



Gatherings

The agency newsletter of The Gathering Place Holiday 2014

Art Restart is ready to take your holiday orders

The Gathering Place recently launched Art Restart, a social enterprise aimed at building our financial resources and increasing income for our artists. Art Restart sells volume orders of customized greeting cards featuring high end reproductions of unique art. All of the art will come from members of The Gathering Place.



Today's businesses need to develop and maintain a rapport with their clientele by doing something that makes them stand out from the plethora of similar service options available. One way to do that is to send customized greeting cards to their clients on special occasions. Art Restart allows businesses to make a purchase that shows an interest in their client and also an investment in their community.

Art Restart grew out of The Card Project (pg 5). Currently, The Card Project sells about 21,000 cards annually, every one hand created by a TGP member. These handmade cards are sold one at a time and focus on supporting the artists. To generate program funding for The Gathering Place, increase the visibility of the artists, and enable them to earn money even at times when they can't create new cards, we have started this new social enterprise.

In the Art Restart structure, artists are able to create designs, license them to Art Restart, and continue to benefit from that one design for months to come through the 5% royalty they receive from each order of cards reproduced with that design. An order of 250 cards—the minimum bulk order available through Art Restart—will earn that

artist \$12.50. In The Card Project, the same artist would have to create and sell 8 individual cards to earn that amount.

Many of our artists are excited about this opportunity for their artwork to be appreciated by many more people, not to mention



the potential for an increased revenue stream.

The chance to express themselves and license their art for sale is an empowering experience for artists at The Gathering Place, including women like CLM.

CLM joined The Gathering Place in mid-2013. Shy and uncertain, she started “scribbling”, as she calls it, and eventually discovered her creative ability. When she began to make cards, she could not imagine anyone would pay money for them, but soon compliments flowed her way from other artists, TGP staff, volunteers, and customers. Her delicate, miniature images of wild animals, birds, families, and landscapes are highly coveted by our customers.

With Art Restart, we sell more than beautiful, original art in the form of greeting cards. We sell a belief in the power of community to transform lives. The styles and inspiration of the artwork may differ, but each piece offers an unobstructed window to the beauty and hope that survive in the artist's heart, despite difficult circumstances.

To learn more about Art Restart or place an order, visit www.artrestart.org or contact Allison at 303-709-7444.

New staff members join TGP



The Gathering Place staff has experienced some transition over the past six months due to job changes and retirements. The new faces seen around

our community these days are ready to help our members and ensure that TGP meets its goals. We welcome all of our new staff!

(Front row: l to r) **Natalie Tuffield**, Physical and Mental Health Programs Manager; **Anna Aragon**, Family Programs Manager; **Carlton Wynn**, IT Technical Support. (Back row: l to r) **Steve Hartbauer**, Resource Advocate; **Will Fox**, Food Services Manager; **Alex Turnacli**, Communications & Sponsorship Manager. Not pictured: **Melanie Durham**, Development Assistant and **Julia Stewart**, VP of Internal Resources.

Writers' Group anthology wins EVVY award



One Day, One Night at a Time: Women Write of Poverty, Homelessness, and Hope, an anthology of writings and illustrations by members of The Gathering Place, was awarded an EVVY Award from the Colorado Independent Publishers Association. It won 1st

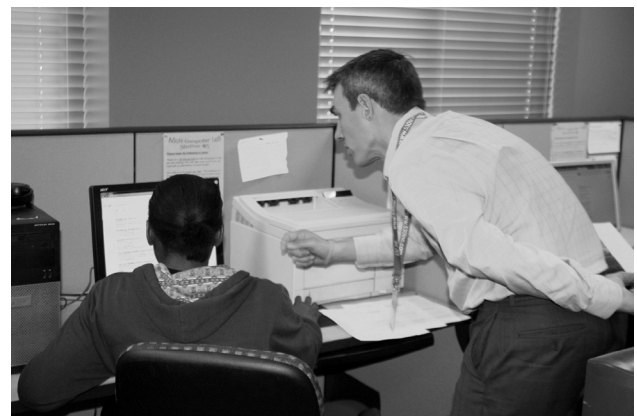
Place in the Inspirational category. The collection includes writings by 33 different authors who have attended our Writers' Group over the past several years. The pieces range from poetry to prose, each eloquently revealing the joys and heartaches, struggles and triumphs of their authors. The writings are accompanied by artwork, created by those published in the book. This award-winning publication is available for \$20 at The Gathering Place and is \$25 plus shipping when purchased through our website.

