



north colorado medical center foundation

By Maryjo Faith Morgan

In 1975 there were two desks and two chairs when hospital administrators Dick Stenner and Wendell Fuller organized a volunteer group that enabled residents of Weld County to philanthropically support their hospital. The North Colorado Medical Center Foundation (NCMCF) has now grown to fill two buildings with furniture, fixtures, , and twenty-five employees. President Gary Schrenk credits the support of generous donors and friends for that dramatic growth. In their tremendous quest to meet people's needs in multiple ways, including health care, education, and spiritual care, NCMCF utilizes 46,915 volunteer hours annually.

His own dedication is immediately evident as he speaks of the programs and offerings NCMCF provides to the people of Weld County. Schrenk's e-mail signature includes Albert Schweitzer's words about service and compassion. It is far more than an oft repeated axiom to him. It encapsulates the Foundation's mission, which is indeed, his own.

Board members and Schrenk alike all mention the Monfort Children's Clinic. The Foundation built the 15,000 square foot facility because there was no place for families to take their children other than the emergency room. According to Mary Lou Whisenand, past board chairman, "The beauty of NCMCF is that it provides what others do not." With 18,000 pediatric patients on the roster, at least 14,000 are currently active. Collaborative partnerships with local mental health and social workers enhance the clinic. In a dynamic collaboration, the University of Northern Colorado assembled their sound booth at the clinic to enable speech and hearing testing there. In a move that has become typical, the Foundation built the clinic, got it running, and then passed the reins of daily operations to the Sunrise Community Health Center. The board remains involved in quality assurance monitoring.

NCMCF followed a similar path to institute the Will Rothman Family Chaplaincy by hiring the chaplain and raising an endowment fund to pay for services. The endowment efforts continue; currently at \$1.5 million, their goal is double that amount. With their track record, they will undoubtedly reach it. Since the hand-off, the hospital runs the program,

which involves almost three dozen volunteer chaplains who provide 24/7 pastoral care at the hospital. The Clinical Pastoral Education program enables the clergy, healthcare professionals, and lay people who serve in the hospital ministry access to graduate level theological education.

Whisenand is enthusiastic about the Curtis Strong Eye Center. "Mr. Strong went blind, and did not want others to go through the same things he did." These programs address the critical importance of learning how to cope with

blindness due to macular degeneration and other causes. There is a kitchen set up with special burners, introduction to computers, eye tools and training to enable continued independence after the onset of blindness. An array of adaptive devices are also available for purchase there. Through the financial support of the Foundation the Greeley Lions Club expanded their ability to provide eyeglasses for children and adults who cannot afford them.

She lists what the program First Steps does for prenatal and early childhood care, and makes a comprehensive assessment, "These kinds of things ~ services for the young and the old ~ define a community. They show that you are compassionate about what you are doing." In fact, First Steps, with its own building and staff of four serves anywhere from 500 to 600 women every year. NCMCF's "compassionate" contributions to the community sweep from medical and children's services through education and extensive scholarship opportunities to family support, chaplaincy, and overnight accommodations. An itemized list of participating organizations reads like a syllabus for partnerships. Government, businesses, educational institutions and local clergy continually develop cooperative efforts to deliver more efficient and economical health care to the county's population.

Gary Schrenk is especially proud his staff's efforts in "Family Connects," which provides services appropriate for each child from birth to three years old who is born with some form of disability. "This is how good these folks are ~ 100% of children continue on to part B of the program without a lapse." He details that physical, speech and occupational

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“THE PURPOSE
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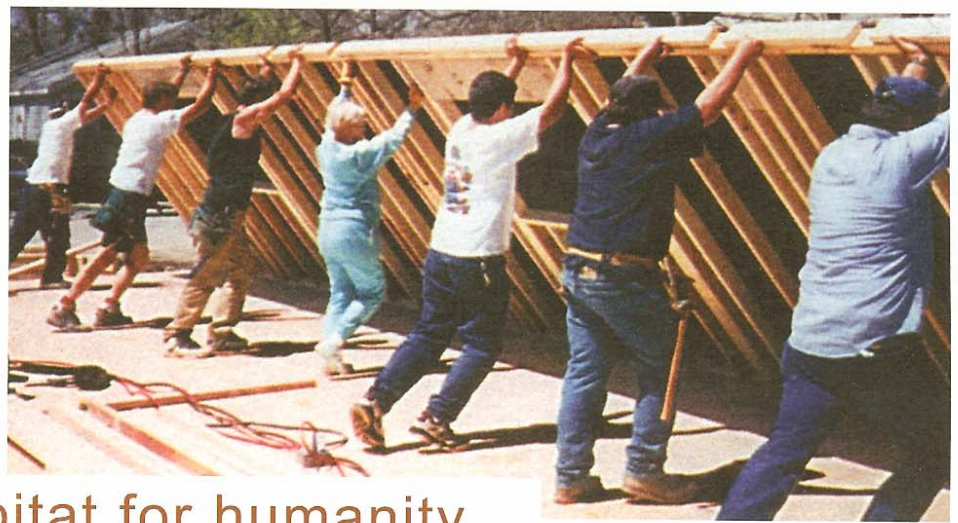
ALBERT SCHWEITZER



