



COMMUNITY OF CARING FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012

Aspen Mine Center, Cripple Creek, Colorado

Vol. 7, No. 1

ASPEN MINE CENTER CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

If you haven't seen the inside of the Aspen Mine Center yet, why not? You've had 10 years to check it out! There are many reasons to do so. It's a beautiful building, thanks to the original owners. It even has its own waterfall. There is a great coffee shop and café with wi-fi. Primarily it is the home of the Community of Caring Foundation, Teller County Salvation Army, and two dozen other service agencies and nonprofits, with many more agencies and nonprofits as affiliates.

The AMC is a one-stop resource and referral shop. In its existence, it has served thousands of people and families. It has provided \$842,000 of assistance and 620,000 pounds of food. Founder Mary Bielz has handed out 50,000 pounds of candy and volunteered 26,000 hours of her time. Among the more popular and visible programs are our food pantry, clothes closet, Golden Circle hot lunches, commodities, Pikes Peak Workforce Center and Teller County social services. Our collaborative program with our local school district, the Mountain Alternative School, has

served 722 students and has a 94% core student graduation rate.

The Center began life as the Aspen Mine Casino, which

closed in the mid-90s; the building sat empty for a few years. Art teacher Bielz, who had been running a Community of Caring program from her school classroom, and local realtor Reed Grainger, approached the owners to ask if they might donate the building. They said, Yes if we had 501c3 status. As Bielz had acquired that status, the building was donated and the Center was born, 10 years ago this year.



Suzanne Core and Erin Patterson staffed our booth at the Woodland Park Farmer's Market on June 8. Photo by Norma Engelberg

Cont. on pg. 2



The second annual SOUP FOR THE SOUL, a soup and cookies contest fundraiser for the Gold Camp Christmas event, was a huge success. See more on pg. 2.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN MOVES TOWARD FINISH LINE

"We're rolling! We're moving! The rubber is meeting the road! A 3-year effort to provide transportation between Cripple Creek and Victor is imminent and could be a reality at the beginning of 2013," said transportation task force members, Mary Bielz and Victor councilwoman Veldean Petri.

"This effort at achieving a coordinated transportation system first phase is the extension of the Cripple Creek shuttle to Victor. By now, all of you have taken part in a survey or two. The results are an overwhelming support for this initiative," they said.

Cont. pg. 5

10th Anniversary, cont.

The donors' only other stipulation was that it be run as a nonprofit for five years. They were delighted to hear from Mary Bielz earlier this year with the news of our 10th anniversary and an invitation to the celebration in September.

We are funded by donations, grants, earned income, and a small Cripple Creek sales tax approved by Cripple Creek voters.

The Aspen Mine Center and Community of Caring Foundation core values are responsibility, respect, trust, caring and family.

PLEASE VISIT US ON THE WEB AT www.aspenminecenter.org. Our partners and affiliates, agencies and entities, are all listed there on the Teller County Resource Group page.

And stay tuned to find us on social media, or at least on Facebook. Visit and "Like" us there!



Lisa Noble and Morgan Gengo organized the 2nd annual Soup for the Soul fund-raiser held on Friday of Gold Camp Christmas weekend. Local casinos and individuals offered their best soup or cookie for this popular contest



Cheers

Kudos

Applause

Congrats

PLEASE JOIN US THE WEEK OF SEPT. 24 TO HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

- Sept. 24** Afternoon Delights (dessert buffet by Build A Generation)
 - Sept. 25** Special Soups luncheon by Jeffrey House Ministries
 - Sept. 26** The Dressing Room Fashion Show (at a special Wednesday lunch or dessert tea)
 - Sept. 27** Chamber of Commerce Meet & Greet
 - Sept. 28** Commodities Day special festivities
 - Sept. 29** 10th Anniversary GALA RECEPTION (an opportunity to recognize and celebrate so many friends who have helped to make it all a reality)
- All events at Aspen Mine Center, Cripple Creek

Call us at 689-3584 for more information or to RSVP for any or all events.

NEW CLIENT SERVICES COORDINATOR



Diana Baker, our new Client Services Coordinator, also runs the Commodities program.

Many of you know Diana Baker as our grant-funded Senior Advocate at the Aspen Mine Center. Diana has worked with our seniors and with the Golden Circle nutrition program for the past year or so. She has just moved from that position into the Client Services Coordinator job, where she will interact with all of our clients and have greatly-expanded job responsibilities.