Job Readiness Program holds Employment Skills Fair with hrCares Colorado

On October 20, members of The Gathering Place were offered the chance to test their "job preparedness" skills in the company of real-life Human Resources managers. **hrCares Colorado**, a group that connects the Human Resources community with local volunteer opportunities, partnered with our Job Readiness Program to bring over a dozen hiring professionals from companies such as Mercer, DISH, University of Colorado, and more to an Employment Skills Fair. These volunteers worked with 27 individuals to set up mock interviews, giving feedback and tips at the end. Another session focused on how to research a prospective employer online ahead of an interview. The afternoon ended with the women practicing their networking skills. We heard many positive comments from those who attended the Fair and look forward to the possibility of putting on other such events in the future.



A TGP member speaks to a HR Volunteer during a mock interview.



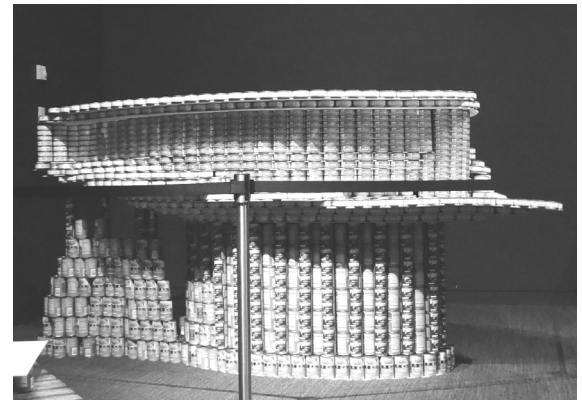
Dan Weinstein of hrCares Colorado coaches a woman at the Employment Skills Fair.

Canstruction Denver fills Betsy's Cupboard

Canstruction Denver, our recent event showcasing thirteen colossal structures made entirely out of full cans of food, ended up collecting over 40,000 cans of food for the members of The Gathering Place! The free exhibit at the History Colorado Center ran from September 20 through October 2 and saw the highest number of teams in the city's history participate. Teams competed for six awards and each team helped us make sure that Betsy's Cupboard, our food pantry program, stays well-stocked into the coming year.

Congratulations to the following winning teams: **JG Johnson Architects** for their Sleeper House structure (Structural Integrity and Juror's Favorite Award), **Gensler Denver** and Studio NYL Structural Engineers for their Articulated Wall structure (Best Use of Labels Award), **EV Studio** for their US Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel structure (Best Meal Award), **Slaterpaul Architects** for their Everything is Awesome Lego structure (Honorable Mention Award), and **WARE MALCOMB** for their square globe structure, titled Ending Hunger in all Corners of the World (People's Choice Award).

Thank you to all the teams who participated, the Canstruction sponsors and volunteers, Society for Design Administration, History Colorado, and Food Bank of the Rockies!



Sleeper House by JG Johnson Architects



Articulated Wall by Gensler Denver

Community the focus of annual Tina Stein celebration

Over the past five years, The Gathering Place and its friends have come together annually 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. We would like to say a special thank you to **Allstate**, who again sponsored lunch this year, and to **Adam Bishop and Family, Karr McCurdy and Family, New Hope Baptist Church Food Ministry, Lucy and Rick Kissinger, Rudy Grant & The Buffalo Riders, Steven Roberts Original Desserts, and Jim Reagan** for their contributions to the event. This year's celebration would not have been possible without your generosity. Thank you!