NORTH COLORADO
MEDICAL CENTER
FOUNDATION

our mission

To enhance the health of our community and its citizens through philanthropy.



greeley area habitat for humanity

By Maryjo Faith Morgan

Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity (GAHFH) is an ecumenical Christian non-profit organization that provides affordable housing for working families of modest means. GAHFH affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International in 1988.

Jean Daviet started several years ago as a volunteer swinging a hammer; now she is Board of Directors President. What keeps her going? One word, "Results." She speaks to the level of commitment GAHFH has to home recipients, "We don't hand them the key and walk away." She explained that clients' mortgage payments are at zero percent interest and cannot exceed 30% of income. They must also meet other obligations. Beyond their "sweat equity" of 500 hours, each family must take required classes offered in their neighborhood at the New Frontier Bank Community Resource Center. It's here they learn the basics of homeownership to prepare first time homeowners; topics include budgeting, home owners insurance, landscaping, preparing a will, city codes and community covenants, and even an intro to computers. The timing of these classes is always tailored to the construction schedule so families can attend all required classes prior to moving in.

She recounts the journey of one teen who graduated from high school and considered whether to continue his education or join the military. Through Habitat's resource center staff he navigated paperwork, met requirements, and now attends Aims. In addition, he works part time at GAHFH Home Improvement Outlet Store, which just opened in the fall.

Store manager Brian Wilkes and touts it as a circle of help. "Here is an excuse for people to clean out things they no longer need without guilt or filling the landfill. That provides new or gently used items at an affordable price to people who can utilize them. This creates funds to put into homes and continue the mission to build homes more quickly. It's a win/win!" He mentions Wal-Mart Distribution Center's generosity, "They donate shampoo, household cleaners, motor oil, and paint - all perfectly good products in damaged packaging."

In fact, everyone at GAHFH notes the tremendous community support they enjoy.

One long time supporter is EnviroTech Services, Incorporated. This year they are not only helping to sponsor a home, but will match employee contributions and allow employees to volunteer on company time. Mandy Ewing, Resource Development Director for GAHFH, shares her optimistic philosophy. "I want to give everyone an opportunity to say no; more times than not, they say yes!" She saw a silver lining when arson destroyed two nearly completed homes. "The Weld County Builders Association came out and rebuilt it all in a very short time frame. Opportunity; the glass is half full."

New Frontier Bank provides additional opportunities. Veteran board member Joe Tennesen observes, "When I go home at night and see the wonderful home I have and all the things that has meant as our large family was growing up, I realize that people who don't have a nice place to live are at a great disadvantage. Over a period of time 100 families will be moving from substandard housing to something they can afford. That truly makes the effort worthwhile." As an officer for New Frontier Bank, he is pleased with the emphasis on mentoring new home owners, "The bank offers an incentive for families to complete the Money Smart budget series by adding \$100 to their initial deposit. We sponsor a graduation ceremony at the bank, complete with diplomas, a catered dinner, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the bank." Many New Frontier Bank employees help; bank president Larry Seastrom swung a hammer beside tellers from the bank out at the build site. Recently the bank sprang for some expensive point of sale software to help things run more smoothly at the store. Volunteers, the backbone and lit-

eral muscle of GAHFH donate over a thousand hours yearly; some work nearly every Saturday. Watch for a spring celebration upon the completion of the 50th home built in the Greeley area!

