

**Rural Solutions
Executive Director's Activity Report
For March and April 2009
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds**

Highlights of March and April

- Maranda is now back to work and works 24 hours a week.
- Much of the last two months have been spent organizing, studying, and presenting the Bridges out of Poverty trainings. I do enjoy doing these trainings. Your staffs are great groups to train.
- We continue to work on HIV/AIDS Prevention Assessment of NE Colorado grant. Staff spent much time getting these efforts started in the region.
- We have been part of the Morgan County Older Adults organization the last few months and are helping to organize the Senior Information Day to be held on May 20th.
- We are a part of the Workforce Center Career Fair planning team for a student career fair, scheduled for September.
- Ramona's death has left a big hole in our organization. So often I called her to use as my "sounding board" when I needed to talk or to understand the "history of the organization". We are missing her here in the office.
- We continue to plan for the Rural Solutions annual retreat scheduled for June 24th. I think it will be a great time to do short and long-term planning for the organization.
- The Rural Communities Resource Center and Rural Solutions collaborated to be able to sponsor the Bridging the Gap training again. The program trains people to be professional interpreters in the healthcare communities. The training is very expensive, five weeks, and is being held in Yuma. Seventeen people are taking the training.

Financial News

- It is time to begin budget planning for next year.

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.
- Twila Martinez from the State Health Disparities Office visited our program in April 14th. She attended a cultural competency training presented to the LPN students at NJC. Maranda and Isis gave the training.

Rural Philanthropy Days Continuation Grant

- El Pomar sponsored a Nonprofit Economic Summit: Surviving These Economic Times after the El Pomar Luncheon on March 3rd at NJC. The event was a good chance for funders and grantees to talk about the economic times and how we might all be affected.
- On March 19th I gave the presentation "Nonprofits and the 990" to the Logan County Resource Center

Fatherhood Initiative

- Please see Glenda's monthly report.
- I completed and submitted the fatherhood grant for the next round of funding due on May 1st.

Bridges out of Poverty Project

- Bridges training held on March 23-24 at NJC.
- Bridges training held on April 2-3 at Logan County Department of Social Services.
- I trained the Baby Bear Hugs staff in Yuma on March 11th and April 8th.

Community Connections

- March 12th: Attended the Stakeholders meeting to discuss the Performance Improvement Plan developed by county departments of social/human services.
- March 12th: Attended Washington County Action Team meeting in Akron.
- March 16th: Attended CASA of the Plains meeting in Sterling.
- March 18th: Attended the Navigator Luncheon in Fort Morgan. The program was the Agrability Project.
- March 31: I ate lunch with Sally Henry from CAHEC. We continue to discuss ways to collaborate, support each other's work, and bring services to residents in the region.
- April 7th: Attended the Morgan County Older Adults group meeting in Fort Morgan.
- April 14th: Attended Logan County Design Team.
- April 14th: Attended the Workforce Center Sterling Career Fair planning meeting.
- April 15th: Met and ate lunch with Ruth and Patricia.
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Upcoming Events and News:

- I took two weeks vacation, from April 20-30th.
- The Fatherhood grant team from Department of Human Services will evaluate our Fatherhood Project the week of May 18-21st.
- I have been asked make a presentation about *Bridges out of Poverty* at the Think Big conference in Fort Collins on May 22nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds

May 1, 2009