



Gatherings

The quarterly agency newsletter of The Gathering Place Holiday 2012

Holidays at The Gathering Place: It's the little things that make a big difference

During the holiday season, we focus on community and celebrating various aspects of the season rather than centering all of our efforts and attention on one big holiday event or give away. We plan a number of small gatherings and activities that include special

meals, gift-making, games, and more—like the activities a family would share during the holiday season.

For some, the events at The Gathering Place supplement their own family celebrations and traditions, but for

others, these gatherings will be their only holiday celebrations this year. Either way, when we ask those in our community what their favorite part of the holiday season at The Gathering Place is, a clear theme emerges: It's the little things that make a big difference.

"I'm just grateful that we're all here together and not outside in the cold," says PJ, a member who has visited The Gathering Place off and on for many years.

"I appreciate the efforts we take to make the holiday celebrations inclusive and non-materialistic," says Samantha Horoschak, our director of annual giving. "Even the gift program we have—Share the Joy—focuses on the importance of choice and dignity, giving individuals the opportunity to purchase gifts, clothes, or other much-needed items."

For many, handmade decorations throughout the building or a jovial atmosphere are the most meaningful

elements of the season. "I really like the way the Christmas tree looks in the dining room in the morning," says Debbie, a member who participates in The Card Project and Writers Group programs at The Gathering Place.

"I enjoy all of the activities," says Sandina, another member who participates in the Writers Group. "They get you feeling festive."

"And the hope and joy you feel," adds her mother, Leticia, who also participates in The Card Project and Writers Group. "People really have the spirit of the season here."

All of the activities and special meals during the holiday season are made possible through the support and involvement of families, businesses, faith-based groups, and community organizations. "The holidays—

and specifically our feasts and festivities—are a great time to spend with our members, volunteers, and staff," says Trisha Koizumi, volunteer resources manager. "It reminds me what the holidays should be about."

Colleen Maxfield, a Welcome Desk volunteer who has served at The Gathering Place for the past 10 years sums up the overall sentiment well: "The holidays at The Gathering Place are about happiness," she says. "The smiles on faces and people singing carols together... It's kind of like family, like coming home for the holidays."

For more information about the many ways you can contribute to and celebrate with The Gathering Place community during the holidays this year, check out pages 4 and 7 of this newsletter or visit our website at www.tgpdenver.org.



Councilman Paul López visits The Gathering Place



Denver City Councilman Paul López visited The Gathering Place on September 12 to tour our facility and host an open dialogue with our members. After the tour, the councilman sat and talked with members of our community for over an hour, discussing topics ranging from shelter availability to health care accessibility.

We want to extend a sincere and heart-felt thank you to Councilman López for making space in his busy schedule to visit our organization, learn a little bit more about what we do, and engage with our members. Thank you for ensuring that everyone has access to our local politicians!

Justine Zollo receives outstanding volunteer manager of the year award

We are proud to share that our Vice President of Volunteer Resources, Justine Zollo, received the Outstanding Volunteer Manager of the Year award from Denver DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies), a professional organization for volunteer leaders, managers, and administrators.



Justine joined the staff of The Gathering Place in 2006 and has helped to shape and transform our volunteer program since that time. Her emphasis on building relationships and connecting individuals to service opportunities that are truly meaningful experiences is beneficial not just for the volunteers who serve with us, but for our entire agency.

Congratulations, Justine, for this award and the recognition for a job well done. We are fortunate to have you and appreciate all that you do to expand and engage our community!

Annual Tina Stein celebration focuses on community



Each year, the staff, volunteers, clients, and donors of The Gathering Place come together during our annual Tina Stein celebration to eat, sing, and dance as we celebrate the most important aspect of who we are: our community. We do this in memory of Tina Stein, one of the earliest members of The Gathering Place staff who was essential to shaping the philosophies and vision that have helped us to create and sustain this community. This year's celebration was filled with old and new friends, laughter, and fun and we want to thank everyone who participated and contributed to it. You are what truly makes The Gathering Place so wonderful. Thank you!

Second Annual Tommy Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament held on September 24



(left to right) Tom Ritchie, Robert McCallum, Bill McCallum, and Bob Ritchie won the tournament this year.



David Jewell (left), of Jewell Insurance, and Leslie Foster.