As a valued volunteer, Diana has managed the Commodities program for the past 9 years and will continue to do so. She also plans to stay involved with her seniors.

Prior to coming to the Aspen Mine Center, Diana worked as a special ed para for 5 years at Cresson Elementary.

Diana and her husband Gary have lived in Cripple Creek for 22 years. They have two adult children, a son and a daughter, both living in Colorado. Daughter Jodi teaches theatre and Spanish in Aurora. Son Garrett is in his third year of college.

You can reach Diana at ext. 100, 689-3584. Her office hours here are Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m.—5 p.m.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER (A 10-year Retrospective) by Ted Borden

As I look back, down that road that led to where we now stand, I am in awe of the statistics, the numbers; the facts and figures that fill data sheets, grant applications, and accounting forms. There are times when I get caught up in that; when the business side of human services looks larger than the people we serve. In our quest to solve the larger problems of society we often are blinded by the overwhelming demand for proof that a program is financially viable and fiscally sound. These things are of course necessary: checks and balances, accountability boards, and over-site mechanisms. Yet all the statistics of people served, dollars spent, donations received, and programs developed cannot tell the story of success as vividly, as brilliantly, as deeply, as can the hope-filled face of one client.

The community of Teller County created the Aspen Mine Center. It was founded by a small group of committed neighbors and agency representatives led by a force of nature in red Converse All-Stars doubling as an Art Teacher and community activist who daily witnessed the struggles of the children she taught and their families who faced daily challenges like we all do. The idea was simple enough: create a place where people could go to get help finding the answers to questions they had to make their lives, and the lives of their children, better, more stable. Perhaps the greatest indicator that this dream

could be transformed into a tangible reality occurred on Dec. 31, 2001, when the Aspen Mine Casino building was donated free and clear to be used as such a place. As a good friend of the Aspen Mine once exclaimed, "It's incredible that this building could fall from heaven to the earth and land in one piece." That was the first of many miracles to happen in the 100 block of Bennett Ave in Cripple Creek.

One of the most impressive things about the people of Teller County is their commitment to a project that can improve the quality of life. The outpouring of support that occurred to make this "One Stop Shop" resource center a reality was nothing less than inspiring.

We live in one of the most beautiful places on earth, we are connected, all of us, by our commitment to this community and to each other. Let us remember to inspire hope in each other when things look bleak, to inspire the courage to change in each other when we are fearful, and to inspire compassion in each other when we are struggling to forgive.

It is my great honor to have spent the past ten years in service to this community, the neighborhood I love. Whether you are a client or staff member, a volunteer or community service worker, employer or employee, director or custodian, we are, all of us, only one step away from walking in the footsteps of our neighbor... and what a comfort that realization is.



10 YEARS OF MILESTONES FOR THE ASPEN MINE CENTER

\$842,000 worth of assistance provided

420,000 pounds of food distributed via Commodities program

75% voter approval of sales tax support

16,800 commodities boxes

+200,000 pounds of food given out in Food Pantry food boxes

35,000 senior meals served

722 students attended courses at Mountain Alternative School

35 jobs created

Year **2004**

18 new programs serving community

Acts of Caring Award

1200 volunteers helping

received in Washington DC

50,000 lbs candy given out

Aspen Mine Center
 166 E. Bennett Avenue
 Cripple Creek CO 80813
 Phone (719) 689-3584
 www.aspenminecenter.org
Executive Director
 Ted Borden
Client Services Coordinator
 Diana Baker
Administrative Assistant
 Veldean Petri
Newsletter Editor/
Photographer
 Suzanne Core

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

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

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



Aspen Mine Seniors Club members and other seniors enjoy hot meals twice weekly; they are joined by the Timberline Artists each Wednesday. (The artists invite everyone to join them as well.)

GOLDEN CIRCLE NUTRITION PROGRAM RUN BY COMMUNITY OF CARING FOUNDATION

Since the donated casino building now housing the Aspen Mine Center had a kitchen and dining room, it was a natural fit to host hot lunches for seniors. Such a program began several years ago through a partnership with the Golden Circle Nutrition Program. Hot lunches are served Wednesday and Friday upstairs at the AMC, and Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at the Vicci Center in nearby Victor. Senior Advocate Angie Trelstad oversees the program, working closely with Chef Meeche. Reservations are recommended but not required. Meals for those age 60 and over are \$2.00. A \$6.50 donation is suggested for others. Meals are served from noon to 1:00 but many seniors come much earlier to socialize in the beautiful AMC dining room or charming Vicci Center. Y'all come!

