



Gatherings

The quarterly agency newsletter of The Gathering Place Spring 2012

Three strikes isn't always an out: Pam's story



Like many of the women who come to The Gathering Place, Pam never thought she'd be homeless.

A mother of three, she raised her children as a single parent while working full time and going to school to earn her undergraduate and then master's degree.

Pam moved to Denver in 2005 from her home state of Texas, by way of Minnesota. Her daughter lived here and when the relationship she had moved to Minnesota for didn't work out, she came to visit and decided to stay. Pam worked initially as an independent writer, but soon the combination of student loan debt, a struggling national economy, and a few unfortunate circumstances—like the discovery of asbestos in an apartment building that forced her to evacuate with only three hours notice—led her to experience homelessness not once, not twice, but three times.

"Sometimes the smallest comment from someone can help get you through a difficult time," she says. "Those at The Gathering Place have been supportive, outraged on my behalf, and a wealth of information and resources.

"You can't underestimate the value of any of these programs," she continues, noting the abundance of offerings. Pam has visited us off and on over the years to access resources and participate in programs such as The Card Project, knitting, and the Writer's Group. And as she shares her latest projects from each program, her intelligence, creativity, and ingenuity are evident.

She is quick to acknowledge her gratitude for the food she receives daily through our kitchen and monthly from Betsy's Cupboard, as well as for the services offered onsite by Stacey Soom, a Denver Department of Human Services

employee who helped her to find her current apartment in a transitional housing unit.

As Pam continues to look for work—her last job was with a market research firm—she comes to The Gathering Place to both receive services and to give back to the community that has given so much to her.

She is involved in developing a group for The Card Project called The Artists' Bridge. "There are some things the staff members and volunteers just don't have time to do and projects they need extra help with," she says. So, artists involved in this group support the work of volunteers by packaging cards and restocking supplies, and they hope to develop an artists' mentoring program in the near future.

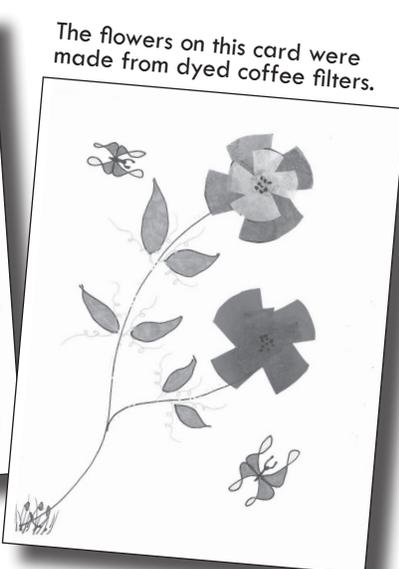
Having someone purchase her initial attempts at card creation "was very encouraging to me," Pam says. "So, I kept at it and have now moved on to creating larger pieces of art." Pam has found a niche in mixed media and the use of found items. She is currently experimenting with dyed coffee filters and uses them to create flowers and other items on her cards.

"One thing I have learned with art is that practice and perseverance are as important as skill," she says. "It's like anything. If you don't practice, you won't get anywhere.

"Being in The Card Project makes you feel more competent," she continues. "When you are homeless, you can forget what it is that you *can* do. You can forget who you were before."



Pam's whimsical card creations.



The flowers on this card were made from dyed coffee filters.

2010-2011 Annual Report now available

Our 2010-2011 annual report has been finalized and is available to download on our website at www.tgpdenver.org/publications. The report contains information about our programs and services and lists our donors and volunteers for the past fiscal year. Below you'll see our basic financial information for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, pulled from the financial section of the annual report. We have also included a pie chart that illustrates our diverse sources of income, something we are very proud of at The Gathering Place.

If you have any questions or would like to receive a copy of the full auditors report, please contact our Development Department at 303-996-9043.

