



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INSIDER

July/August 2011

Partnerships in Action

The **Hand Up Cooperative** is a nonprofit community effort by more than a dozen businesses and social service agencies.



Hand Up Cooperative

Empowering Community Through Job Opportunity

Our Mission is to assist people who are homeless or near homeless in gaining employment and ultimately to help them to receive the "Hand Up" they need to permanently become self sufficient

Our Vision is to reduce homelessness in our community by providing access to employment education and career opportunities.

What We Do: The Hand Up Cooperative works one-on-one with the homeless or individuals in danger of becoming homeless. We offer access to education and training to overcome the various barriers that have prevented people from finding employment. Hand Up aids its participants' climb from the streets to self sufficiency.

Continued on page 5....

The Community Partnership Office is filling open commissioner positions on the **Affordable Housing Commission** and the **Human Services Commission**. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in becoming a commissioner, please apply online at

<http://www.cityofloveland.org/>.

If you have questions contact our office at the number below.

The City of Loveland does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin, or ancestry in the provision of services. For disabled persons needed reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in a City service, program or activity, call (970) 962-2303 or TDD #962-2620.



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Like us on



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

Funding Available for Loveland Residents

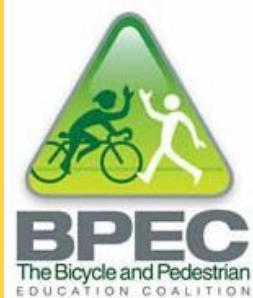
Both the **Larimer Home Improvement Program** and the **Larimer Home Ownership Program** have funds available; these programs are administered by the **Housing Authority of the City of Loveland** and are funded by both the City of Loveland's CDBG program and the Colorado Division of Housing.

The Home Improvement Program provides low to no interest rate loans to area home owners to make needed health, safety and energy efficient improvements to their homes. Borrowers must earn no more than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or \$61,350 for a family of 4. Income guidelines vary per family size.

The Home Ownership Program offers a 2% interest rate loan for down payment and closing costs for first time home buyers, this program has the same income restrictions. **For full program descriptions, applications and guidelines please call Amy at 970-635-5931 or visit our website at www.lovelandhsg.org.**



Who Has the Right of Way? The Bike or the Car?



Learn about the rules of the road, and bike and pedestrian safety by scheduling a safety presentation for your business or organization. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Coalition (BPEC) offers presentations for kids, families, businesses and senior groups. (Presentations are FREE, but donations are greatly appreciated!)

BPEC, through education and encouragement, works to reduce the number of motor vehicle/bicycle/pedestrian crashes in our community and increase knowledge and awareness about how to safely share roads. BPEC works to increase the number of bicycle riders and pedestrians in the community, nurturing health and wellness.

Members include: Bike Fort Collins, Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County, City of Fort Collins, City of Fort Collins Police Department, City of Loveland, CSU Colorado Injury Control Research Center, CSU Police Department, Fort Collins Bicycle Co-op, Fort Collins Cycling Club, Loveland Pedal Club, Poudre School District, PVHS Ambulance Service, Safe Kids Larimer County and Thompson School District.

BPEC was established in fall 2009 and is coordinated by **Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County**.

Visit www.healthylarimer.org/bpec.shtml for more information about BPEC. Email krs4@pvhs.org or call 970-495-7503 to schedule a presentation.

Community Classic Bike Tour Largest Ever in Spite of Weather!

Over 1,500 bicyclists rode in the 24th annual Community Classic Bike Tour on Sunday, May 15, raising more than \$85,000 despite cold temperatures and wet roads. One hundred percent of registration fees and sponsorships benefited the **Stepping Stones Adult Day Program** at McKee.

More than 200 volunteers made this event possible assisting on the course, registering riders, handing out food and water at aid stations, providing safety on the course, and working on-site.

Loveland Cycle 'N Fitness donated a new Raleigh Cadent bicycle that was given away through a donation drawing to Lisa Egan of Fort Collins.

