

Rural Solutions
Executive Director's Activity Report
For January 2010
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds

Highlights of January

- It has been a very busy month, so much so that I was intrigued by the thought of tracking actual numbers of our work. Here are the figures, however subjective, of our work for January 2010.
 - Miles traveled: 6,125 miles to travel in Phillips, Logan, Morgan, Yuma, Washington, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Elbert counties.
 - People contacted for direct conversations about Rural Solutions: 352
 - People trained with various trainings, including all students at Brush Middle and High Schools: 1047
- Classes for the Getting Ahead Program have begun in several sites in the region. It is amazing how well the program has been received in all areas. This program is very exciting!
 - Rural Solutions in Logan County—13 people in the class
 - Washington County Connections,
 - Resource Center in Yuma County.
 - Prairie Family Center in Burlington.
 - Morgan County Family Center. About to completed first cycle.
 - Pam Gibbs, facilitator, in Sedgwick and Phillips counties—9 people in the class.
 - Rose Padilla, facilitator, in Elbert and Lincoln counties.
- Maranda or I continue to attend the "Centennial Mental Health's Communities Coming Together for Mental Health Initiative" in Yuma with community stakeholders who are interested in integrated mental health services in Northeast Colorado. Interesting project.
- The FDC training (training for family resource workers in our region) continues to go well. We meet twice a month in Akron.
- I attended a training meeting around the Women's Wellness Connection project. We continue to figure out how to make this project successful in our region. It is going to be a collaborative project with Rural Communities Resource Center in Washington and Yuma counties. We will work with women in the region for six months to help them access care through this program. Everything seems to be a work in progress lately!!
- We continue to work to create a Second Wind Fund Affiliate here in Northeast Colorado. It is proving to be a complicated project. I met with a lawyer friend of mine who helped me "sort out" the information and pieces of the project. I have learned a great deal about LLC's and how a create an affiliate such as this one.

- Maranda and I attended the 2010 Statewide Suicide Prevention Forum in Denver on January 28-29th. It was fun to watch Maranda "in her element", working with other suicide prevention workers throughout the state. She is well known in this group and well respected for her abilities. She also presented a GREAT talk about the unique challenges and successes of working in rural Colorado.
- Don't forget that we have a small meeting room in our office if you need to use it, holds about 8 comfortably with phone conferencing available.

Financial News

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

- Please see Maranda's monthly report.

Health Disparities Grant

- Please see Michelle's monthly report.

Rural Philanthropy Days Continuation Grant

- Through RPD funds we sponsored Training for Nonprofit Board Members, including Goal Setting in January in Yuma. Tom Westfall facilitated the training. Around 40 people attended the training which received great evaluations. I am planning to schedule this same training here in Sterling and hopefully in Burlington/Limon area later in the spring.
- El Pomar is planning a luncheon for recipients of their grants in February. We organized the training that will be provided by Community Resource after the luncheon.

Fatherhood Initiative

- Please see Glenda's report.

Community Connections

- January 6th: 211 meeting here in our office in Sterling.
- January 8: Attended the NECALG Triparte Board Meeting here in Sterling.
- January 12th: Attended the Centennial Mental Health Communities Coming Together meeting in Yuma.
- January 15th: FDC training day.
- January 19th: Rural Solutions sponsored a Nonprofit Board Member
- January 21st: Attended the Eastern Colorado Workforce Board meeting in Akron.
- January 22nd: FDC training day.
- January 25th: Gave the 990 presentation to Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips and Sedgwick Counties Board.
- January 25th: Attended a Women's Wellness Connection training in Denver.

- January 27th: Lisa and I attended Legislative Day at the State Capitol, an annual event sponsored by Progressive 15.
- January 28-29th: Maranda and I attended the 2010 Statewide Suicide Prevention Forum in Denver.

Upcoming Events and News:

February 24th: El Pomar Luncheon and training in Fort Morgan.

February 27-28th: Bighorn Leadership Training in Sterling. Anyone interested?? Let me know. Details below about the training:

Since its inception in 2001, Bighorn has provided high-quality training in public leadership, policy development and advocacy in both rural and urban parts of Colorado, and has policy experience in health care, economic development, and natural resource sustainability. The Bighorn Program is housed at Colorado State University in the Department of Outreach and Strategic Partnerships. The Bighorn Program is partnering with the Centennial Area Health Education Center (AHEC) to provide a weekend long policy and advocacy training in Sterling.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds
February 3, 2010