The Gathering Place was honored to once again celebrate the life and legacy of Tommy Vickers at the **Second Annual Tommy Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament** on September 24, 2012. Held at The Club at Pradera, the event raised \$25,000 for our organization. The golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the course and were joined by their non-golfing friends at a 19th Hole Party, which featured drinks, dinner, and a silent auction.

Tournament sponsors included: **Jewell Insurance** (Title Sponsor), **Lanny Martin** (Gold Sponsor), **Denver Life Magazine** (Magazine Sponsor), **Westco Systems, Inc.** (Water Sponsor), and **Delta Dental, Tom Devlin, Feldhake & Associates**, and **Betts Simon** (Hole Sponsors). Thank you to everyone for your support of The Gathering Place through this event!

2013 gala set for April 12 at The Wildlife Experience



Mark your calendars now to join The Gathering Place for our 2013 gala Global Getaway, which will be held on April 12, 2013, at The Wildlife Experience.

We are thrilled to announce that the **Randall A. Carter Foundation** and **Benefactor/Boettcher & Co.** will be the presenting sponsor of this year's gala.

Other sponsorship opportunities are available, ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500. If you are interested in more information about sponsoring the gala or volunteering (we are looking for people to help secure auction items, sell tickets, and address and stuff invitations), please contact Laura Meixell at laura@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9048.

SamFest 2012 a great success



For the third year in a row, The Gathering Place was the beneficiary of **SamFest**, a multi-faceted birthday celebration for **Sam Sokol** (pictured on the left above with the Gym Class Heroes team from BarLympics). Thank you to **Red Square, Snooze, The Ginn Mill**, and everyone who participated in the various SamFest events this year! We can't wait to celebrate again with you next year!

Support us during the holidays

At The Gathering Place we celebrate the season in many ways that honor community, foster cultural awareness, and invite participation. Here are a couple of ways you can support us during the holidays this year:

Feasts and Festivities

Small groups are invited to celebrate the season and share the gift of community with our members by hosting a meal—the feast—or sharing a cultural tradition or fun, family activity—the festivity. Hosts plan the menu or activity, bring the ingredients or supplies, cook on site, and then enjoy the meal or activity with our community.

Essential Gifts

A collection drive for non perishable food and toiletries supports The Gathering Place by serving our members who access Betsy's Cupboard. Our Family Area can use your support with larger sized diapers and other baby care items. See *both lists below*. We also need new gloves, scarves, and hats, as well as new socks and underwear for all sizes to supply the needs in Bridget's Boutique.

NON-PERISHABLE, UNEXPIRED 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, shelf stable, 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 • Ketchup • 100% Bottled juice • Bottled water • Vegetarian products • Microwavable items • Frozen and/or fresh veggies and fruits that do not have to be refrigerated (e.g. apples, oranges, potatoes, squash, tomatoes, onions, carrots, green beans)

NEW 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

NEW BABY ITEMS

- Baby powder, lotion, shampoo, and bath wash • Unexpired baby food • Unopened packages of diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6 and Pull-Ups) • Baby wipes • Sippy cups • 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

volunteers

Full-time volunteer programs partner with The Gathering Place

We want to introduce you to a very unique kind of volunteer in our community: our full-time volunteers. These volunteers come to us from faith-based programs and commit to simplicity and community living, full-time work in a



(left to right) Anna Bernard, Ashlee Sleet, and Lacy Morris.

local nonprofit, and a year of exploration and reflection.

This year we are fortunate to have three full time volunteers. **Anna Bernard** is from Urbandale, Iowa, graduated from St. Olaf College, and comes to us through the **Urban Servant Corps** program. An accomplished scholar and athlete, Anna previously volunteered in Ecuador, the Appalachian Mountain region, and in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina. She is a Resource Advocate on our Basic Services team.

Ashlee Sleet comes to The Gathering Place through the **Colorado Vincentian Volunteer** program. She is from Lexington, Kentucky, graduated from the University of Dayton, and is working with us as a Family Area Advocate. With a talent for working with young children and a heart full of compassion, Ashlee previously volunteered for Big Brothers Big Sisters, an on-campus ministry, International Student Mentoring, and Chicago's Pacific Garden Mission.

Lacy Morris is working with the Personal Growth and Learning team, supporting The Card Project, the computer lab, and our volunteer program. A talented musician and songwriter with a background in musical theater, Lacy has volunteered with the Sierra Club, Youth for Christ, and an on-campus ministry. She is from Springdale, Arkansas, and graduated from the University of Arkansas. Lacy is working with us through the **DOOR/DWELL** program.

