

**Rural Solutions  
Executive Director's Activity Report  
For January 2011  
Submitted by Jackie Reynolds**

**Highlights of January 2011**

- The most exciting event of January was the visit by Bridges out of Poverty author Philip DeVol. He flew in from Indiana and then came to Morgan County and Sterling to visit with people who have been involved in the Getting Ahead Program. Investigators, facilitators, and community members visited with Philip, and his staff interviewed many of them. Excerpts from the interviews will be available on the *aha,Process, Inc.* website. We are excited that he wanted to showcase the program here in Northeast Colorado. He is particularly interested in our program as it is in a rural region. "Can't get any more rural than this," he commented as he drove to the region!
- Staff and I met with Daniel Brisson, professor from University of Denver, about the evaluation of the Getting Ahead Program. We developed a plan/process to evaluate the GAP project which will include several focus groups in the region's communities. I am looking forward to this project.
- I met with federal reviewers for the Fatherhood Initiative in early January to talk about our Fatherhood Project here in Northeast Colorado. They were particularly interested in taking a look at the regional model we have used during this Initiative and so many other projects. Although we discussed the issues we have had around our Fatherhood Project, it was a great opportunity to showcase Rural Solutions and our various projects and services.
- Staff from 211 have been here a couple of times this month to meet with organizations and agencies in the region to enter/edit/clean up those organizations' information in the 211 system. I do think the system is getting better and more accurately indicates the services available in the region.
- I traveled to Kit Carson County a couple of days in January and enjoyed visiting with various people in the region. I visited the Getting Ahead Program in the county, stopped by the human services/health department office, and visited other organizations.
- The steering committee for the 2012 Rural Philanthropy Days project met for the first time this month. Rural Solutions will continue to provide some support to the project for the next few months. The RPD event will be held in June 2012, most likely in Morgan County.
- I received word from Second Wind Fund, Inc. president Jeff Lamontagne that they are willing to consider our proposal to allow us to establish our local Second Wind Fund affiliate as a program of Rural Solutions and not a separate organization.

- I attended a meeting in Phillips County with social services staff, Nici Bishop from economic development, and Trisha Herman from Phillips County Education Services. This group is working to develop programs and services in the county, including the *Getting Ahead Program* and *Job Club* classes developed by the Workforce Center.
- I also attended a meeting in Sedgwick County sponsored by Early Childhood Council in Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick (ECCLPS). The Colorado State Action Team for the Rural Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Initiative presented an overview of current state efforts around preventing child abuse and reducing impacts of drugs on children and families. This team is in the process of doing a community needs assessment with each area. Once these initial assessments are done, the state action team can present what resources we have available that might help address some of the needs.

### **Financial News**

- I re-invested \$10,515.31 CD for one year. This is the CD that is hooked to our ability to get a loan should we need it for operating expenses.

### **Community Connections**

January 3<sup>rd</sup>: Met with Fatherhood Initiative team from Washington DC.

January 11<sup>th</sup>: Women's Wellness Connection meeting in Fort Morgan. We met as a team to discuss the grant and share ideas how to make this program successful.

January 13<sup>th</sup>: Rural Philanthropy Days meeting at MCC.

January 14<sup>th</sup>: Attended the NECALG Tripartite Board Meeting in Sterling. We reviewed the CSBG applications for funds to support emergency food and medical programs in the 6 NE counties.

January 18<sup>th</sup>: Listened to a webinar, "Public Policy Forum", hosted by Colorado Nonprofit Association. They updated the state budget picture and discussed a variety of state government issues that may affect nonprofits and other agencies in the state.

January 24<sup>th</sup>: Attended CASA advisory council meeting in Sterling.

January 25<sup>th</sup>: Attended NE3 Consortium breakfast meeting in Sterling. The consortium is dedicated to bring together the business and education sectors to further interest and understanding and foster support for each other.

January 27<sup>th</sup>: Attended the Northeast Child Protection Safety meeting in Sterling.

January 28<sup>th</sup>: Attended The Colorado State Action Team for the Rural Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Initiative meeting in Julesburg.

January 31<sup>st</sup>: 211 people were in our office to work on the 211 information system.

### **Upcoming Events and News:**

- February 10-11<sup>th</sup>: Bridges out of Poverty training at Morgan County DHS. Please send staff to this training!
- I plan to be gone to California February 22-25<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Reynolds  
Executive Director  
February 4, 2011