

**Rural Solutions
Executive Director's Activity Report
For July 2009
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds**

Highlights of July

- It has been an exciting month here at Rural Solutions. We have received several grants that we will be working on the next year or two. Details below.
- In June I took the training to become a trainer for the FDC (Family Development Curriculum) program. The curriculum was developed by Cornell University and is research based. This program focuses on training family resource workers, caseworkers, Head Start staff, and others to work with families to use a strength-based model in their work. It is a great curriculum and we plan to begin a class in September. I believe this project further enhances the work of Bridges out of Poverty and will become a model for working with families to make them stronger and more self-sufficient.
- The Family Resource Center has vacated our building to new location. We now have the entire office building for our own use. Don't forget that we have a small meeting room if you need to use it, holds about 8 comfortably with phone conferencing available.
- Senators Udall and Bennett sponsored a grants workshop on Thursday, July 30th in Fort Morgan. Great networking time with funders. I gave a short presentation about Rural Solutions and grantwriting ideas. It was fun!

Financial News

- We received the SSUF (State Strategic Use Funds Grant -- TANF money) to build Bridges/Getting Ahead programs at 7 sites throughout the region. The grant total \$308,932 for 22 months. The grant is a collaborative effort with the family resource centers in Yuma, Washington, Kit Carson, and Morgan counties. Combined with the NECALG grant, I believe this grant will impact our region to help build skills in families to alleviate poverty.
- We received the suicide prevention grant for \$12,000 per year from the Office of Suicide Prevention at CDPHE.
- We received a suicide prevention grant for \$48,000 per year to work with agencies and organizations who work with at-risk youth. This grant is dependent upon funding from the Federal program.

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

- Rural Solutions helped sponsor a Weathering the Storm workshop in Yuma. Nonprofits from the region attended. CRC and Colorado Nonprofits Association gave the training.

Fatherhood Initiative

- Please see Glenda's report.

Community Connections

- July 2nd: Met with NECALG to finalize terms of the NECALG Grant.
- July 6th: Met with Gail LaForce from NJC to discuss possible programs for trainings for nonprofits in NE Colorado.
- July 15th: Spoke to the Girl Scouts Leadership Seminar group at NJC about nonprofits and "making a difference in our communities." Fun group!
- July 16-17th: Bridges out of Poverty training in Yuma. 21 people attended.
- July 22nd: Attended the Weathering the Storm Workshop in Yuma, a RPD event.
- July 29th: Mary Gross, Becky Meyer, Patricia Brewster-Willeke, and Deena from Prairie Family Center met to discuss the new SSUF grant to begin September 1st.
- July 30th: Attended a Grant Workshop in Fort Morgan, sponsored by Senators Udall and Bennett. I was able to talk about Rural Solutions for a few minutes!

Upcoming Events and News:

- August 11th: I have once again been invited to serve as a member of the 2009 Selection Committee for National Philanthropy Day in Colorado.
- August 20th: Board Development Training for nonprofits in Akron at the Event Center. Nonprofit directors and board members are invited.
- I will be on vacation from September 14-October 5th.
- August 25th: Rural Solutions is co-sponsoring a Child Enforcement Information Day in Logan County. Attorneys, CSE staff, and we will be available to answer questions that people in the community may have about child support enforcement.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds
August 1, 2009