TGP gala moves to September 2015

In 1990 the Hubble telescope was launched into space, President Bush shared his distaste for broccoli with the world, and Leslie Foster was hired by The Gathering Place. Then, the organization was very young and had just moved to 1535 High Street. Leslie was ready to build and expand the services offered to women and children experiencing poverty or homelessness.



Foster to celebrate 25 yrs

Next year we celebrate Leslie Foster's 25th Anniversary with The Gathering Place and will honor her at our gala. Many are accustomed to our gala being held in April or May. We are moving it to September to have plenty of time to plan the festivities. Very soon we will announce the date through our e-news and post it on our website, www.tgpdenver.org.

Whatever you were doing in 1990, plan to be with us in September of 2015.

Donation list for Betsy's Cupboard

Through Betsy's Cupboard, our emergency food and supply pantry, The Gathering Place provides an average of 4,000 pounds of food and 175 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 newborn, 4, 5, 6 and Pull-Ups)

OTHER

- Can openers • Computer 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

Full-time volunteers bring their passion and talent to 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 local nonprofit, and a year of exploration and reflection. This year we are fortunate to have two full-time volunteers. **Alex Benson** (left in photo) is from Hurley, North Dakota, graduated from Concordia College, and comes to us through the Urban

Servant Corps program. Alex was active in Campus Ministry and previously volunteered with adolescents in the juvenile justice system. She is spending her year as a Family Resource Advocate in our Family Area.

Johanna Radbone comes to The Gathering Place through the Colorado Vincentian Volunteer program. She is from Dana Point, California, graduated from Loyola Marymount University, and is working with us as a Resource Advocate with the Community Access Team. While volunteering for her collegiate service organization, Johanna worked to promote domestic violence awareness and served with a variety of social service organizations throughout Los Angeles County.

Welcome to our new full-time volunteers! We are excited to have both of you with us this year.

Interns follow in the footsteps of TGP's founders

An internship can be a great way to get your foot in the door of an industry, get practical experience, and make connections. It can also be a starting point for something much greater. In fact, The Gathering Place was founded in 1986 by two graduate students from the DU School of Social Work, who after an internship at an overnight shelter, were inspired to create a safe refuge for women and children experiencing poverty or homelessness. We would like to acknowledge the following group of current interns at The Gathering Place and wish them the best in their efforts to impact the world around them:

- **Gen Flynn**, Family Area Intern, DU MSW
- **Andrea Ewing**, Physical and Mental Health Intern, DU MSW
- **Rachael Sheaffer**, Housing Stabilization intern, DU MSW
- **L'Jean Moody**, Resource Advocate Intern, DU MSW
- **Virginia Gutierrez**, Programs Intern, Community College of Denver

Send holiday greetings with a card from The Card Project

It's getting to be that time of year again. A time to reconnect with family, friends, and acquaintances with an annual holiday greeting card. Here at The Gathering Place, our artists with The Card Project have been helping people stay connected for over 25 years!

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 creative expression. Women who participate create handmade note cards and receive \$1.50 for each of their cards that is sold. Cards are sold at The Gathering Place for \$2, and are also carried at several retail outlets around Denver. You can see a full list of these locations at www.tgpdenver.org/cpvendors.

Businesses, families, and individuals often place orders for holiday greeting cards, and thousands of cards are sold at arts and crafts 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 Card Project also offers a variety of framed art in triptychs and miniatures, with styles to fit almost any art or decor preference.

The importance of this program to the artists cannot be overstated and the financial benefits are underscored by more intangible benefits, such as increased self-esteem and the opportunity to be part of a caring community.