Welcome to our new full time volunteers! We are excited for each of you to be a part of our community this year.

Volunteer at Food Bank of the Rockies

Youth 14 years and older, and groups of up to 25 can volunteer at Food Bank of the Rockies on our behalf. One volunteer shift enables us to receive a 20 lb. food credit, which we can use to stock our food bank with much needed staple items. To volunteer, Contact Laura Egan at 303-375-5811 or legan@foodbankrockies.org. Remember to mention that you are volunteering on behalf of The Gathering Place in Denver. And let us know when you are scheduled to go so we can say thank you and follow up on your experience!

New endeavor for The Card Project: Triptychs



Many of you are probably familiar with the cards produced by the artists who participate in The Card Project at The Gathering Place. Businesses, families, and individuals often place orders for holiday greeting cards, and thousands of cards from The Card Project are sold at arts and craft fairs throughout the year. *(Quick note: If you want to purchase your holiday cards from The Card Project or place a bulk order for holiday cards, you should do so soon!)*

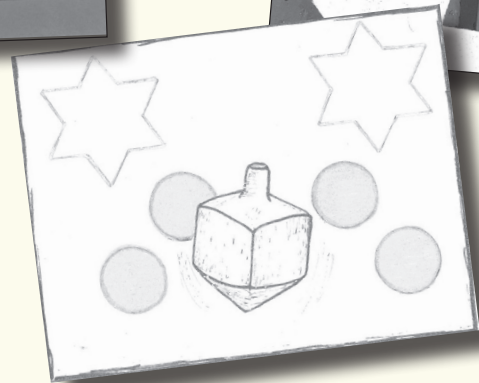
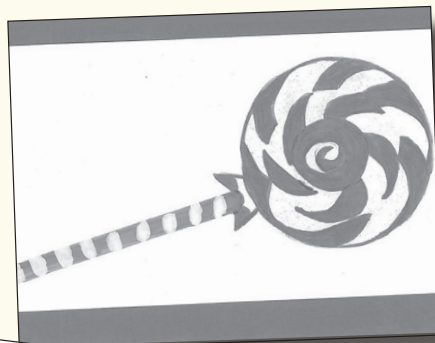
The mission of The Card Project is to provide an opportunity to showcase and sell artists' creations while simultaneously providing a safe and supportive environment for artistic expression. In the past, these creations have been limited to greeting cards, but now The Card Project is producing a new form of art: triptychs.

A triptych is a three-fold piece of art. Those produced in The Card Project include three 4 by 6 inch pieces, matted

and encased in a black wooden frame that is 10 by 16 inches. Each triptych costs \$25, of which 50% will be paid to the artist who created the piece and 50% will reimburse The Gathering Place for the triptych supplies.

So, now you can purchase your holiday cards and your holiday gifts from The Card Project! Both cards and triptychs will be available on site at The Gathering Place and at the craft fairs and gift marts we participate in this year (for a list of those, visit www.tgpdenver.org/events). Cards from The Card Project are also available at retail locations throughout the Denver metro area. A list of these stores is available on our website at www.tgpdenver.org/cpvendors.

To learn more about The Card Project, invite us to a craft fair, or to place a bulk order for holiday or occasional cards, contact Denise Lines at denise@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9068.



supporters

Remember to “Give where you live” on Colorado Gives Day this December 4

Presented by **Community First Foundation** and **FirstBank**, Colorado Gives Day will take place during a 24-hour period starting at 12 a.m. on Tuesday, December 4, 2012.



Last year, more than 300 individuals made donations to The Gathering Place on Colorado Gives Day, and the total amount we received—which included a match for new or increased donors from the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado and a proportional boost from the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund—totaled over \$65,000.

100% of your donations made or scheduled on Colorado Gives Day this year (you can schedule a one-time donation now, to be made on December 4) through the GivingFirst.org website will come directly to The Gathering Place. So, mark your calendars do your end of year giving on December 4!

Actall helps with Buy an Extra Day



Toni Boyens greets shoppers.

Each month the **Capitol Hill Whole Foods** store hosts a “Buy an Extra Day” for The Gathering Place, asking shoppers to purchase and donate an item to help restock the shelves in Betsy’s Cupboard.

