



Gatherings

The quarterly agency newsletter of The Gathering Place Spring 2013

Determination and patience pay off: Alicia's story

When you ask Alicia what she enjoys the most about her new apartment, her answer is simple: "The stability." After nearly three years spent piecing together temporary shelter solutions while maintaining long-term employment at two part-time jobs, it's easy to understand why.

"Now I don't have to question, first thing in the morning, where am I going to lay my head that night," she says. "It's so nice to have one place where you can go and do everything: eat, sleep, have a cup of coffee."

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Alicia moved to Denver in the early 1980's with her now ex-husband and two children. She first came to The Gathering Place in 1990.

"They were offering programs back then, so I came to check it out and have been coming ever since," she says. "A lot of my friends came here and it was a good place for people who didn't have any roots in Denver."

In late 2009, Alicia was living by herself in a one-bedroom apartment. "The rent started to skyrocket," she says. "I was paying \$550 a month and my landlord wanted to raise the rent to \$625. With other obligations—public service, phone, groceries, transportation—I couldn't do it. My pocket only stretched so far. I ended up relinquishing the property and then I was homeless."

For overnight shelter, Alicia "couch surfed" among friends and family, stayed in motels, and stayed at The Delores Project and Samaritan House shelters.

"Not having stability is very hard," the 53-year-old says. "Not knowing if you are going to have a bed or a roof over your head is hard. I don't think a lot of people understand."

During that time, Alicia came to The Gathering Place daily to wash and iron her clothes, to eat meals, and to secure overnight shelter. And despite the stress of finding and maintaining shelter, she managed to keep her two part-

time jobs, as well, one at a grocery store and one at a large fashion store.

"I knew I had to have the housing so I could be at work," she says. "There might have been a time or two when I had to take a day off, but I knew that getting back to a stable place depended on me having a job."

"If you have a goal, you have to keep your eye on it. I knew going through all of this that there was somewhere I wanted to be," Alicia says. That goal was permanent housing and soon, Alicia began working with Debra MacKillop, our Housing Stabilization Advocate, to look for a permanent housing solution.

"That meant coming to The Gathering Place, going to the housing classes, and eventually putting my name on the Section 8 housing lists," she says.

When she first signed up, Alicia was number 54 on the waiting list for the apartment complex where she now lives. "It was a waiting game," she says. "But while you're waiting, you have to keep putting one foot in front of the other."

Alicia recently moved into her own one-bedroom apartment again.

The Gathering Place Housing Stabilization Program paid her first month's rent and security deposit, and provided her with a voucher to National Hotel Liquidators, where she purchased all of the furniture she needed. And, in the Section 8 program, her rent is guaranteed to never be more than 30% of her income.

"It's something to have this freedom," she says of her new apartment. "When I get off of work, I don't have to call to tell someone if I am running a little late. I can just go home. And I don't have to get up at five o'clock in the morning, if I want to sleep in until nine."

Her next goal? Alicia says she isn't sure. "I don't know what the future holds, but right now I'm content," she says. "It's nice to be able to just go home."



2011-2012 annual report now available

Our 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 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, 2011-September 30, 2012

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$1,978,564
Net Special Events Revenue	\$234,690
Contributed Supplies	\$426,282
Donated Professional Services	\$127,439
Program Service Income	\$225,875

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$2,992,850

Expenses

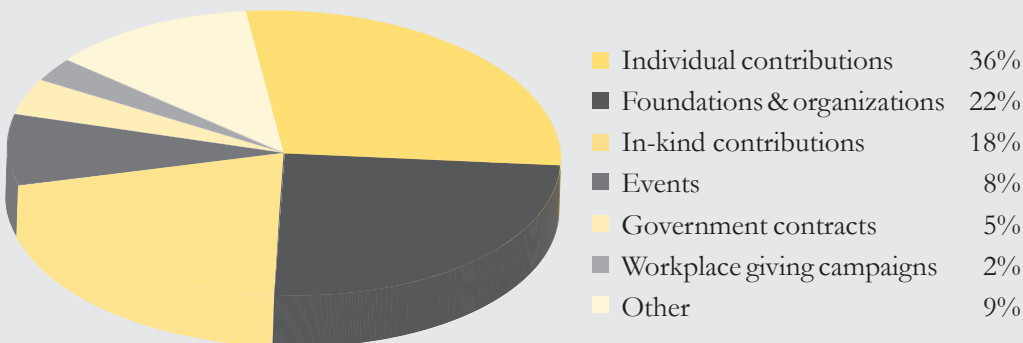
Programs and Services	\$2,422,089
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Supporting Services