THE GATHERING PLACE FINANCIAL STATEMENT October 1, 2010-September 30, 2011

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$2,045,712
Net Special Events Revenue	\$255,755
Contributed Supplies	\$479,657
Donated Professional Services	\$122,493
Program Service Income	\$120,977

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$3,024,594

Expenses

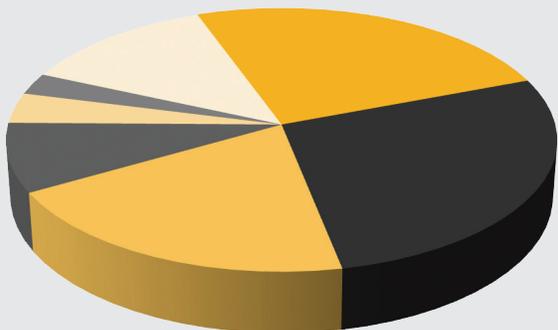
Programs and Services	\$2,424,351
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Supporting Services

General and Administrative	\$256,396
Fundraising and Development	\$319,681
Total Support Services	\$576,077

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,000,428

2010-2011 REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE GATHERING PLACE



■ Individual contributions	28%
■ Foundations & organizations	25%
■ In-kind contributions	20%
■ Events	8%
■ Government contracts	4%
■ Workplace giving campaigns	3%
■ Other	12%

The Gathering Place's position on urban camping

As we were finalizing this newsletter for publication, the Denver City Council passed an urban camping ban, making the act of sleeping in public places illegal. The ban is set to go into effect on May 30, 2012.

The Gathering Place Board of Directors has agreed that we, as an organization, are opposed to the ordinance. This isn't to say that we are pro-camping. We don't want any of the individuals we serve to have to sleep on the streets. However, we know that there are not enough shelter beds available to accommodate all those sleeping on the streets, and until solutions are set in place that provide viable alternatives and complementary services, we cannot, in good conscious, support the ordinance.

There are currently 158 shelter beds available for the estimated 400 unaccompanied women who are homeless in the city of Denver on any given night. During the winter months, overflow beds are added at shelters and some churches open their doors to offer additional space, but the number of available beds is never enough to meet the need. Links to a piece about the ban and the difficulties it presents for women specifically, written for *The Denver Post* by our CEO Leslie Foster, along with Terrell Curtis of The Delores Project and Victoria McVicker of SafeHouse Denver, are available on our website and Facebook page.

So, in the coming weeks and months, we ask that you join with us in advocating for long-term solutions that include both additional support services and more shelter spaces. And, on behalf of those we serve, thank you for your support!

2012 gala

Good times had by all at Bon Temps on Bourbon Street

A sold out crowd of The Gathering Place's friends and supporters came together on April 13 for our annual gala, *Bon Temps on Bourbon Street*. Held at Sports Authority Field at Mile High, the event raised nearly \$180,000 to help fund our programs and services.

Special guests for the evening included "Above and Beyond" award honorees **Elizabeth Gundlach Neufeld and Daniel Neufeld, King of Glory Lutheran Church,** and **Turner Construction**. These individuals and groups were recognized for their outstanding commitment to and

masks and beads upon their arrival. **Tyree Morris and H.O.W.** played jazz music during the silent auction portion of the evening, guests received tarot card readings by **Tina Collins**, and had the opportunity to ham it up in the photo booth donated by **Just Shutter Up**. Even the evening's meal featured a Southern flair with bourbon pecan bread pudding or bananas foster for dessert.

Thank you to our 2012 gala sponsors: Associate Sponsors- Sandy and Gary Autrey, Janice and Jim Campbell, Elizabeth and Vincent Duncan, Jr., and Whiting Petroleum



Representatives from Turner Construction. The company was also honored for their commitment and service to The Gathering Place.

King of Glory Lutheran Church representatives. The church was honored with an "Above and Beyond Award" for their many years of volunteer service.



(l to r) Daniel Neufeld and Elizabeth Gundlach Neufeld, "Above and Beyond" honorees with Ramona Lampley, chair of The Gathering Place Board of Directors.



support of The Gathering Place over the years. **Mayor Michael B. Hancock** was also on hand to welcome attendees. The evening's emcees were **Shawn and Kristin Miller** of Elevation Media Group.