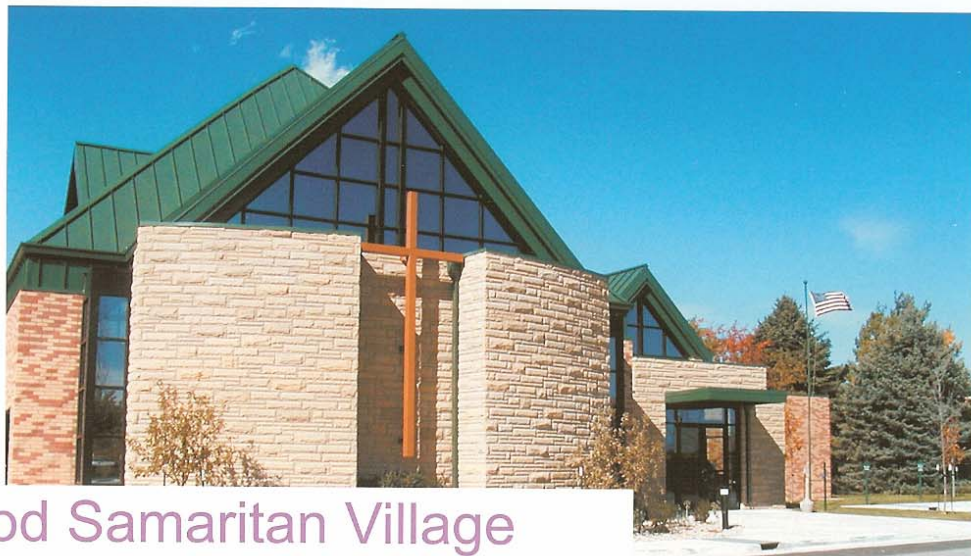
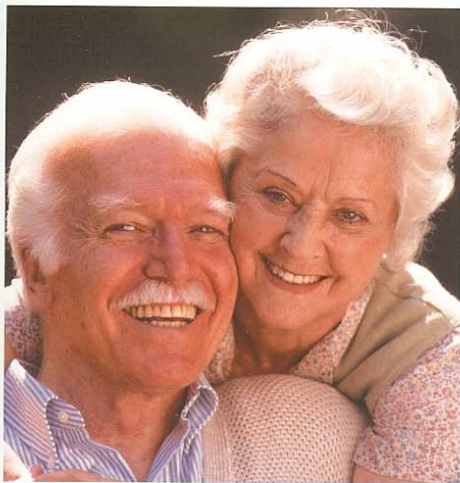
Community members can help in many ways, such as the new Apostles Build campaign. GAHFH needs to recruit 12 churches (or team up smaller

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“ONCE THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD CAN PUT AWAY WORRYING ABOUT HAVING HEAT AND HOT WATER, THEY CAN FOCUS ENERGY ON DEVELOPING THEIR CHILDREN”
JEAN DAVIET



our mission
Our mission is to work in partnership with the community and families in need to build simple decent homes



Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village

By Maryjo Faith Morgan

To Dennis Kaz, the stated mission of Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village is a reality. You can hear it in his voice and see it in his eyes as he emphasizes the every in everyone, "We want to reach out. We want to serve. We want to do it with compassion. We want to give quality care. That is who we are."

This might sound a bit lofty, but coming from the Director of Community Relations for the Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village, it is right and seemly. He means it. For real. Kaz is a minister and pastor by training with three theological degrees, his doctoral studies in transcultural communication taught him how to wade through bureaucracy, budgeting, and personality issues. Experience in chaplaincy equipped him for this position, which is primarily, caring for people.

Kaz makes it clear that although the Fort Collins Good Samaritan comes under the same Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society umbrella as the 240 other Good Samaritan's across the country, each is autonomously operated.

He assures that no resident is excluded, "Faith is personal. It is where we come from, how we [the staff] give of ourselves because of that faith." Likewise, advisory board member Dr. David Allen, Medical Director for Hospice of Larimer County, says he donates his time and remains involved, "To return some of the benefits I've had over the years to the community; in this case, to the patients of the facility. Good Samaritan's dedication to provide quality service to their residents and their faith-based perspective is appealing."

Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village began development in 1971. Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran partnered with several individuals to raise the initial \$100,000. Then they

invited the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society to join the project, which was completed in 1973.

The Fort Collins location houses approximately 123 residents at any given time. The top two floors in the apartment building are dedicated to 35 independent living apartments, the ground and 2nd floors house assisted living apartments with kitchenettes; both one and two bedroom units can accommodate two individuals. There are accommodations for 58 individuals in the skilled nursing section. Two dining rooms with table service have a full menu including short order items and a salad bar. Melanie Buck, CC, CCM, a trained chef; is director of Dietary Services; the food here is excellent! Residents, no matter what level of care they need, are not isolated or segregated. Everyone has full access to everything, to the whole facility.

The facility provides everything a person needs under one roof. Free transportation that is wheel chair accessible provides rides for shopping, doctor appointments, outings such as a Diners Club, and special trips; they utilize 2 buses, a car, and a van. A country store, run by the Volunteer Auxiliary, sells basics such as canned goods, bread, milk, fruit, paper goods, and snacks. Laundry service is available and there is even a beauty shop. The one hundred seat chapel fills nearly to capacity every Sunday for church services open to the public. There are meeting and overnight guest rooms, life enrichment programs, and the Weiss Therapy Center. The therapy center, which serves an average of 500 clients a year, has extensive components for physical, occupational, speech, massage therapy with a skilled in-house staff.