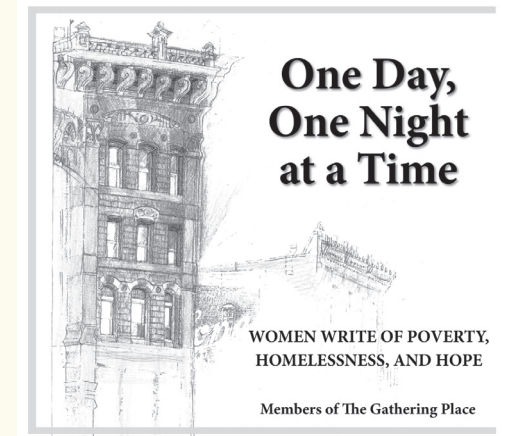
General and Administrative	\$299,336
Fundraising and Development	\$343,769
Total Support Services	\$643,105

TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,065,194

2011-2012 REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE GATHERING PLACE



The Gathering Place publishes a book of pieces created in Writers' Group



"A class that arose from a wish became a book that evolved from a dream, a desire that healing words venture beyond a classroom to journey into the world." —Kirsten Morgan and Suzanne Burm, *One Day, One Night at a Time*

A number of years ago, a group of women at The Gathering Place—many of whom were part of our Writers' Group—formed a book club. One of the books this group read was about homelessness in Denver. As they read this particular book, the women noted the lack of women's perspectives and experiences. From that experience came a dream: a dream to write their own book that would be specifically about their experiences with homelessness and poverty.

This spring, that dream became a reality with the publication of *One Day, One Night at a Time*. This book, which includes writings by 33 different authors, is a collection of poetry and prose that eloquently reveals the joys and heartaches, struggles and triumphs of their journeys. To purchase a copy of *One Day, One Night at a Time*, visit The Gathering Place's website: www.tgpdenver.org.

Global Getaway sells out, raises funds for The Gathering Place

More than 450 friends of The Gathering Place came together on April 12 to celebrate and support our work at our annual gala, *Global Getaway*. Held at **The Wildlife Experience** in Parker, Colo., the event raised \$198,000 to help fund the programs and services offered by The Gathering Place.

Special guests for the evening included “Above and Beyond” award honorees **Suzanne Burm**, **Kirsten Morgan**, and members of the **Junior League of Denver**. These individuals and group were honored for their outstanding commitment to and support of The Gathering Place. The evening’s emcee was **Aaron LaPedis**, author of the award winning book, *The Garage Sale Millionaire*, and owner of Fascination St. Fine Art Gallery in Cherry Creek.

Among this year’s exciting auction items were a three night Las Vegas getaway at **Caesar’s Palace** with first class airfare on United Airlines, a guitar signed by country singer Dierks Bentley, a farm to table dinner for eight by **three aprons** catering, and a trip to Seattle featuring an exclusive tour of the **Pilchuck Glass School**.

A number of details throughout the evening channeled the event’s global theme. Attendees enjoyed the sounds of African drumming by the **Kusogea Nobi Drum Ensemble** during the silent auction portion of the evening, which featured a special ‘global indulgences’ category with baskets filled with items from France, Ireland, Japan, and Mexico. And, the evening’s meal featured a Mediterranean Caesar salad, chicken cacciatore and chicken piccata, and a wild mushroom risotto. Dessert, served after the live auction, included petit fours, churros, éclairs, and a variety of fresh fruit.

Special thanks to our sponsors for this year’s gala: The Randall A. Carter Foundation and Benefactor/Boettcher & Co., presenting sponsor; European Wax Center, Becky and Eric Jacobson, and Alexandra Theriault, MD and Ron Guillot, benefactor sponsors; Sandy and Gary Autrey and Janice and Jim Campbell, associate sponsors; CenturyLink, CoBiz, Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Cresa Denver, EKS&H, Leslie Foster and Jane Berryman, Pam and Joe Ignat, Heidi and Randy Keogh, The Nord Family Foundation, Oak Tree Foundation, Renee Ripol and Brenda Roush, Sopra Communities, Turner Construction, Vectra Bank, and the Wheeler Trigg O’Donnell Foundation, honorary sponsors; Elevation Media Group, media sponsor; and Beverage Distributors and Frederick Wildman and Sons, Ltd., beverage sponsors. 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!