Among this year's exciting auction items were a three-night getaway at **Brush Creek Ranch**, a suite for a regular season **Colorado Avalanche** game during the 2012-2013 season, and a dinner party for eight with our CEO **Leslie Foster**. The dinner included a five-course meal prepared by **Brandon Foster**, executive chef at Vesta Dipping Grill, and **Jane Berryman**, Gourmet Fitness Pro, and wine selected and served by **Aaron Foster**, sommelier, Elways, Cherry Creek. The auction committee was chaired by **Jeff Bowers**.

A number of details throughout the evening channeled the New Orleans spirit. Attendees were offered festive

Corporation; Honorary Sponsors- Abacus Financial Group, LLC, Berenbaum Weinshienk, PC, Randy Carter and BeneFactor/Boettcher & Co., CenturyLink, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Ehrhardt Keefe Steiner & Hottman PC, Leslie Foster and Jane Berryman, Pam and Joe Ignat, Becky and Eric Jacobson, Katie and Bart Johnson, Heidi and Randy Keogh, Elizabeth Gundlach Neufeld and Daniel Neufeld, The Nord Family Foundation, Brenda Roush, Alexandra Theriault, M.D. and Ron Guillot, and Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell; and *Denver Life Magazine*, our Magazine Sponsor.

We also want to say thank you to everyone who attended this year's gala and made it such a success! We hope to see you again next year!

Donation list for Betsy's Cupboard

Through Betsy's Cupboard, our emergency food and supply pantry, The Gathering Place provides an average of over 8,000 pounds of food and 400 toiletry bags each month for women, children, and transgender individuals who otherwise might not have these resources.

If you are interested in sponsoring or organizing a food or supply drive, or just want to learn more about Betsy's Cupboard, please contact Lydia Rodriguez at 303-996-9046 or lydiafaye@tgpdenver.org.

A quick note about food donations:

In an effort to support the health of those we serve at The Gathering Place, we prefer organic, low-sodium, and low-fat food item donations whenever possible. According to the Colorado Health Foundation, two out of three Coloradoans will be obese by 2017 and will suffer from obesity related diseases. The likelihood that an individual will experience obesity triples when their family income is less than \$25,000 a year.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD

- Peanut butter • Soups and stews • Coffee, tea, cider packets, or cocoa packets • Brown rice • Beans, canned or dry • Whole wheat pasta • Spaghetti sauce • Milk, powdered or canned • Canned tuna, chicken breast, or salmon • Canned fruits in 100% juice or its own juice • Canned vegetables • Make-a-meal items (Hamburger or Tuna Helper) • Frozen entrées, beans and rice combos • Snack items (e.g. tuna and cracker packs, crackers, nuts) • Granola bars • Oatmeal or other whole grain hot cereals • Whole grain cold cereal • Mayonnaise • Mustard • 100% Bottled juice • Bottled water • Vegetarian products • Microwaveable items • Fresh veggies and fruits that do not have to be refrigerated (e.g. apples, oranges, potatoes, squash, tomatoes, onions, carrots, green beans)

PERSONAL SUPPLIES

- Deodorant • Lotion • Toothbrushes and toothpaste • Tampons/pads • Shampoo and conditioner • Razors • Hair care products • Denture-Polygrip/Efferdent • Cosmetics for all skin colors • New socks and underwear for women and children • Laundry detergent • Fabric softener • Dryer sheets • Dish soap

BABY ITEMS

- Baby powder, lotion, shampoo, and bath wash • Unexpired baby food • Diapers (Pull-Ups sizes 4, 5, 6) • Baby wipes • Sippy cups • Strollers • Children's vitamins • Pedialyte

OTHER

- Tissues • Toilet paper • King Soopers/Safeway gift cards • Small can openers • Computer disks/flash drives • Craft store gift cards • Gift cards for children's birthday gifts • RTD BusTicket Books

volunteers

Thank you to our many volunteers

Every week, more than 200 volunteers come to The Gathering Place to contribute their time, skills, and most importantly, themselves, to help our organization be the best it can be. These volunteers help in many different ways: greeting members and providing



information; preparing and serving meals; playing with children and providing support for mothers; offering help in the computer lab; restocking items and taking appointments in both Betsy's Cupboard and Bridget's Boutique; and performing numerous other tasks and activities throughout the building.

