

**Rural Solutions
Executive Director's Activity Report
For August 2008
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds**

Highlights of August

- I spent a great deal of time this month preparing for the Bridges out of Poverty training. I have been doing a great deal of reading about poverty, some great books. Need a reading list??
- We completed, with great help from Michelle, the final report for the Anschutz Family Foundation grant that Rural Solutions received in 2004-2005. The report had been due in December 2005. We pulled together information as best we could.

Financial News

- I completed a small grant application to the Rural Philanthropy Days committee. The committee is looking for an organization to organize events that further the effectiveness and knowledge of the various nonprofits throughout NE Colorado in the three years between Rural Philanthropy Days in our region.

Preventing Suicide Initiative and Office of Suicide Prevention Grant for Seniors.

- See attached report from Maranda.

Health Disparities Grant

- See Maranda's report.
- We have been working with other organizations who also have received Health Disparities grants to collaborate to provide services to Latinos. We met with Julissa from the American Diabetes Association and Gilda from Salud Clinic this month. Both organizations work in parts of Northeast Colorado with these grant funds. We are going to have a booth at the American Consulate in October and do some training with Salud Clinic.

Fatherhood Initiative

- The Fatherhood Project Advisory Council met on August 6th. Rural Solutions received two requests for Fatherhood Funds, one from Baby Bear Hugs to provide a fatherhood class for employees of Wisdom Manufacturing and one from William

Madden who is working with Elbert County to provide fatherhood services in that county. Both programs are organizing to provide these classes very soon.

- Helped to sponsor a child support enforcement information day in Sterling on August 22, at our office. Child support enforcement staff from Logan County and two local attorneys helped with this community outreach effort. We had about 12 people either call in or stop by for consultation.
- I have attending weekly meetings with the Youth Expo committee to plan the Youth Expo scheduled for September 13th in Sterling.

Bridges out of Poverty Project

- The first training was held in Akron on August 14-15. Over 30 people attended the two-day training. Evaluations were positive about the training.
- The second training will be in Limon on September 11-12.
- Sandy Baker has tentatively scheduled to train her entire staff using this series on October 30-31.

Community Connections

- August 1: Attended a Kit Carson, Yuma, and Washington counties Early Childhood Council meeting by phone conference.
- August 5: Staff met with Twila from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on a site visit for the Health Disparities Grant.
- August 13-14: *Bridges out of Poverty* Training.
- August 13: Met with Salud staff that also has a Health Disparities grant. We are working together to provide training to Outreach Workers about cardiovascular health.
- August 18: Met with Julissa Soto from American Diabetes Association, also a Health Disparities grantee. We met to discuss ways that we can work together to bring more information/services to our counties.
- August 22: Child Support Enforcement Information Day at our office.

Upcoming Events and News:

- I took a few vacation days: August 27-September 2.
- I have a required Fatherhood Initiative training the first week in October and will not be able to attend the Rural Solutions regular meeting on October 1st.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds
August 29, 2008