BILL BLACKBURN JOINS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM IN SOUTHERN TELLER COUNTY

In another local collaboration, the Cripple Creek & Victor Chamber of Commerce and Southern Teller Economic Development Coalition recently hired marketing guru Bill Blackburn of Divide to help with strategy and implementation of economic development efforts. Bill brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the job. One of his first tasks is creating or improving websites for local businesses. He can be found most days in the Aspen Mine Center, often in the coffee shop with his laptop. Stop in and speak with him about how he can help your business or event become more successful.

The Gold Camp Christmas Planning Committee (GC CPC) is always looking for volunteers. The committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Aspen Mine Center conference room.

The 2012 theme is "The Sounds of Christmas." Contact event coordinator Kathi Pilcher to volunteer or for more information.

"Donkeys in the Gold Camp" was the 2011 theme. Photos of the event, including some of the amazing theme-decorated Christmas trees, can be seen on AMC's website, Christmas page, www.theaspenminecenter.org.

A Cup of Christmas Tea luncheon and Soup for the Soul soup and cookie contest are popular annual fund-raisers held to help with expenses for the event.



Angie Trelstad, our Senior Advocate, can be reached at ext. 118.

AMC WELCOMES NEW SENIOR ADVOCATE

Angie Trelstad, our new Senior Advocate, is the newest and a most welcome member of staff.

Angie, a Cripple Creek native, once owned The Branch restaurant. She has authored a book, *Queen of the Urban Jungle*, and is a personal protection instructor. She and husband Brad, a former police chief, counterterrorism expert and licensed chaplain, own Warrior Chaplain, LLC, helping returning wounded warriors adjust. (Both shoot straight, too!)

With a business background, Angie has been featured on radio and TV and is in *Who's Who of Women Executives*, among others.

The Senior Advocate is responsible for assisting area seniors remain in their own homes by removing barriers to independent living, and assist with coordination and development of a comprehensive system of services for them. Angie will also supervise the Golden Circle Nutrition Program in Cripple Creek and Victor.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS FOR SOUTHERN TELLER COUNTY

Cont. from page 1.

Bielz and Petri continued: "The basic reason is to improve the quality of life in our community by offering a safe, reliable transit system for job seekers, senior citizens, the disabled, our youth, and the general population's need for greater access to resources and opportunities. The city of Cripple Creek has submitted an FTA 5311 grant for this expansion and coordinated effort for the benefit of the total local community.

"Currently, a shuttle service plan is being developed between the cities of Cripple Creek and Victor and Community of Caring, under an FTA planning grant with matching funds from the Cripple Creek & Victor Mining Company under Ostrander Consulting firm. The results and finalization of this plan will be released in early September.

"This 3-year extensive groundwork will result in a sustainable, comprehensive, flexible transit system. We believe our travel on this road of coordination and integration of services is the common sense direction for our future. We praise our partners' vision and willing efforts moving this initiative forward!"

History:

Early in 2009, a two-year \$80,000 Job Access Reverse Commute planning grant was awarded to Community of Caring Foundation to address the issue of transportation in Southern Teller County, with specific concern for the needs of low income job seekers and workers, seniors, the disabled and disadvantaged youth. In April 2011 a preliminary Shuttle Service Plan was developed and coordinated the existing Cripple Creek shuttle with new links to Victor and limited regional connections. This served as the basis for application to the FTA Sec. 5311 Rural Transit Assistance Program.

In January 2012, the Teller County Local Coordinating Council was formalized, with focus on the needs of more than 20 participating agencies. With a second planning grant awarded, the effort is focused on coordinating and developing public and private transit options with other human services providers, by promoting, enhancing and facilitating seamless access to transportation services through an easily accessible coordinated system.

Participating agencies include Community of Caring Foundation, Teller County Salvation Army, Prospect Home Care & Hospice, Cripple Creek & Victor Chamber of Commerce, Southern Teller County Economic Development Coalition, Aspen Mine Center, RE-1 School District, Community Partnership, City of Cripple Creek, City of Victor, City of Woodland Park Economic Development Office, Teller County Government, Teller County Dept. of Social Services, WrapAround House Bill 1451, Teller County Victims Assistance, Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Gold Belt Communities Build a Generation, Victor's DREAM, Triple Crown Casinos, Bronco Billy's, Ramblin' Express, Teller Senior Coalition, In The Lord's Service, The Independence Center, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and consultant Transit Plus.