Pictured at right (top to bottom): 1. Randy Carter, presenting sponsor, gives remarks during the program portion of the event. Carter pledged to be the presenting sponsor of next year’s gala, as well. 2. (l to r) Kristin and Shawn Miller of Elevation Media Group, chat with Heidi Winter of European Wax Center. 3. (l to r) Sunne Meyer, Suzanne Burm, Kirsten Morgan, and Lisa Zavoda. Burm and Morgan were recognized with an Above and Beyond Award. 4- Brenda Roush (center) presents Lisa Lumley (left), Junior League president elect, and Becky Theis (right), Junior League vice president of community, the Junior League of Denver’s Above and Beyond Award.



Donation list for Betsy's Cupboard

Through Betsy's Cupboard, our emergency food and supply pantry, The Gathering Place provides an average of 7,700 pounds of food and 355 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@tgpdnver.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 Coloradans 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, UNEXPIRED FOOD

- Beans (dry or canned) • Beans and rice combos
- Bottled water • Bread • Brown rice • Canned fruits in 100% juice • Canned tuna, chicken breast, or salmon • Canned vegetables • Cereal/oatmeal (whole grain preferred) • Cheese • Coffee, tea, cider packets, or cocoa packets • Condiments-mayonnaise, mustard, etc. • Fresh meats • Frozen entrées • 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) • Gatorade • Granola/cereal bars
- Make-a-meal items: Tuna or Hamburger Helper
- Microwavable items • Milk (powdered or canned)
- Peanut butter • Snack items (e.g. tuna and cracker packs, crackers, nuts) • Soups and stews • Spaghetti sauce • Whole wheat pasta • Vegetarian products
- 100% bottled juice

NEW PERSONAL SUPPLIES

- Combs/brushes • Cosmetics for all skin colors
- Denture care - Polygrip/Efferdent • Deodorant
- Hair care products • Lip balm • Lotion • Razors
- Shampoo and conditioner • Tampons/pads
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss

NEW BABY ITEMS

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

OTHER

- Can openers • Computer disks/flash drives • Dish soap • Dryer sheets • Fabric softener • Gift cards: King Soopers, Safeway, craft stores • Laundry detergent (preferably powder) • Reusable shopping bags • Tissues/Kleenex • Toilet paper

volunteers

Thank you to our many volunteers

Each year, more than 1,000 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; caring for 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 and in the community.



Over the course of the 2011-2012 fiscal year, our volunteers contributed 23,936 hours of service, time that is equivalent to 11.5 full time staff positions. During National Volunteer Week (April 21-26), we wrote and posted a series of thank you notes throughout our building to let our volunteers know just how much they mean to us. Here are a few excerpts from those notes:

"Although you provide a direct connection to members with your compassion, patience, acceptance, and warm smiles, your impact extends far beyond your direct contact with members. Your presence at The Gathering Place also provides staff members with a sense of affirmation."

"Thank you for always being so eager to get down with sticky fingers and Thomas trains on busy days, and finding other projects and ways to help on quiet ones."

"There is no end to the imagination and generosity of our volunteers."

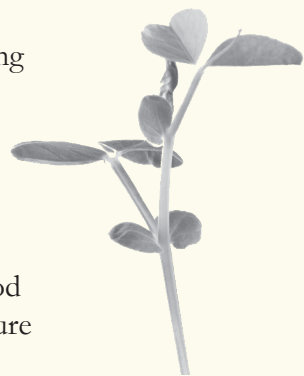
"You not only share your knowledge but you share yourself... and that is truly giving such a valuable gift."

Thank you to all of our volunteers for everything you contribute to The Gathering Place community!

Plant a row for The Gathering Place

Despite all of April's snow, garden planting time—and summer—are right around the corner. As you are making plans for your garden this summer, we ask that you consider planting a few plants, or a row of plants, from which you will donate produce to The Gathering Place.

We are grateful for the ability to serve a variety of fresh, healthy vegetables and fruit in our meals and to offer the same quality produce to those who receive food from Betsy's Cupboard. So join with us this year to ensure that everyone has a chance to eat local!



3rd annual Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament coming on September 23

The Gathering Place is honored to host the 3rd annual **Tommy Vickers Memorial Golf Tournament** this year. Tommy, a dear friend and supporter of The Gathering Place, began playing at age three on a nine-hole sand course his father built.

He and his brothers carried single-digit handicaps and competed nationwide. Tommy 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. This year's event will be held on Monday, September 23, 2013 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.



NextGen Art Night on May 17 at Hangar 41

NextGen, the young professionals group of The Gathering Place, invites you to **Hangar 41** on May 17, 2013 for an exclusive evening of art featuring pieces created by members of The Gathering Place. This is one of the five events hosted throughout the year by NextGen. Each activity aims to allow young professionals the opportunity to gather, network, and learn about issues that are affecting our community, all while supporting the mission of The Gathering Place.