Sponsor support came from Advanced Medical Imaging, Home State Bank, Orthopaedic and Spine Center of the Rockies, the McWhinney Foundation, Subaru of Loveland, Eldorado Spring Water, Experience Plus, KUNC, Loveland Cycle 'N Fitness, McKee Medical Center, Northern Colorado Channel 5, Townsquare Media, Northern Colorado Business Report and Waste Management. A multitude of local businesses donated door prizes and provided ride support.

The **McKee Medical Center Foundation** raises funds and friends for the health and wellness of our community.



Neighbor to Neighbor program helps families avoid foreclosure

Those facing the devastating possibility of losing their home through foreclosure need not maneuver through the traumatic process alone.

Larimer County non-profit **Neighbor to Neighbor** has a 41-year history of supporting residents with housing needs of all kinds and one of the greatest needs of late has been its **free, confidential, foreclosure prevention counseling**. In 2010 alone, 346 households benefited from N2N's Foreclosure Prevention Counseling, and over 95% successfully avoided foreclosure.

N2N's HUD-Certified counselor helps Larimer County homeowners avoid foreclosure by explaining the Colorado foreclosure process, developing a realistic household budget, recommending appropriate loss mitigation options and making referrals to other local resources. N2N's counselor specializes in collaborating with homeowners, mortgage companies and other partners to create a strategic plan for either curing mortgage default or transitioning to other housing. Options may include loan modification, forbearance or selling the property, possibly via a short sale.

"Having an advocate in the foreclosure process can be a key element for a successful outcome," explains Lindsay Nichols, Program Director at Neighbor to Neighbor. "According to an Urban Institute study, homeowners who received foreclosure counseling were **more likely to receive a loan modification**, and on average, **saved \$454 more on their monthly mortgage payments per month**, than homeowners who received modifications but did not work with a counselor."

For more information, contact Lindsay Nichols at lnichols@n2n.org or 970.488.2364.



Got News?
Send your submissions to

Beverly Walker
Walkeb
@ci.loveland.co.us

by August 15th to be included in the Sep/Oct issue!



Summer Youth Employment Program

Larimer County Workforce Center Youth Services is seeking employers and candidates in Larimer County to participate in our Youth Employment Program. We have been accepting applications from youth ages 16+ to participate in an extensive candidate preparation plan to be ready for part-time and/or full-time employment. Included in the program are workshops on **resume building, interviewing skills, and soft skills** that all candidates must complete in order to be presented to employers.

Employers who are interested in hiring one or more youth in a part-time position for the summer months, or who typically have, either temporary or on-going positions that they are preparing to hire for are invited to participate.

Employers may access candidates from a virtual job fair that will showcase professional resumes that the candidates have prepared and the process will be competitive. Employers also may opt to have resumes sent to them via email and/or request that candidates apply in the normal fashion based on their business policy. Employers are NOT required to hire any candidate if there is not a good fit identified through the interview process.

Access to these candidates through the Workforce Center is currently a **FREE service** to employers!

If you are interested in learning more about how utilize the youth employment program please contact

Deb Callies Larimer County Workforce Center Youth Career Specialist
970-498-6082 dcallies@larimer.org

You may also visit our website at: http://www.larimerworkforce.org/Summer_Youth_Employment.php



Larimer County Food Bank New Location in Loveland



Growing to Feed the Need is the **Food Bank for Larimer County's** capital campaign to expand food assistance and outreach in southern Larimer County. The Food Bank will re-locate Loveland Food Share, a direct service food pantry, currently located at 245 S. Madison Avenue, to the former Ferrero Paint & Collision Repair building at 2600 N. Lincoln Avenue. Project completion and move-in is slated for August 2011.

The Food Bank has almost reached the \$2.2 million needed from foundations and other private individual donors. A remaining \$126,000 needs to be raised from the general public for the Food Bank to complete the campaign. The Gates Family Foundation has offered a challenge matching grant: for every donation designated to the Loveland Food Share campaign until September 1. **If you would like to donate, go to www.foodbanklarimer.org .**

Hand Up Cooperative continued from page 1....

History: The seedlings for Hand Up Cooperative were planted in 2008 when an employee of New Belgium Brewery befriended a man who had been homeless and was living on the streets for the last couple of years. The New Belgium Brewery employee, in an attempt to offer the homeless man a 'Hand Up', sought a job opening for him within the corporation. Before long the homeless man was gainfully employed at New Belgium Brewery, living off the streets and fully self-sufficient.