During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, our volunteers contributed 25,501 hours of service, time that is equivalent to 12 full time staff positions. Thank you to all of our volunteers for everything you contribute to The Gathering Place!

Help us Feed the Need this summer

Last summer, a cute little monster named "The Need" helped us launch a campaign to raise funds for and awareness about the food programs at The Gathering Place. "The Need" traveled to a food truck rally, a kickball game, the Old South Pearl Street Farmer's Market, and many other locations to help us spread the word about food insecurity and what we're doing at The Gathering Place to alleviate it.



After a much-deserved vacation, "The Need" is back again this year and looking for your help in three areas. **1. Food Drives**- Help restock the shelves in Betsy's Cupboard by organizing a food drive. A list of needed items is available at www.tgpdenver.org/needs and we have detailed information on how to plan a successful food drive at www.tgpdenver.org/fooddrive. **2. Meal Sponsorships**- Do you belong to a group that would like to sponsor and serve a meal? Contact Justine Zollo at justine@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9034; and **3. Personal Fundraising Pages**- Leverage your personal connections and networks by creating an online support page at <http://tgpdenver.donorpages.com/FeedtheNeed>.

Providing quality food for the many individuals who come through our doors is an enormous undertaking. We rely on the community for donated items to stock Betsy's Cupboard and the annual cost of providing 14 meals a week through our kitchen is just over \$195,000. We hope you'll join with us this summer in our efforts to Feed the Need!

6th Annual Turner Open to be held on August 14



The beautiful Bear Dance Golf Course in Larkspur, Colo. will host this year's **Turner Open**—a tournament that benefits The Gathering Place— on August 14, 2012. Registration and breakfast begin at 6:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 8 a.m. The day wraps up with lunch and an awards ceremony at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Dayle Jones at dgjones@tcco.com or 303-210-9147.

Want to plan an event to benefit The Gathering Place?

We are so thankful for the numerous community members and business owners who have chosen to show their support for The Gathering Place by creating and/or hosting a special event or fundraiser for us.

Third-party events and fundraisers are essential to The Gathering Place, and there are numerous types of events and activities that can be done in a way that benefit us. In the past year, we've received both monetary and in-kind donations from events like:

- Avs Better Halves Diaper Drive
- Colorado Women's Bar Association Baby Shower
- The Community Gathering 5K/10K
- Encana Employee Chili Cook Off
- Matthew Morris Salon Christmas Eve Blowdrys
- Rising Star Gala
- SamFest
- Spring Charity Fling
- Yoga on the Rocks

If you are interested in hosting an event or fundraiser for The Gathering Place, please contact Laura Meixell at laura@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9048.

Tommy Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament on September 24

When Thomas "Tommy" Vickers lost a courageous battle with stomach cancer in 2010, The Gathering Place community lost a man who was described as living "life with both hands and a soft heart."

The Gathering Place is honored to celebrate Tommy's life through the 2nd annual **Tommy Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament** this year. Tommy loved to golf and began playing at age 3 on the nine-hole sand course his father had built on their family estate in Wichita, Kan. He and his brothers carried single-digit golf handicaps and competed nationwide. Tommy later played in two U.S. Amateur Championships and made nine appearances in the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am.

The Tommy Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament is an exclusive tournament that gives golfers a chance to win a new vehicle, try their luck in a putting contest, and go home with fantastic prizes, all while enjoying a day of golf on one of Denver's premier courses. The event not only provides the opportunity to gather as friends to participate in an activity that Tommy loved, but also to fondly remember and honor his life, love, and legacy.