The art show will include triptychs and cards from The Card Project, as well as pieces from our knitting and crochet groups, Writers Group, and Talking Circle. Tickets for this event are available online for \$25 or at the door for \$30.

nextgen

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP
supporting the work of The Gathering Place

Light appetizers and drinks will be provided. Hangar 41 is located at 825 Santa Fe Drive. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please visit www.tgpdenver.org/events.

We hope to see you there!

The Gathering Place teams up with European Wax Center for a special promotion June 1-15

The Gathering Place is thrilled to be working with **European Wax Center** for their special, early summer promotion. From June 1-15, 2013, each of the nine Denver-area European Wax Center locations will make a \$10 donation to The Gathering Place for every new client who visits their salons for a waxing. And the best part? A number of waxing options are free for new clients. That means you could get a free waxing and European Wax Center will still make a \$10 donation to The Gathering Place!

We're excited to be working with a company that believes that feeling beautiful and looking good isn't just for the privileged. Because of this, European Wax Center aims to make their services available to all. Likewise, The Gathering Place believes in the importance of feeling good and looking good, and we know that the confidence that comes with those two things can be the first step in the direction of real and lasting life transformation.

Tune in to Mix 100 on the radio (100.3 FM) or visit European Wax Center's website (www.waxcenter.com) next month for more information about this deal or to find the location nearest to you.

EUROPEAN WAX CENTER®

Businesses that sell Card Project cards

- **The Amsterdam**
4918 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver
- **Anastasis Academy**
6495 S. Colorado Boulevard, Denver
- **Annie's Cafe**
3100 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver
- **Arabella Boutique**
1423 Larimer Street, Ste. 070, Denver
- **Bonnie Brae Flowers, Inc.**
5595 E. Evans Avenue, Denver
- **Book Rack**
2382 S. Colorado Boulevard, Denver
- **Campus Veterinary Clinic**
2186 S. Colorado Boulevard #C, Denver
- **Contage**
5 S. Colorado Boulevard, Ste. #100, Denver
- **The Denver Art Museum Gift Shop**
100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver
- **Denver Museum of Nature & Science Gift Shop**
2001 Colorado Boulevard, Denver
- **Dimensions in Hair**
6491 E. Hampden Avenue, Denver
- **Downtown's Chiropractic Health Care**
950 17th Street, Ste. 200, Denver
- **First Universalist Church**
4101 E. Hampden Avenue, Denver
- **Fluid Coffee Bar**
501 E. 19th Avenue, Denver
- **Gallery Gifts Store**
910 Santa Fe Drive, Denver
- **Gift Shop at National Jewish Hospital**
1400 Jackson Street, Denver
- **Glory of God Lutheran Church**
12200 W. 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge
- **The Green Merchant**
4600 Plettner Lane #1C, Evergreen
- **Jerry's Nut House**
2101 Humboldt Street, Denver
- **Kaiser Permanente**
2041 E. Park Place, Denver
- **Kittredge General Store**
26301 Hilltop Road, Kittredge
- **Lakewood Heritage & Cultural Arts Center**
470 South Allison Parkway, Lakewood
- **The Logan School**
1005 Yosemite Street, Denver
- **Made in Colorado**
4840 W. 29th Avenue, Denver
- **Momentum**
1625 Pearl Street, Boulder
- **The Park Hill Community Bookstore**
4620 E. 23rd Street, Denver
- **SAME Cafe**
2023 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver
- **The Shoppe**
3103 E. Colfax Avenue, Denver
- **Sustaina Center for Women**
12600 W. Colfax Avenue #A110, Lakewood
- **Tattered Cover Bookstore**
1628 16th Avenue, Denver
- **Ten Thousand Villages**
2626 E. 3rd Avenue, Denver
- **Turning Heads**
5715 Upham Street, Arvada
- **Under the Umbrella Cafe and Bakery**
3504 E. 12th Avenue, Denver
- **Wash Perk Coffee Shop**
853 E. Ohio Avenue, Denver
- **The Whole Cat & Dogs, Too!**
1540 S. Pearl Street, Denver
- **Wild at Heart**
7180 W. Alaska Drive, Lakewood

supporters

Group 14 Engineering helps with energy efficiency, cost savings

A retro commissioning performed by **Group 14 Engineering** in 2012 has netted a savings of \$23,000 over the past year for The Gathering

Group
ENGINEERING



Place. It all started in July of 2012, when members of the Group 14 staff approached The Gathering Place's operations team and offered their services to address our energy consumption concerns. The project, which was funded through **Energy Outreach of Colorado's Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program**, involved several small changes that added up to big savings.