Good Samaritan has an in-house Wellness Program run by triathlete Kelly Imus, BS, who is also certified by the Aerobic and Fitness Association of America. New Step, Nautilus, and Cybex exercise equipment furnish the wellness gym, and personal trainers work with staff and residents alike. An annual health fair, walking program, fitness analysis, healthy cooking classes and lunchtime seminars further attest to Good Samaritan's deep commitment to providing the fullest possible life for their residents and beyond. An expansion of the wellness gym to include a therapy pool and a larger exercise area is in future plans.

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"We want to reach out. We want to serve. We want to do it with compassion. We want to give quality care. That is who we are."

—Dennis Kaz

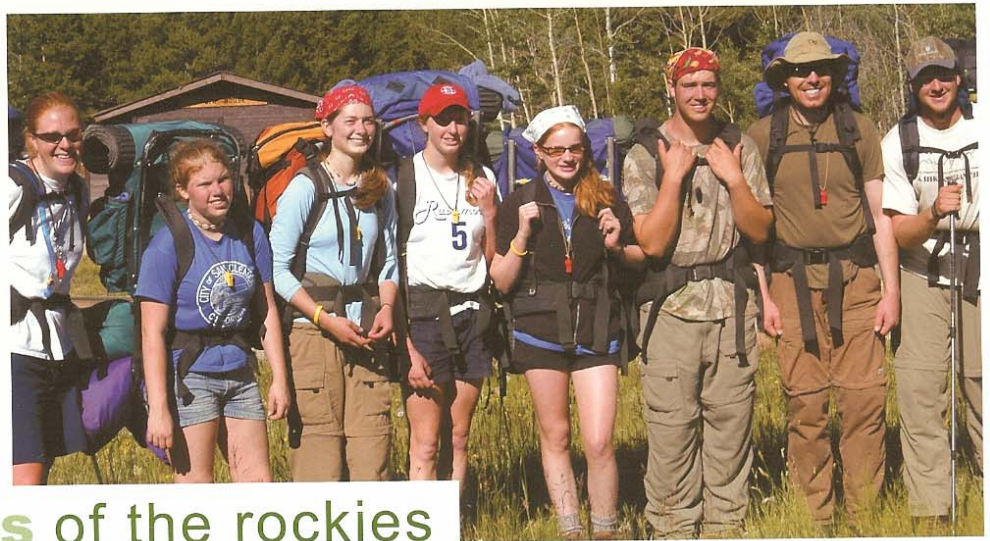


Fort Collins
Good Samaritan
Village

In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone.

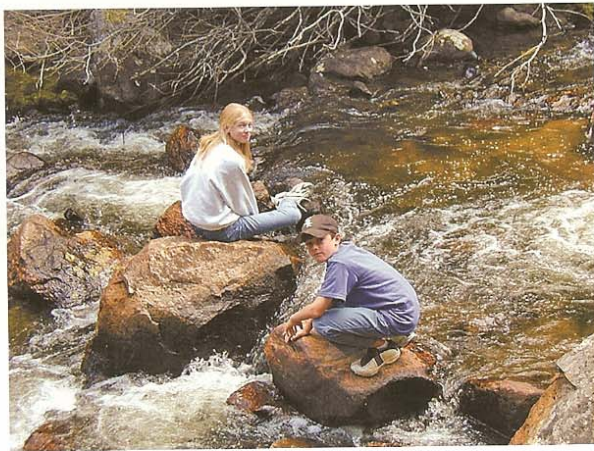
our mission

The mission of the Good Samaritan Society is to share God's love in word and deed by providing shelter and supportive services to older persons and others in need, believing that ... "In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone."



lutheran ranches of the rockies

By Maryjo Faith Morgan



Just say the words “summer camp” and memories flood in. For many, it is the initial opportunity to be away from home, a place for activities, meeting people and having fun.

The experience has stayed with a Longmont high school senior who attended L Double R camp when she was in middle school, “I knew that God had created everything around me, and that the Lord who had created such a beautiful setting also created me. It was such an amazing feeling!” She adds that although she definitely experienced spiritual growth, she had a lot of fun hiking, playing soccer, and hanging out with friends.

“The best part about going to Sky Ranch was the activities during the day, like low ropes, where you worked as a team to accomplish tasks.” A local sixth grader is clear that he had a good time there last summer.

There is no lack of adventure based opportunities. They are balanced by other projects, with time for spirituality and enjoying being in the mountains. The flexible structure keeps campers engaged but not overwhelmed. Take the ropes course for example. Campers can be so engrossed, they don’t notice they are learning skills like collaboration, problem solving, and how to lead.

Goals for elementary, middle and high school are age appropriate, and adapted to specific groups’ needs. Executive Director Pastor Ralph Yernberg has thought it all through. “I believe strongly that kids develop the ability to work together and to look positively at their futures when they experience the successes of a difficult backpack journey or the achievement of high ropes success.” A favorite with staff and campers alike, he has served here since 1999. Yernberg, who has been involved in camping most of his professional career, has never lost



the awe, “Camp is turning on your flashlight and laughing at freckles. Camp is chasing shooting stars and listening to the waterfalls. Camp is where faith grows and hope flourishes. It remains one of the last places you can go to just be a kid.”

