

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

Highlights of September

- My staff and I have spent quite a lot of time this month organizing the Legislative Breakfast, scheduled for November 14th. The Special Events/Legislative Breakfast Committee met on Wednesday September 3rd to plan the event. Lisa, Debbie, and I met on September 15th to finalize plans for the Breakfast. I feel we have a great event planned.
- Several executive directors of nonprofits throughout Northeast Colorado met on September 24th in Yuma to organize a "support group" for Executive Directors for nonprofits! I'm looking forward to working with this group of people to continue to learn about being the best executive director of this nonprofit as I can be and developing this group to support the important work that nonprofits do in our region.

Financial News

- Rural Solutions received a grant for \$3600 from the Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days committee. The grant will allow Rural Solutions to organize events that further the effectiveness and knowledge of the various nonprofits throughout NE Colorado in the three years between Rural Philanthropy Days events in our region. I think it will be an interesting effort to continue to work with nonprofits throughout the region to organize events, provide services, etc.
- Michelle and I met with David Kaufmann on September 10th to begin the yearly process of our financial audit.

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

- See attached report from Maranda.

Health Disparities Grant

- See Maranda's report.
- Maranda and Michelle have worked hard this month to continue the work of the Health Disparities Grant at the beginning of the second round of funding. They attended the meeting at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to get information about the new grant.
- We are going to have a booth at the American Consulate in October and do some training with Salud Clinic.
- We have interviewed candidates to fill the position of Outreach Worker for Logan, Sedgwick, and Phillips counties.

Fatherhood Initiative

- Exciting work is happening in the Fatherhood grant. Several classes have begun this last month or so including programs in Fort Morgan Head Start, classes in Elbert County in collaboration with the Elbert County Department with Human Services, and at a business in Logan County.
- I met with several people who are currently offering fatherhood classes this month, organizing these classes and making plans for them. I met with Mary Gross, Ruth Seedorf, Brenda Chapin, and William Madden to work on their classes.
- I met with Nicki Johnson from Help for Abused Partners to discuss issues around domestic violence as they affect the Fatherhood programs. There is a need to continue to provide education to people throughout the region around these issues.
- The first round of the Fatherhood Grant ended on September 30. Jackie and Brenda Chapin, Fatherhood trainer from Baby Bear Hugs, attended the Fatherhood/TANF Conference in Vail on September 1 - October 3. Details later.

Bridges out of Poverty Project

- I met with Sandy Baker who has scheduled a training for her entire staff using this series on October 30-31.
- The second training was held in Limon on September 11-12 in Limon. Around 30 people attended the training.
- I continue to study, read, and fine tune the training to meet the needs of organizations/agencies who send staff to the training.

Community Connections

- September 4: Colorado Children's Trust Fund meeting in Denver.
- September 11-12: Bridges out of Poverty Training in Limon.
- September 17: Attended Navigator Luncheon in Fort Morgan.
- September "Attended" Webinar meeting for the Rural Philanthropy Days steering committee.
- September 30-October 3: Attended Fatherhood/TANF Conference in Vail as recipient of new round of Fatherhood Grant.

Upcoming Events and News:

- I am going to take a few days of vacation in early October.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds
September 30, 2008