

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

Highlights of November

- Around 50 people attended the Legislative Breakfast on November 14th. Initial survey results indicate that the event was valuable for almost all attendees. I also sent information to legislators who did not attend the event. Thank you to all of you who helped make the event another success!!
- I have begun attending the Older Adults Resource Council in Morgan County. The Council has been discussing creating/maintaining some sort of resource directory. I hope that we can work together to enhance our Resource Directory so that it will be a valuable resource for this group and older adults in the region. The possibilities for our Resource Directory are endless!!

Financial News

- Our yearly audit is being completed by Dave Kaufman. He will present the audit to the Board at the January meeting.
- Rural Solutions received a grant from the Anschutz Family Foundation for \$10,000 for one year to continue programs, trainings, collaboration throughout Northeast Colorado, particularly enhancing the connections established by Rural Philanthropy Days.
- Rural Solutions is in the process of raising match funds for the Colorado Trust Preventing Suicide Initiative for next year. The Colorado Trust will match our funds up to \$20,000 next year to continue the Initiative.

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

- See attached report from Maranda.

Health Disparities Grant

- See Maranda's report.

Rural Philanthropy Days Continuation Grant

- Rural Solutions is sponsoring a Nonprofit Economic Summit: Surviving These Economic Times on January 15, 2009, in Akron. The event is very much in the planning stages.
- Rural Solutions is also planning to sponsor a series of one-day workshops about "Understanding the Colorado's Common Grant Application". Our plan is to have three workshops on consecutive dates, hopefully in February. I have been negotiating with both NJC and Colorado Resource Center to present these workshops.

Fatherhood Initiative

- The second round of the Fatherhood grant began on October 1st. The amount for this grant for one year is \$42,500.

- Fatherhood classes are currently being held at Fort Morgan Head Start, Wisdom Manufacturing in Merino by Baby Bear Hugs staff, in Elbert County, and in Lincoln County.

Bridges out of Poverty Project

- I will deliver this training to Kit Carson Health and Human Services staff in Burlington on January 29 and 30th.
- I am also planning to schedule training in Sterling in February. I will let everyone know when the schedule is finalized.

Community Connections

- November 4th: Attended the Older Adults Resource Council in Fort Morgan.
- November 10th: Attended the CASA Advisory Council meeting in Sterling.
- November 12th: Met with Zeke Saidman, contractor from the Colorado Trust, who evaluated our suicide prevention programs. All is going well with this program.
- November 14th: Legislative Breakfast. Great event, huh!! Thanks, everyone, for your help, support, and expertise.
- November 17th: Attended a luncheon sponsored by the Colorado Children's Campaign at NJC. The CCC provided an overview of the status of children who live in Colorado. I have the PowerPoint if anyone is interested in their information.
- November 18th: Attended the Linking Yuma County meeting in Yuma. There was a great deal of interesting discussion about the increasing needs of residents of Yuma and Washington counties, including rent, utilities, food, etc needs.
- November 19th: Met in Yuma with other executive directors to continue organizing this group.
- November 19th: Attended the Navigator Luncheon in Yuma at the Yuma Hospital. Joanne from the Women's Wellness Connection presented information about her program and the Yuma Hospital was highlighted. Good meeting.
- November 20th: Met with Gabriel Guillaume at the Colorado Resource Center to plan upcoming events and projects that will benefit organizations and agencies in NE Colorado. I also met with Joanne Vermeulen at the Women's Wellness Connection. This program is interesting—maybe some grant possibilities to work together.
- November 24th: Met with Gail LaForce at NJC about possible grant writing classes.

Upcoming Events and News:

- The Rural Solutions office will be closed from December 24th to January 5 and all staff will take vacation during that time.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jackie Reynolds
 November 30, 2008