The beauty of the setting and sheer variety of offerings attracts people from all over the country of all ages. There is a series for active adults that includes backpack trips aimed at 50-60 year olds. The pre-retirement weekend combines “readiness thinking” about what to do with the second half of your life and the things that provide meaning in your life. A grandparent/grandchild program is currently being developed to bridge generations through entertaining activities. Groups of all sizes and ages are accommodated. One family or several, ten individuals or one hundred, everyone feels at home. Schools, youth groups, work groups and professional associations all find meaningful retreat experiences at the L Double R. Programs are open to all, and scholarships are available.

Board President, Ray Sorensen first visited the camp as a kid in the 60’s and 70’s. He never stopped, and as his family grew he brought them on weekends. “When an opportunity opened up to be a board member, to really help, I jumped at the chance.” To him, Christ’s message is simple, “Be good to one another. There is enough one-upsmanship that goes on in the world.” Not so at camp. He sees it as a place where college-age staff is provided with a chance to examine who they are and what they want to do in life. “So many of them go in for a summer job and come out of it wanting to go into some sort of lay, ministerial, or non-profit work that helps people. The camp changes lives.”

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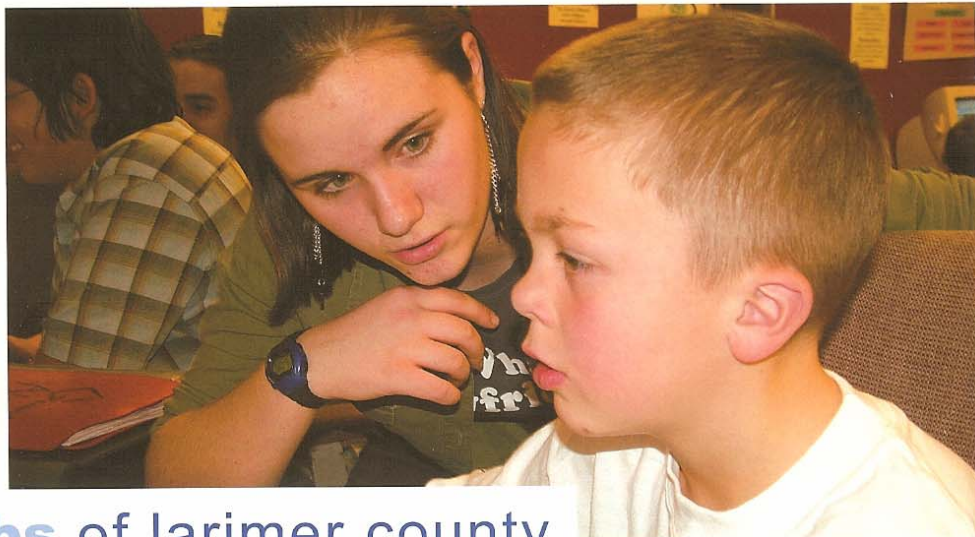
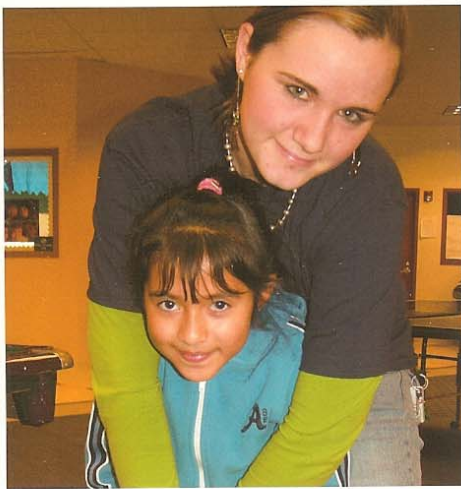
“Camp is a place where you relearn the importance of curiosity, wonder and joy.”

—Pastor Ralph Yernberg



our mission

The mission of Lutheran Ranches of the Rockies (aka L Double R) is expanding Community through Christ Centered Celebration & Service.



boys & girls clubs of larimer county

By Maryjo Faith Morgan

"There may be more expensive places than the Club, but I don't believe there is any place better than BGCLC." says Robin Klitch, Fort Collins Youth of the Year 2005, Junior Staff, and Board Member.

Attention-grabbing alumni like Bill Cosby, Alex Rodriguez, Brad Pitt, Michael Jordan, Former President Clinton, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Martin Sheen, Derek Jeter, Neil Diamond, and Denzel Washington are celebrating Boys & Girls Club of America's centennial this year. These famous folk endorse the Clubs from personal experience.