Aspen Mine Center executive director Ted Borden (left) and woodworker Todd Brown sat for a moment on one of the two new benches Brown created for us this Spring.



CRIPPLE CREEK COFFEE, CAFÉ AND CATERING is under new ownership. This free wi-fi hotspot serves breakfast and lunch. The menu features gluten-free and vegetarian options, homemade soups and quiche, and fabulous Danish. Manager Paul Probyn welcomes everyone, saying, "This is our home and you are our guests." His "regulars" will enjoy a locals discount.

Summer hours (from Memorial Day weekend):

7 am—4 pm Mon-Fri

10 am—4 pm Saturdays.

Closed Sundays.



The Aspen Mine Center newsletter is published by the
Community of Caring Foundation
 a 501c3 organization
Our Board of Directors:
 Gerald Bergeman
 Mary Bielz
 Marc Murphy
 Jean Olmstead
 Jackson Peters
 Carl Poch
 Sue Holmes

Services and Office Hours at the Aspen Mine Center

Services accessible through the Aspen Mine Center, 166 E. Bennett Avenue, Cripple Creek, 689-3584.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings ... Pending; call for more information.

Aspen Mine Food Pantry ... 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

Aspen Mine Senior Club ... WISH Program and social activities; contact Lucas @ 689-3584.

Aspen Pointe... Mon., Tues., Thurs., by appointment. Call Claudia @ 572-6330.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) ... By appointment. Call Terry at 447-9898 x1007.

Choices Pregnancy Resource Center (ultrasound) ... Now at 411 No. C St. Cripple Creek; Woodland Park noon to 4 p.m. Monday—Friday. Call 687-1200.

Commodities... 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. last Friday of each month.

Community of Caring (assistance programs & referrals) ... 9 a.m.— 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Community Partnership/GED ... Play group for ages 0-9, Fridays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Cresson Elementary Preschool rooms. For information on all programs, call Karen Svetich at 686-0705.

Cripple Creek Coffee (and Internet Café) ... winter hours: 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Disability Services of Colorado ... Free hearing tests, last Friday of month, 9 a.m.—noon.

Dressing Room (clothes closet) Tues through Friday 9 a.m.—5 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Economic Development Coalition/CC&V Chamber of Commerce ... Call Bill Blackburn @ 494-3740.

Golden Circle Nutrition Program ... Hot meals 12:00-1:00 Aspen Mine Center Wed., Fri.; Vicci Center in Victor Mon., Tues., Thurs.; call for information 689-3584.

Independence Center ... Tues 10 a.m.-2 p.m. by appointment. Contact Donald DeAngelis 471-8181 ext 105.

Journeys Counseling Center ... Group classes 9 a.m. Thursdays by appointment. Call Barbara at 687-6927.

Legal Help ... Third Thurs. 1-3 by appointment; call Erin at 689-3584 or CO Legal Services @ 471-0381.

Peak Vista Community Health Centers ... Divide clinic open 7:30 a.m.— 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For appointments, call 687-4460. For transportation, call 689-3584. Registration here last Friday each month.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center ... 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Thursday; see Hank. Second and fourth Tuesdays Spanish-speaking assistance by appointment. Call for more information 689-3584.

Prospect Home Care & Hospice ... Call for appointment; 687-0549.

Salvation Army ... 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Teller County Dept. of Social Services (Medicaid) ... 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mon., Wed., Fri.

Teller County Public Health (TCPH) ... Every Wednesday, by appointment 11 a.m.—noon and the last Friday of each month by appointment 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 687-6416 for information/appointments.

Teller/Park Early Childhood Council ... For more information or to participate, call 719-836-0706.

TESSA (advocacy and therapy for victims of domestic violence) ... Crisis line 719 633-3819.

The Resource Exchange... For information, call Kim Harris at 687-5047.

Therapyworks... By appointment; call Doug at 322-4745.

Veteran's Administration ... Mondays by appointment; call Mike 641-4804.

Vocational Rehab ... Monthly; call Rebecca for appointment @ 635-3585 or 482-7964.

Welcome Home Warrior... For information, call Donna at 439-3621.

Wraparound/Family Support Partner ... For information, call 499-2151.