The first change was to sync temperature controls throughout the building in order to prevent heating and cooling units from running constantly. The next step was to control simultaneous heating and cooling. Some parts of the building, such as the second floor copy room, need to be cooled constantly regardless of the outdoor temperature. However the air that was being pumped into these zones was cooler than necessary.

"It was like driving with your foot on the gas pedal and the brake at the same time," says Brody Wilson, commissioning agent of Group 14.

The final change was to reduce the peak demand fee, which before the commissioning comprised about 50% of our monthly energy bill. To lower this fee, Group 14 coordinated the various heating and cooling units throughout the building and staggered their run times.

After the building's systems were updated, the savings began to add up. "Our goal is to allocate as much money as possible toward food and other programs," says Rhonda Morroni, vice president of operations. "We were spending money on a system that could be improved, and it took this opportunity to update it."

Thank you to Group 14, Westco Systems, Inc., and everyone else who made this project such a success for us!

Grants with special meaning awarded to The Gathering Place

All grants have significance. Some grants are meaningful because they are large, some because they come from long-term partners, and some because of their context. At the top of this list is **The Anschutz Foundation**, which has long supported The Gathering Place, and is always at the top of our major donors list. They awarded us another generous grant in April 2013.

Having supported The Gathering Place for twenty three years, **A.V. Hunter Trust** continues to be a generous partner and awarded a grant to The Gathering Place in December 2012.

Another grant, received in October 2012 by **The Colorado Trust Directed Contributions Program**, was in memory of our dear friend and former board member, **Dave Herlinger**.

We are grateful to all of our foundation partners!

New jobs and education program to facilitate the connection between job readiness and employment

In a post-recession economy, finding a job is often a difficult—not to mention stressful—task. Though we have long offered GED tutoring at The Gathering Place and pay for the GED tests our students take, the new employment realities highlighted a gap in our services: a direct connection to job training and readiness programming.

“A larger percentage of the population could be successfully working if they had help finding jobs,” says Sunne Meyer, vice president of personal growth and learning. “It is something that we hear from our members all of the time. These programs are something that they are looking for, so we are meeting a stated need.”

In order to meet this need, a director of education and job readiness position was created in early 2013, made possible through the funding of an anonymous donor, the **Mel Wolf Foundation**, **The Women’s Foundation of Colorado**, **Pamela Ray** and **Dale Cantwell**, the **Connie Burwell White & William W. White Foundation**, the **Sam S. Bloom Foundation**, and the **Charles R. Jelm Foundation**. Janice Woodward was hired for the position in late February.

Woodward comes to The Gathering Place with decades of experience in job readiness programs throughout the country. She felt it was important to first understand the culture of The Gathering Place before beginning to develop this program. She did so by holding small focus groups and sharing meals with members. Through these experiences, Woodward says she has been able to better understand the needs of members and figure out ways to meet them.

“Housing is key in dealing with a population that is homeless or in poverty,” Woodward says. “But in order to maintain housing, they need employment. Housing and employment go hand and hand.”

The new program will include workshops and presentations by outside organizations in order to facilitate the process of obtaining sustainable employment for members of The Gathering Place. Due to the variety of needs and varying levels of ability and education, Woodward will meet with members individually to help decide what



Janice Woodward (left), director of education and job readiness at The Gathering Place, talks to a member about job leads that fit the individual’s experience and career desires. Sharon Jae, a volunteer, was helping the member create a resume.

organizations will work best for them.

Woodward has already reached out to several organizations and begun to build relationships with these outside resources. “My goal as we start to build the program is to forge good relationships with these organizations,” she says. “I would also like to make people aware of what the program does. Ultimately our goal is to have places to refer members.”

This program model is similar to others at The Gathering Place. “For many of our personal growth and learning programs, we rely on the ability to pull experts from the community into The Gathering Place to share their expertise,” says Meyer. “We are the generalists, facilitating a conversation or information session with the experts.”

Along with other programs at The Gathering Place, the new job readiness programming will help members to become more independent. “I think this is going to help move people towards self-sufficiency, in a way that is very ‘Gathering Place,’” says Meyer. “It is going to allow people to lead their own lives, but to also take advantage of the resources and the relationships that work for them at the time, and to be able to continually move forward.”

The Gathering Place

a refuge for rebuilding lives

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Denver, CO 80218

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**Community College of Denver
employee at The Gathering Place

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Carrie Wigglesworth

Our 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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A MEMBER OF COMMUNITY SHARES OF COLORADO

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The Gathering Place®
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