What significance does that have here in Larimer County? Brand recognition is meant to attract attention. In this case, kids and their parents are apt to notice the Clubs in our area, and the Clubs gain more credibility in general. Specifically, though, these endorsements set the standard.

It would be different if internationally known personalities simply lent their names to this worthy cause. The truth is, these celebrities devote time and effort to the Clubs. Likewise, many local professionals juggle their busy schedules to serve on the Board and in the Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County. They raise funds and lend their expertise and energy to make sure kids in our area have opportunities to develop and grow into leaders. It means in Fort Collins, Loveland, and Wellington, there are youth engaged in programs that make a difference. Our kids are learning technology and job readiness skills and of course, sports. On their website, BGCLC posts:

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County is to promote the social, educational, health, leadership, and character development of boys and girls during critical periods of their growth.

WE PROVIDE

A safe place to learn and grow...
Ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals...
Life-enhancing programs and character development experiences...
Hope and opportunity.

BGCLC is not a glorified babysitting service. BGCLC wants to be sure parents realize their adult employees are trained professionals. BGCLC wants kids to know this is a space totally dedicated to them.

If you walk into any of the Clubs, you will see what may appear at first glance to be pandemonium. There are kids of all ages, from grammar school through high school. At any given time there are animated games of pool and foosball, snacks and teen-tuned music. There are large muscle activities in the gym or outside. Kids are scattered everywhere; there is lots of chatter.

It appears the youth are "just hanging out."

Take a closer look, and you see the Tech Club in one room on computers, others doing homework during Power Hour. In another room the Keystone Club is having a discussion. It is evident why BHCLC works as a path for kids to go on to bigger and better things.

"What I like best is that the environment is designed for kids." Robin Klitch takes pride that there are many worthwhile things available to anyone for only \$5 dues a year. "We have tennis, pottery, art, and computer clubs. We just started a Kids Café and already 75 to 80 kids on the average eat dinner here." Klitch is a member of the Snowboard Outreach Society and an avid snowboarder. She explains that SOS gives participants a series of lessons on the slopes, helping them gain a decent level of proficiency. She is a member of the Keystone Club and as junior staff runs the Teen Room two afternoons a week. Active as a youth member and on junior staff, Klitch went through Youth Engagement Team training along with Lance Taylor and José Hernandez. Now all three youth serve on the Clubs' Board. She was impressed with the adult participation during a particular exercise in their training. "We each could see how people, adults and kids, are stereotyped. Everyone needs to make a change and treat each other with respect."

BGCLC has a lot to show off. Their programs specifically address five core areas which break out essential components found on any path to success:

1. Character & Leadership Development Programs empower youth to support and influence their Club and community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others' cultural identities.
2. Education & Career Development Programs enable youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.

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"We have to get the word out. We want people to know about BGCLC, what it has to offer, and how the kids are involved."

—John Sinnett, Board President



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF LARIMER COUNTY

our mission

Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County offers an environment that helps young people reach their full potential. The environment = people, place & programs.

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Pre-concert talk by conductor
Michael T. Krueger one hour prior to the performance.
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And Baby
Makes Three...



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North Colorado
Medical Center

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along with education, case management and service coordination all come together for the child. "It is gratifying to see a family move from being devastated by the birth of a child with disabilities to viewing the child as a gift, not a burden."

Multiple scholarship programs emphasize NCMCF's solid commitment to educating the next generation of health care professionals. They offer scholarships for registered nurse and certified nurse's assistant degrees, student loans for studies in health or allied health specialties, and tuition assistance for nursing students. Employees of the North Colorado Medical Center are encouraged to enhance job skills and keep up with continuing education through financial assistance to attend conferences and seminars for health care professionals.

When current board chairman Tim Thissen defines his volunteer participation with the Foundation, he credits learning about this type of community involvement early in life back in Kansas. What he finds here rings true to him. "This group is a unique group of people. They get it done. The community steps up and everyone chips in. I feel able to personally enhance and influence the quality of life in the community through work on this board."

Watch for the First Steps Cabaret on the 4th Friday in April, the Bank of Choice Airlife of Greeley Golf Tournament the 2nd Monday in June, the Thissen Construction Corporation Hospitality Bowl-A-Thon the 1st Friday in August, and the Western States Burn Center Golf Classic on the 3rd Thursday in September. All of these fun events benefit the North Colorado Medical Center Foundation.

To volunteer or make a donation, contact the North Colorado Medical Center Foundation, 1801 16th Street, Greeley, CO 80631-5199, by calling 970-356-9020. To get a better idea of their extensive services and details about fund raising events, visit their web site: www.ncmcfoundation.org.

