working 250 volunteer hours (sweat equity) per adult applicant.

4. Earn between 30-60% area median income, are a US citizen or legal permanent resident and have: No bankruptcy within the last 2 years, No current non-medical collections, no judgments or liens. Current history of paying bills on time.

For more information please call Susan at 669-9769 or susan@lovelandhabitatforhumanity.org

Wine Fest XXVIII

A 28 Year Tradition

Wine Fest is Northern Colorado's oldest, largest and finest wine tasting event!

According to the Wine Industry, it is among the largest and best-received wine tasting events in Colorado and has the reputation

as one of the best-organized and executed wine tastings in the state.

In its 28th year, Wine Fest XXVIII will be held on Friday, **April 23rd from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm at the Hilton Fort Collins**, 425 West Prospect Road in Fort Collins, Colorado. Over 500 do-



mestic and imported wines from 150 wineries will be poured. A wide array of fresh food will be provided by local businesses to pair with your favorite wine. Festivities also include a silent auction of rare and fine wines, artwork by local artists, jewelry, dining certificates and a variety of merchandise and services.

Wine Fest is **Disabled Resource Services'** annual fundraising event with proceeds providing a wide range of services to people with disabilities.

For more information call (970) 482-2700 or visit the website at www.fortnet.org/winefest.

Volunteers of America

April is National Volunteer Month. To kick off the month's celebration and the honoring of volunteers and the agencies they serve, Volunteers of America has organized a **"Get Involved" Community Volunteer Fair on April 3rd at the Loveland Embassy Suites.** The Fair will be a one-stop-shop for partner agencies and the public to meet at one time in one place to explore opportunities for volunteering and getting involved with the community. Twenty booths will be provided to offer agencies a means to outreach directly to prospective volunteers.



Volunteers of America understands that volunteers are the backbone of our community.

We are committed to support human service organizations by providing *individualized consulting, valuable resources, volunteer benefits and recognition, staff and volunteer workshops, co-marketing, and volunteer recruitment assistance* to help build capacity and sustainability for volunteer programs throughout Larimer County. Enhancing volunteer programs allows our partner organizations the ability to provide more efficient and effective services which benefit our entire community.

Contact: Kathleen Vasa, Volunteer Program Coordinator, voarsvp@frii.com 970-472-9630 www.voacolorado.org/NorthernColorado

Are You Missing Out?

Did you know if you are a volunteer at a designated RSVP Partner Agency, and you are 55 years old or better, you qualify for FREE benefits through **Volunteers of America**? If you are not enrolled as a RSVP volunteer you could be missing out.

As a RSVP volunteer, your FREE benefits include:

- Supplemental Accident insurance
- Liability insurance
- Excess Automobile Liability insurance
- Life Insurance

And for those who qualify, mileage reimbursement.

Signing up is easy! To become a RSVP volunteer with at any RSVP Partner Agency, just ask your volunteer coordinator for an application. If you have questions about becoming a RSVP volunteer call the Volunteer Program Coordinator at **Volunteers of America**, 970-472-9630. It's easy and it's FREE, don't miss out!

Learn about CASA

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate, what does it mean? Imagine a young child living with his mother, a methamphetamine addict. She is unable to provide for his basic needs and doesn't understand the harmful effects of exposing him to meth. This could be a CASA case. The children CASA serves are in the Court system as they are victims of abuse and/or neglect. For the average 18 months it will take the Court to decide a child's permanent home placement, the child may have two or more social workers and live in two or more foster care or other

homes. A CASA volunteer is sometimes the only consistent, caring person in a child's life. In addition to providing important emotional support, as court appointees they are able to gather pertinent data about the child's life from teachers to therapists and provide the Court with this valuable, factual information. This helps the Court determine a permanent home placement that is in the *best interest of the child*.

A CASA Volunteer Affirmation:
The most gratifying experience I've had as a CASA volunteer came when I learned that during a therapy session my CASA

child was instructed to draw and talk about her "safe place" and she drew me. That moved me beyond belief, and with that great honor came an even greater sense of responsibility to continue to be a stable person in her life at a time when she really needed that.



This is the type of service CASA was able to provide to 189 children in 2008 and our numbers are increasing in 2009. We also operate the Fort Collins & Loveland Harmony House programs that

provide a place for safe visitations between children and their non-custodial family members.

Light of Hope Breakfast, Wednesday, April 7th

CASA of Larimer County invites you and your friends to attend our Light of Hope Breakfast on April 7th. This free, informational breakfast will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Fort Collins. Registration will open at 7:00 AM and the program will begin at 7:30 AM and end promptly at 8:30 AM. There will be a request for donations so we may continue to help children in need. For questions or to RSVP please email **CASA.Jeanie@comcast.net**.

Agency Briefs



The Women's Resource Center 4th Annual Pink Rocks! Awards Luncheon

May 14 at the Fort Collins Marriott

Special Guest Speaker for the event will be Joni Sheram, local actress and playwright. She brings her one-woman hit comedy, "Cups", to the breast and reproductive cancer awareness event. **For information on sponsorships and tickets, call the Women's Resource Center at 970-484-1902.**

Spring Semester is off to a great start at the **Center for Adult Learning in Loveland (CALL)**. Classes are filling up as eager students work toward getting that GED. **The annual graduation ceremony will take place on May 12th at Bill Reed Middle School.** Call today and get started, so you too can wear a cap and gown! Enrollment takes

place weekly.