The Tommy Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012 at The Club at Pradera in Parker, Colo. The cost is \$1,600 per foursome. **Jewell Insurance** is the event's Title Sponsor, but other sponsorships are still available. Contact Laura Meixell for more information at laura@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9048.



Businesses that sell Card Project cards

In Denver:

- **Annie's Cafe**
3100 E. Colfax Avenue
- **Arabella Boutique**
1423 Larimer Street, Ste. 070
- **Blondies**
563 Detroit Street
- **Bonnie Brae Flowers, Inc.**
5595 E. Evans Avenue
- **Bookery Nook**
4280 Tennyson Street
- **The Book Rack**
2382 S. Colorado Boulevard
- **The Bookies**
4315 E. Mississippi Avenue
- **Caboodle**
1515 S. Holly Street
- **Campus Veterinary Clinic**
2186 S. Colorado Boulevard #C
- **The Denver Art Museum Gift Shop**
On 13th between Broadway and Bannock
- **Dimensions in Hair**
6491 E. Hampden Avenue
- **Downtown's Chiropractic Centre**
1050 17th Street, Ste. 8197
- **First Universalist Church**
4101 E. Hampden Avenue
- **Fluid Coffee Bar**
501 E. 19th Avenue
- **Gallery Gifts Store**
910 Santa Fe Drive
- **Gift Shop at National Jewish Hospital**
1400 Jackson Street
- **I Love Knitting**
600 S. Holly Street #102
- **Jerry's Nut House**
2101 Humboldt Street
- **Kaiser Permanente**
2041 E. Park Place
- **The Papery**
728 South University Boulevard
- **The Park Hill Community Bookstore**
4620 E. 23rd Street
- **Presbyterian/St. Luke's Gift Shop**
1719 E. 19th Avenue
- **SAME Cafe**
2023 East Colfax Avenue
- **The Shoppe**
3103 E. Colfax Avenue
- **Tattered Cover Bookstore**
1628 16th Avenue
- **Ten Thousand Villages**
2626 E. 3rd Avenue
- **Under the Umbrella Cafe and Bakery**
3504 E. 12th Avenue
- **Wash Perk Coffee Shop**
853 E. Ohio Avenue

Extended Metro Area:

- **The Green Merchant**
4600 Plettner Lane #1C, Evergreen
- **Lakewood Heritage & Cultural Arts Center**, 470 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood
- **Loretto Spirituality Center**
4000 S. Wadsworth Boulevard, Lakewood
- **Momentum**
1625 Pearl Street, Boulder
- **Turning Heads**
5715 Upham Street, Arvada
- **Wild at Heart**
7180 W. Alaska Drive, Lakewood

supporters

Various grants provide much needed support for The Gathering Place

The Gathering Place is grateful for the strong community support we receive every year.

Thank you to the following funders who have already provided substantial grant funding this year: **The Anschutz Foundation, A.V. Hunter Trust, Edward L. Johnstone Memorial, Florence Martin Memorial Foundation, Fred & Jean Allegretti**

Foundation, Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, Green Fund, Helen M. McLoraine Gathering Place Endowment Fund, Heider Family Foundation, Kinnickinnic Realty, Kroenke Sports Charities, Liniger Fund, Luff Family Fund, and Vodafone Americas Foundation.



The Avs Better Halves distributed several grants to front-range nonprofit organizations before the April 5 Avalanche game against the Columbus Blue Jackets. The Gathering Place received a grant in the amount of \$5,000.

The Gathering Place recognized at Unique Lives event with Lucie Arnaz



(l to right) Tanya Wheeler-Berliner, director of public relations at The Gathering Place; Arthur Espinoza, Jr., Denver Producer at Unique Lives & Experiences; Lucie Arnaz; Lisa Zavoda, major gifts officer at The Gathering Place; and Tracy Ulmer, director of community relations for The Denver Post.