Board of Directors include:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Tim Thissen | Kay Kosmicki |
| Janice Ranson | Gene O'Hara |
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| Juan Cruz | Masoud Shirazi |
| Larry Wood | Joe Tennessen |
| Gary Schrenk | F. Scott Thomas |
| Mary Lou Whisenand | Ted Warner |
| Kris Bensler | Dr. Jerry Weil of |
| Colleen C. Carrico | Greeley |
| Dr. Donald Cook | Barb Yosses of |
| Nicki Elsberry | Loveland |
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| John Kammeier | Collins |
| Dr. Doug Kemme | G. Kay Drake of |
| Dr. Richard Kemme | Windsor |
| Dr. Meshelle Kolanz | |

Habitat for
Humanity

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congregations) to make the multi-pronged commitment of finances, volunteer hours, and meals to sponsor a home. This "Building on Faith" will culminate with a September ground breaking

Tom Chagolla, Executive Director of this enthusiastic team says Habitat is a blessing because the end result has a direct impact on the community's quality of life. "Our clients become home owners, pay taxes, and are able to reach their full potential."

Assistant Director and Family Services Coordinator, Rosemary Thompson is pleased with what GAHFH has been able to accomplish. "Our goal for this year was 8 homes, but we will exceed that when construction is completed in June on the 9th home. Our goal for next year is 10; we hope to build with as many families as possible." The only thing to dampen that impressive achievement is the realization that GAHFH is able to serve less than a third of those who apply.

"There really are people in extreme need of assistance to move out of substandard conditions. Most people in northern Colorado are not aware that people live in seriously inadequate housing without running water, or bathrooms, or with mold on the walls."

A recent change in policy has considerably simplified the application process. Rather than attend a quarterly orientation, families may now obtain applications to qualify for a home at many banks, social service agencies, the Board of Realtors, Swift & Co., United Way, the GAHFH Outlet Store, or by calling the GAHFH office to request one by mail.

GAHFH's annual "Ask Event" has morphed from a breakfast into a dinner this year. Table sponsorship will make the June evening more leisurely and enjoyable.

The Home Improvement Outlet Store, located at 1750 Greeley Mall just northeast of the Greeley Mall shopping center, accepts donations of household goods, construction materials, furniture, and working appliances. For details call (970) 352.1404.

Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity office is located at 104 North 16th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631. To make a donation, inquire about volunteering, or to apply for a home, call 970-351-6766 or e-mail: greeleyhfh@yahoo.com, or visit their website: www.greeleyhabitat.org.

Board of Directors include:

Jean Daviet, Jim Vetting, Pam Bricker, Mary Sorensen, Dr. Richard Bond, May Bunjes, Lou Cangilla, Chuck Henderson, Brandon Houtchens, Kathy Lopez, Juanita Rocha, Joe Tennessen, Janet Torres, and Larry Wakeman of Greeley and Mike Ketterling of Eaton.

Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village

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As a typical 501(c)(3) non-profit, Good Samaritan has numerous fund-raising efforts throughout the year, and also relies on direct donations. One hundred percent of all funds raised goes directly back to the residents, and is not absorbed into operating expenses. Yearly the Outback Steak House sponsors a lunch; proceeds from every meal sold on that specified day go to the facility. There is also a Creative Art League, which consists of talented residents and local professional artists who donate their work to decorate the facility with original art and to be auctioned off at the annual event to the highest bidder. The Fun Group works out of Kaz' office to assist him with a gospel concert, and a professional musician leads the weekly church worship services and the resident choir. An active Auxiliary generously donates proceeds from their annual Fall Bazaar and country store back to the facility in furnishings (check out the Lazy Boys in the family room!) and other amenities.

Kaz is grateful for the strong support from families whose members currently live at the Village and community members who are long-standing friends of the facility and support the work they do. "One of the strongest impacts I've seen here was a family who had two family members live here, starting in assisted living, then moving into skilled nursing care. Eventually their family members passed away. The family was so impressed, they have continued to volunteer in the business office and help throughout the facility wherever and whenever there is a need, even though there is no longer a direct family connection. They remain a part of us."

An endowment fund provides scholarship for staff to keep them current and to train nurses and certified nursing assistants. Currently five CNAs are pursuing their nursing degrees in the program.

A major goal of the organization is to develop the nearly seven acres of adjoining land into an Elder Co Housing Community. Residents would have input in designing their homes, which will range in price and size depending on what they want. All houses will be ADA accessible and designed with elders in mind. The 35 homes will face open green space to promote a warm communal feeling; garages and streets will be situated behind the houses. Plans call for a community center, kitchen, and guest room.