Bob Hampe, president of **Actall**, regularly volunteers on Buy an Extra Day to greet shoppers as they enter the store and ask for donations. In September, he invited all Actall employees to join him in his efforts, and seven of them did. Thank you to everyone from Actall for volunteering and helping us restock Betsy’s Cupboard! We appreciate your support!

The Gathering Place starts young professionals group called NextGen

On September 27, The Gathering Place held a kickoff event for a group of young professionals who are interested in supporting the mission of our organization. The group, called **NextGen**, intends to offer five opportunities throughout the year for young professionals to gather, network, and learn more about the issues that are affecting our community.

nextGen

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP
supporting the work of The Gathering Place

NextGen will be holding its next event at **Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell** on November 28 from 5:45-7:30 p.m. This gathering will feature drinks and appetizers sponsored by Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell and a panel discussion about getting involved with a nonprofit organization through a board of directors position. If you are interested in attending this event, please RSVP to rsvp@wtotrial.com. For more information about NextGen, join our Facebook group or contact Laura Meixell at laura@tgpdenver.org.

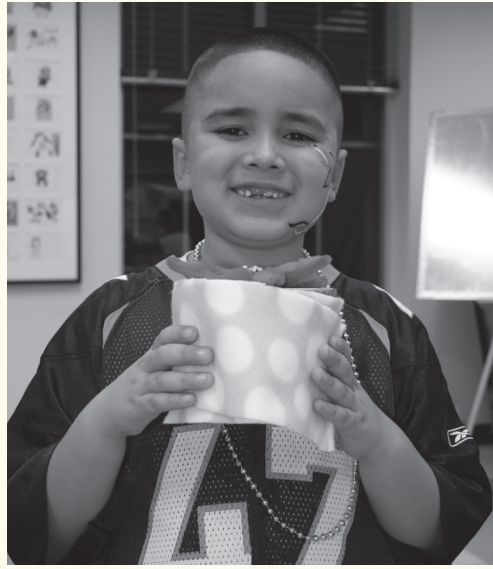
Receive a tax credit for your gift to The Gathering Place

The Gathering Place is a qualifying organization for the Colorado state Enterprise Zone tax credit. Enterprise Zones exist to encourage private involvement in economically distressed areas. The Gathering Place operates in a Denver County Enterprise Zone and contributions equal to or greater than \$500 are eligible to receive a 25% state tax credit. Stock and substantiated in-kind contributions also qualify for a 12.5% credit.

For more information on this tax credit and how to receive it, please contact Samantha Horoschak at samantha@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9043.



share the joy



Share the joy of giving with those at The Gathering Place

“Share the Joy” is The Gathering Place’s holiday giving program. Through it, we provide women and families with gift cards so that they can experience the joy of giving with their loved ones during the holiday season.

We truly believe that mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends know best when it comes to giving to their loved ones. And the true joy that can be felt when shopping for and choosing that perfect gift is a heartwarming, cherished holiday tradition that many who visit The Gathering Place will not have the opportunity to experience this year.

Though it may seem small, one \$25 gift card will allow an individual receiving services at The Gathering Place to shop for presents or other much needed items for their family and loved ones without worrying about how to pay for those purchases. And one \$25 gift card will ensure that the children who come to The Gathering Place can open a holiday gift this year chosen just for them. *Please note that The Gathering Place will not have a children’s gift shop and will not be accepting toy donations this year.*

You can “Share the Joy” this holiday season by donating a gift card, or cards, in \$25 denominations from Walmart, Target, King Soopers, or Safeway to The Gathering Place. Hosting a holiday party or participating in an office celebration? Encourage attendees to bring gift cards in lieu of gifts. The gift cards can be mailed to The Gathering Place in the envelope included with this newsletter or dropped off in person.

Please plan to have your gift cards or monetary donation designated for “Share the Joy” to The Gathering Place by December 14 so we can distribute them and the recipients will have time to do their shopping before the holidays. Donations that are not used during our “Share the Joy” distribution will be used at the discretion of The Gathering Place’s executive team to serve our greatest needs. If you have any questions about the “Share the Joy” program, contact Tanya Wheeler-Berliner at tanya@tgpdnver.org or 303-996-9028.

SHARE THE JOY



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Tanya Wheeler-Berliner

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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

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