The Gathering Place was recognized and honored by **The Denver Post Community Foundation** at a Unique Lives & Experiences presentation on April 30, 2012 featuring Lucie Arnaz. Before Arnaz spoke, Tracy Ulmer recognized The Gathering Place for our work with women and children in the Denver metro area

and announced that we would be receiving a \$5,000 contribution from The Denver Post Community Foundation. Arnaz then gave a stirring presentation about both her life and career, and the lives and careers of her parents, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. We were thrilled to be a part of such a lovely evening!



New all over: Bridget's Boutique remodeled and donation guidelines updated

Bridget's Boutique, the clothing distribution program at The Gathering Place, is up and running and better than ever following a recent remodel coordinated by **Shannon Wade**, a 2011 graduate of the **Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design (RMCAD)**. Wade first visited The Gathering Place for a tour and then suggested a design charrette and remodel as a volunteer opportunity for her class.

"The rest of the building is beautiful," says **Joy Wagner**, interior design faculty member at RMCAD and advisor for the project. "We wanted the boutique to match it."

When the charrette resulted in a posh, truly boutique-like design, Wade and Wagner set out to solicit donations for the needed items: shelving, fabric, paint, hangers, storage containers, and more. A generous donation of materials through **IKEA** took care of the furniture and organization system needs. **Knoll Textiles** provided material for curtains in the space and RMCAD provided paint and supplies.

Then in April, a team of volunteers including Wade and Wagner's family members, students and faculty from RMCAD, and employees of **Convergint Technologies**, met at The Gathering Place to paint, assemble shelving, hang curtains, and completely make over the Boutique.

As you can see from the photographs above, the new design provides ample space for many clothes by utilizing multiple levels of hanging space in the wardrobes. There are also shoe racks, a wall unit full of plastic bins for bra storage, and a mobile unit with drawers to store new socks and underwear. The side of the room not pictured includes several more wardrobe units and a small changing room, partitioned off by curtains, with a full-length mirror.

"I'm excited to have such a beautiful, redesigned space," says Bridget Johnson, The Gathering Place's personal services coordinator who runs the Boutique. "Being able to look for clothing in a space like this is a dignifying experience, which is exactly what we want."

Updated Donation Guidelines: In conjunction with the newly designed Boutique, we have updated donation guidelines for in-kind contributions. Currently, we are only able to accept new, unexpired food; new, unopened toiletries; and new socks and underwear onsite. This means we also accept new, unexpired baby food and formula; new, unopened packages of diapers and wipes; and new, unopened bottles of baby lotion, wash, powder, and diaper rash ointment onsite for the Family Area.

You can still donate clothes to Bridget's Boutique through **Heritage Cleaners**. However, the clothes must be clean and on hangers, and there is a limit of 20 items per person at a time that can be donated. Clothing we are unable to use goes to **USAgain**, an organization that pays us by the pound for our contributions. Money earned through this partnership is used to buy needed items for the Boutique.

Other donations that we are unable to accept—furniture, books, toys, home décor, linens, blankets, sports items, garage items, and more—can be given to **Arc Thrift Stores** on behalf of The Gathering Place. For these donations, Arc Thrift Stores will provide vouchers for our members to shop for the specific items they need.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the redesign of Bridget's Boutique and to all of you who donate in-kind goods to us each year. We couldn't do it without you!

The Gathering Place

a refuge for rebuilding lives

1535 High Street
Denver, CO 80218

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 2858

The mission



The Gathering Place is a community of safety and hope where positive relationships, choice, and essential resources transform lives.

Our Guiding Principles

We serve women, children, and transgender individuals who are experiencing homelessness or poverty.

We believe in hope as an important change agent and hold that hope for everyone.

We believe deeply in the power of community and continue working to develop it.

Our key values include recognizing individual strengths, building respect and trust, and offering acceptance unconditionally.

The Gathering Place

1535 High Street
Denver, CO 80218

303-321-4198

303-321-0679 fax

www.tgpdenver.org

A MEMBER OF COMMUNITY SHARES OF COLORADO

CSC Campaign Codes:

Community Shares of Colorado: 5026

City and State (DECC and CCC): 5050

Federal Campaign (CFC): 41763



The Gathering Place
a refuge for rebuilding lives

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