The community is welcome to take advantage of numerous services. The Life Enrichment Department has an ever-evolving schedule of outings and activities. To learn more or make a donation, call Dennis Kaz or visit the Fort Collins Good Samaritan Village, 508 West Trilby Road; 970-226-4909

Advisory Board members include:

Rev. Sam Ismir, Dr. David Allen,
Dr. Tom McKee, Nancy Behm,
Harold Ostermann, Tom Smith,
Rex Smithgall, Larry Albertson
all of Fort Collins.

lutheran ranches of the rockies

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L DOUBLE R'S VALUES HOLD PROMISE FOR ALL

To unfold the gifts of all participants
To challenge beyond the comfortable
To gift our community with diversity
To be fertile soil for the seeds of faith
To embrace changing needs
To preserve our environment
To build up positive leadership
To celebrate with inspiration and joy

Sky Ranch, operating since 1963, is 117 acres situated on the north border of Rocky Mountain National, in Pingree Park. It is equipped with cabins, camping and trailer spaces, a lodge, bunkhouses, and a full kitchen that provides meals. The Outdoor Chapel hosts worship every Sunday from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Sleepy Owl Ranch, purchased 2003, is being developed into a year round retreat facility. The 70 gorgeous acres surrounded by US Forest land are located 40 miles northwest of Fort Collins near Red Feather Lakes. The ranches are supported by the Rocky Mountain Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and donations from area congregations and individuals. Locally, "The Build Up...Send Forth" Capital Campaign is starting phase two this year, with a goal of \$2.5 million.

Summer staffing consists of up to 40 young adults, who get much more than lodging, meals, and a paycheck. They receive leadership training and gain experience. They enjoy unforgettable relationships with other staff and campers. They find out what it feels like serve and minister in a faith community. Applicants are urged to give prayerful consideration prior to submitting an application, which is available online and includes detailed job descriptions. Volunteers are needed as campground hosts, to help with maintenance and over the big Memorial Day Work Weekend to prepare the ranch for the season.

To volunteer, make a donation or learn more about the programs of Lutheran Ranches of the Rockies, contact them online: www.LdoubleR.org, e-mail: info@LdoubleR.org, by phone: (970)493-5258 or snail mail: 805 South Shields, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

L Double R Board of Directors:

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Pastor Inga Oyan - Denver,
Robertta Wentworth - Lakewood,
Kent Garvin - Fort Collins,
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Pastor Paul Judson - Longmont,
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Steve Burhman - Aurora,
Steve Bock - Longmont,
Ed Broestl - Berthoud, and
Pastor Brenda Baalhorn, Casper, WY.

boys & girls clubs of larimer county

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3. Health & Life Skills Programs develop young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

4. The Arts Programs enable youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts and creative writing.

5. Sports, Fitness & Recreation Programs develop fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills.

Board president John Sinnett is serious about increasing locals' awareness of what the clubs have to offer. "We have to get the word out. We want people to know." He wants high caliber programs, such as Youth of the Year, and what the kids are doing, and how involved they are in the programs to be well known. He mentions Elyse Drake, who was chosen by peers twice as Youth of the Year. Drake, a sophomore, says her experience gives the rest of the kids an incentive to work toward something positive. "As Youth of the Year we get to meet senators and have lunch with state representatives. We meet kids from all over the state. It is the most incredible experience..." But even with all that, the most significant thing to this teen is the acceptance she experiences at the Club. "I am accepted for who I am. I am more confident in myself and in what I can do with my life in the future."

"Calling all teens!" Kathi Wright, Executive Director wants teenagers to hear her invitation. "There are great things happening at the club just for you. The Fort Collins unit is developing a Recording Studio, and we have an Entrepreneurial Team touring local small businesses to plan a business of our own." Pride in the Clubs is evident when Wright speaks, and she ends each e-mail in an open-ended signature, "Ask me about the Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County 20th BIRTHDAY BASH on Sat. 6/24/06 at the Lundeens." She is certain it will be a fantastic celebration. Just go ahead - ask her!

To volunteer, make a donation, or learn more, call Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County Program Center 970-223-1709 or log onto their website and get more specific information on any of the three area Clubs: [HYPERLINK "http://www.larimerboysandgirlsclubs.org"](http://www.hyperlink) <http://www.larimerboysandgirlsclubs.org>.

Board of Directors include:

Deborah Archer, Mike Demma, Stu Haskell,
José Hernandez, Matthew Hoeven,
Dennis Hogerty, Wayne Jamerson, David Jordan,
Jennifer Jones, Robin Klitch, Ray Martinez,
Mary McCaffrey, Wes Sargent, John Sinnett,
Lee Porter, Libby Stoddard, and Zachary Wilson,
all of Fort Collins; Robert (Bob) Janda,
Ehi Lambert-Aikhionbare, Troy McWhinney,
John Peden, Kevin Polansky, and Terry Schueler of
Loveland, Jamie Story of Windsor, and
Lance Taylor of Wellington; Kathi Wright and
Tammy Chandler are non-voting members.