When Sister Mary Alice Murphy, a longtime advocate for the homeless in Fort Collins and Loveland, heard of the incident she saw it as an example that with a little compassion a cooperative could be built between the business sector and the homeless community. Inspired by the simple model of businesses giving the homeless community a 'Hand Up,' Sister Mary Alice Murphy gathered a team of volunteers consisting of individuals from Fort Collins' business sector and social workers deeply involved in the homeless community to form the Hand Up Cooperative in 2009.

Since the inception of Sister Mary Alice Murphy's idea in 2008, the Hand Up Cooperative has evolved into a detail-oriented fully operating program. Under the stewardship of a committee of volunteers, the organization created a foundational screening process for all Hand Up participants and a diverse curriculum to help educate participants in ways to handle varying barriers to employment. Hand Up has also cultivated partnerships with over a dozen social service agencies and local businesses alike. By working together, the cooperative strives to provide local businesses with quality employees and to help homeless individuals become self-sufficient.



Want to give us a Hand Up?

Make a Donation:

By visiting our website at handupcooperative.org (We accept Credit Card or PayPal)

Sending a check to Daniel Covey at the Murphy Center written out to United Way of Larimer County with Hand Up Cooperative in the memo.

Hire a participant by contacting Daniel Covey at
dcovey@handupcooperative.org

Volunteer by contacting our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@handupcooperative.org

- Teaching
- Become a Mentor
- Help out with an event

Take a Tour and Meet the Staff by contacting Daniel Covey at dcovey@handupcooperative.org



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center is now accepting agency applications for Volunteer Project Leader (VPL) projects for Make a Difference Day 2011, October 17th-23rd.

To be considered for VPL pairing, agencies must fill out a short application and return to the **Volunteer Center NO LATER THAN Monday, July 11.**

With Days of Service growing larger and more frequent, and with agencies' day to day workloads continuing to increase, it has become harder for agencies to organize one-day volunteer events for a large group of volunteers. Large projects often take many planning hours and agencies can struggle to find the necessary resources to carry out the project. In efforts to assist agencies in organizing successful projects, United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center hosts the Volunteer Project Leader (VPL) program in hopes of connecting individual volunteers with agencies to help in the planning process of larger scale projects. With the help of a VPL, large projects can run more smoothly and the agency is more likely to fulfill their need with the volunteers, supplies and talents available.

For more information contact: Erin Zimmermann, Volunteer Center Specialist, United Way of Larimer County 970.407.7064 www.uwaylc.org



UNITED WAY COMMUNITY EVENT RECOGNIZED VOLUNTEERS

United Way
of Larimer County

The focus of the **9th Annual State of the Community** event, held Thursday, June 9th, was understanding poverty and community solutions. Author and keynote speaker, Phil DeVol explained what is called the "Bridges Concept" to solving community poverty, and shared in great detail what it takes to alleviate poverty in a community. Loveland Mayor Cecil Guitierrez spoke about the increased number of people living in poverty in Larimer County, and shared his personal story of growing up in poverty, and the many efforts happening in the communities to address the problem.

Also featured at the event were five outstanding local volunteers.

- Garin VanDeMark of Fort Collins - Senior Volunteer Excellence Award
- Esther and Brian Hansen of Fort Collins - Volunteer Excellence Award
- Coordinators: Angel House of Loveland - Outstanding Group Volunteer Award
- John Everitt Cullens of Wellington - Linda Nerger Youth Volunteer Excellence Award
- Brian Soukup of Fort Collins - Community Collaborator of the Year Award

Congratulations to all of the award winners and nominees! Thank you to the judges who took their time to help choose the winners of each award.

Thank you to the Larimer County community for supporting the event and for the work you do each and every day with regard to our impoverished community members.



Volunteers of America, Serve Colorado, and AARP Join to “Book on into Reading” this Summer

Volunteers of America, Northern Colorado Services has partnered with **AARP Colorado, Serve Colorado** (the Governor’s Commission on Community Service), **Homeless Gear**, and other local non-profits and businesses for the 1st annual “**Book on Into Reading**” book drive to benefit low-income school children.