The Card Project provides a safe, welcoming environment to any of the women at The Gathering Place who would like a chance to create art. Some come to the program with prior art experience and a confidence in their work. Others have little practice and approach the blank page tentatively, over time honing their skills and becoming more comfortable through the guidance and encouragement of fellow members. At its core, The Card Project, and the greeting cards that come out of it, are a testament to the power and possibilities of creative self-expression and connection. This idea is best expressed in the vision statement of The Card Project:

The vision of The Card Project is to pull aside the curtains of stigma and negative stereotypes that haunt low-income and homeless women, as well as transgender individuals. Each Card Project creation offers an unobstructed "window" into the beauty and hope that survives in the artist's heart despite their dire circumstances. Indeed, she is whole, and with each brushstroke the artist shares her happiness and dreams with the viewer, and the two become one. Magically, the artwork transforms both lives, a visceral celebration of mutual respect



and caring, any differences between artist and viewer rendered irrelevant. And so connections replace barriers, if only for a moment. But moments become infinity with purposeful intention, and the world is changed for the better.

To learn more about The Card Project, invite us to a craft fair, or to place a bulk order for the holiday, contact Kelsey Kenfield at kelsey@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9068.

**TRIPTYCHS AND ORIGINAL ART
FROM THE CARD PROJECT
MAKE GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!**

**Contact Kelsey at
303-996-9068 to learn more.**

supporters

Ready Care supports The Gathering Place with in-kind donation

Ready Care Industries, a local supplier of hair and skin care amenities for spas, hotels, and resorts, graciously supplied us with a large donation of toiletries. The many boxes travel-sized shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and lotion work perfectly for us to give out both in Betsy's

Cupboard and to those using our shower facilities. Hygiene products are of great use to our members, especially when they are of compact size. Such partnerships with local businesses are vital to the efforts of The Gathering Place. Thank you for your wonderful gift, Ready Care!



Crafty Ladies and Stone Brewing Co. toast to TGP

A recent night out at Highland Tap and Burger brought beer enthusiasts from across Denver together to discuss (and enjoy!) craft brews and several delicious food pairings.

Crafty Ladies Beer Club is a group whose mission is to educate women about the many craft beers of Colorado. They meet once or twice a month at special craft beer events around town. An event of theirs in late September featured a tasting and seminar from **Stone Brewing Co.**, a California brewery known for its philanthropy. A total of \$1,300 collected from the evening was donated to The Gathering Place. We thank them very much for their support!



Remember to "Give where you live" on Colorado Gives Day

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 9, 2014** and running until midnight that night.

Last year, more than 400 individuals made donations to The Gathering Place on Colorado Gives Day, and the total amount we received—which included funds from private matches and a proportional boost from the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund—totaled over \$116,000. These donations are critical to supporting the programs and services offered at The Gathering Place throughout the year.

So, mark your calendar now to do your end of year giving on December 9th! If you prefer to plan ahead more, you can visit ColoradoGives.org starting November 1st to schedule donations for December 9th.

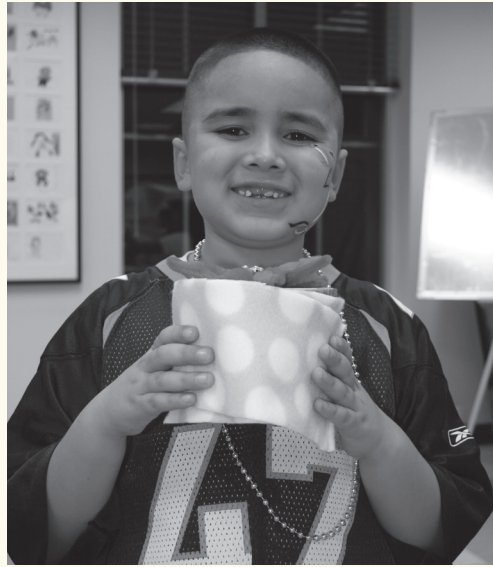


Receive a tax credit for your gift to The Gathering Place

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 Lisa Zavoda at lisa@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9061.





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 12 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 Melanie Durham at melanie@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9067.

SHARE THE
JOY



The Gathering Place

a refuge for rebuilding lives

1535 High Street
Denver, CO 80218

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*Denver Dept. of Human Services
employee at The Gathering Place

**Community College of Denver
employee at The Gathering Place

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 poverty or homelessness.

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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