Call 663-7111 for more information.

Have your taxes done at a **FREE** tax preparation site near you or prepare and e-file your own tax return **FREE** on line.



The **Piton Foundation** works with hundreds of organizations across the state to distribute over 1.1 million materials about tax credits for working families.

For more info: Dial 2-1-1 or (970)407-7066, you can also visit the website at www.uwaylc.org

If you are calling outside of Larimer County call 866-485-0211.



3rd Annual Cultivate Hope Garden Party Benefit for the Matthews House

This garden-themed party focuses on life and the new growth that can happen when young people are given the resources and support they need to grow and blossom. This silent auction style event will feature a variety of innovative garden art, live plants and gardening accessories as well as tasty hors d'oeuvres created from locally produced food and tasty local beverages. New this year will be a couple of mini drop-in, informal "garden chats" by local experts, including Tom Throgmorton, local celebrity gardener. Youth will also speak briefly during the event about their experience at the Matthews House. We hope you will join us!

Where: Gardens on Spring Creek, 2145 Centre Ave, Fort Collins

When: Thursday, May 6th

Tickets: \$25 per person



For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Joyce at 970-472-4293 or visit www.themattewshouse.org

Book Drive & Sale

The Suicide Resource Center is holding a **Book Drive** from Jan. 25th—Mar. 12th. Drop off location: Harmony Presbyterian Church, 400 E. Boardwalk, Fort Collins

Book Sale

Friday, March 19th, 3-7:00pm
Sat., March 20th, 9am-2:00pm
at the Harmony Presbyterian Church, 400 E. Boardwalk, Fort Collins.

Book Prices: \$1 Paperback
\$4 Hardcover

For more information contact the **Suicide Resource Center** at 970-635-9301



A New Partnership

The House of Neighborly Service and Loveland Habitat for Humanity have joined forces to better serve our clients and the low income community by providing comprehensive financial and life skills education classes. Working in partnership with local experts such as **Consumer Credit Counseling Services, the Extension Service,** and local business people, a wide variety of topics are covered from how to deal with credit report issues and basic budgeting concepts to maintaining a nutritious diet on a limited budget. We have found within both of our organizations clients enjoy a greater success rate if they are provided with these basic tools. In order to best utilize community resources, we open the classes to clients of other non-profits as

well, including IHN, ATV, N2N, Healthy Beginnings and WIC. If you would like to receive a schedule of classes or be included on our notification list, please contact **Jackie Wray (HNS) at 667-4939** or **Susan Briggs (LHFH) at 669-9769.**



Need a Car Seat?

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



Distribution is limited to one (1) seat per family, per year.

Classes are offered in both English and Spanish. Se habla español.

Call (970) 495-7508

Registration is REQUIRED!

Please call to register at least 48 hours prior to class date/time

A \$20 donation is requested to support Safe Kids.

When & Where:

Tuesday, March 9th

4:30pm—5:30pm and
5:30pm—6:30pm
(parents-to-be ONLY)
Loveland Fire Station #6
4325 McWhinney Blvd.

Friday, March 26th

9:00am—10:00am
(SPANISH only)
The Family Center/La Familia
309 Hickory St.

Tuesday, April 13th

4:30pm—5:30pm and
5:30pm—6:30pm
(parents-to-be ONLY)
Salud Family Health Center
1635 Blue Spruce Dr.

Friday, April 23rd

9:00am—10:00am
(SPANISH only)
The Family Center/La Familia
309 Hickory St.

Loveland Youth Gardeners

Stewardship Series

These classes are open to anyone age 15 and older.

Register for three classes by March 7 and receive a 10% discount!

Upcoming Classes

Growing Great Vegetables On a Budget

Date: Monday March 8th
Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Basic Pruning -To Prune or not to Prune?

Date: Saturday March 20th
Time: 10am-noon

Jazz Up Your Plant Choices with Plant Select®

Date: Monday, April 12
Time: 6:30-8:00pm

To register for the Stewardship Series and Green Adventures, please call 669-7182 or e-mail joanna@lovelandyouthgardeners.org

Green Adventures

Educational Experiences to Grow a Healthy Body & World!

Classes for 7-12 year olds

Saturdays, 9:00-11:30am

Location: High Plains Environmental Center
Cost: \$15/class \$55 for all Scholarships Available

These next three classes will focus on the initial steps to grow a garden, planning and design, starting seeds and planting.

Each session will be its own complete class, but will also build toward the Green Adventures summer camps, which will begin in June with "Get Growing!"

March 13:
The Magnificent, Marvelous Seed!
Registration Deadline: March 11

April 10:
On your mark, Get seeds, Grow!
Registration Deadline: April 8

May 8:
Planting Day!
Registration Deadline: May 6



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Visit us on the Web: <http://www.cityofloveland.org/humanservices>

Follow us on Twitter: LovelandCPO