Beginning July 18 through August 8, residents can drop off new children’s books at local organizations and businesses in Loveland and Fort Collins. The books will be offered to low-income children in Fort Collins and Loveland, via **Homeless Gear** and **House of Neighborly Services**.

According to a recently concluded longitudinal study commissioned by the **Annie E. Casey Foundation**, students who do not read proficiently by 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of school, as compared to proficient readers. In 2010, 29% of Colorado third graders scored either partially proficient or unsatisfactory on the Colorado Student Assessment Plan (CSAP). That is nearly 17,000 Colorado children who are not reading at grade level and now more likely to drop out of high school. “It is time for Colorado to strengthen and expand efforts to improve early childhood and elementary school literacy,” said Jenna Hansen, Volunteer Generation Program Coordinator at **Serve Colorado**.

“By partnering with **AARP Colorado, Volunteers of America-Northern Colorado**, and local businesses to put on this book drive, we are highlighting the value that community engagement and involvement bring to early learning for children.” Many local organizations and businesses are supporting the effort as well: In Loveland, **House of Neighborly Services** and the **Salt and Light Learning** will house bins for book drop-off during the drive. Likewise, in Fort Collins donors can drop books at **Learning Express Toys**, the **Fort Collins Senior Center**, or **King Soopers** North College Marketplace. In addition, **HELP International** in Loveland and **The Family Center** and the **Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship** in Fort Collins have offered short-term storage space for books.

“And we can’t forget the volunteers!” noted Crystal Yates-White, Volunteer Program Manager for **Volunteers of America in Larimer County**. “It is volunteers who will make this project a success on-the-ground.” Each week during the month-long book drive, community members will be busy sorting, boxing, and hauling donated books. This is in addition to the ongoing work of a cadre of volunteers who support **Homeless Gear’s** monthly distribution of clothing and necessities to needy individuals. Reflecting on the community-wide support for the project, Yates-White added, “For many children, the new book they get through this drive will be the first they have ever owned. And given the breadth of support for this project, that book will not be a mere hand-out – it will be a gift from our entire community.”

For more information about the drive, donations, or to volunteer contact Crystal Yates-White at 472-9630 or volmanager@frii.com.

**Got
News?**

Send your
submissions
to
Beverly Walker
Walkeb
@ci.loveland.co.us

by August
15th
to be
included
in the
Sep/Oct
issue!



Community Events....

JULY

July 7 — Nourishing Stewardship Lecture Series — Birds of the High Plains Environmental Center

July 8 & 9—Loveland Loves BBQ—Downtown Loveland www.lovelandlovesbarbecue.com

July 9 — Running Towards Balance 5K —CSU Oval, Oval Drive and Old Main Street www.active.com

July 11-15 — Green Adventures Camp — It's Entomology By-Golly — High Plains Environmental Center www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org

July 12—WomenGive 101 — Bonnell Building — womengive

July 12 & 22 — Car Seat Safety Classes — call 970-495-7508

July 16 — Loveland Classic 5K & 10K — Davidson-Gebhardt Centerra — www.lovelandclassic.com

July 23—Loveland Little Sprint Triathlon—Mountain View High School

July 25-29 — Green Adventure Camp — Dirty Detectives — High Plains Environmental Center www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org

AUGUST

August 4 — Nourishing Stewardship Lecture Series — Preserving the Harvest, Part I

August 6—Gnarly Barley Brew Fest—Larimer County Fair Grounds www.gnarlybarleybrewfest.com

August 6-21 — Volunteers of America, "Stuff for Students" — Wal-Mart Stores accepting donations

August 8-12 — Green Adventure Camp — Join the Green Team — High Plains Environmental Center www.lovelandyouthgardeners.org

August 9 & 26 — Car Seat Safety Classes — call 970-495-7508

August 12 — DNALEVOL, Grimm Brothers Beer Garden — Loveland Feed and Grain — call House of Neighborly Service for more information 970-667-4939

August 14 — Pedal to the Point Bike Tour — Ride begins and ends at Waverly School www.turningpoint.org

August 18 — Birdies on the Green — The Olde Course at Loveland

August 19 — Valley 5000 — Fairgrounds Park



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.