

**Rural Solutions
Executive Director's Activity Report
For October and November 2011
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds**

Highlights of October and November 2011

- I continue to work with Rural Philanthropy Days steering committee and program sub-committee for 2012. The actual event is scheduled for June 20, 21, 22, 2012 in Morgan County.
- The Women's Wellness Connection (WWC) grant that we discussed in last month's meeting has improved. We did meet our goal to navigate women in to WWC in October and work has gone well in November. I met with state CDPHE staff and they have given us permission to continue the grant.
- I attended a Colorado Children's Trust Fund board meeting on October 13th. I also attended the legislative hearing at the State Capitol on October 19th to hear discussion about the proposed legislation that would move several programs, including CCTF, to the Department of Human Services. Reggie Bicha plans to meet with the CCTF board in December. The discussion continues.
- Maranda and I helped set up for the COMOM dental event in Brush. What a wonderful event for the people in our region. Just goes to show how powerful collaboration can be.
- I facilitated a Bridges out of Poverty class on November 3 and 4th in Yuma. As always, it was a great class. The group was great and I always feel I learn a great deal from the participants. I hope that the information continues to be good information for our staffs.
- Ruth Weirich from the Aha! Process (Bridges out of Poverty) organization brought staff people from Australia to discuss the development of our Getting Ahead Program in Northeast Colorado. Australia is just beginning to develop this program in several locations and seemed very interested in our program. It was great fun to talk about our successes—and challenges—while developing the program in our rural region. It was nice to be recognized by the national company.
- Dorain Brown from Lincoln County resigned as WWC navigator on November 18th. I hired Rose Padilla to fill this position for 8 hours a week. She is also teaching a Healthier Living Colorado class with Elodia in Morgan County so she is back on the payroll. It is very nice to have her represent Rural Solutions at the southern counties.
- Kimber and I took the Bootstraps class in Denver during the evenings of November 14 and 21. I hope we can become trainers for this financial literacy class and make it a part of the programs we can offer for your clients in the various counties. I think the Bootstraps program will be a great follow-up refresher course after people complete the Getting Ahead Program.

- I have met several times with Heidi Zajic-Eckland, representative from Edward Jones here in Sterling to discuss our retirement plan options. When we make changes we may need to revise our personnel handbook.
- Rural Solutions and Help for Abused Partners co-sponsored the Merino High School Health and Safety Fairs in Merino and Caliche this fall. We hope of work with schools in Sedgwick and Phillips counties next year to provide these events. Nicki and I plan to pursue a little funding to continue these events in schools in these counties.
- The organizational meeting for the Northeast Women's Health Coalition was held November 30th in Fort Morgan. It was a great meeting. Thank you so much for attending or sending representatives to the meeting. We will meet again on January 25th at Salud in Fort Morgan.

Financial News

- Our financial records were audited by Littjohann, Kauffman, and Pederson, and we have sent this year's 990 tax return report.
- Maranda wrote a Morgan County United Way grant to request funds to provide counseling services for Morgan County adolescents through Second Wind Fund and to provide training for schools in the county.

Community Connections

November 8th: Attended ECCLPS Stakeholders' meeting here in Sterling.

October 27th: Met with Social Services Directors here in Sterling to discuss 211 in the region.

November 21st: Attended ECCLPS Planning Meeting here in Sterling.

Jackie Reynolds

November 30, 2011