



Gatherings

The agency newsletter of The Gathering Place Spring 2014

She will overcome: Deb's story



It wasn't just one thing that led to Deb becoming homeless. It was one thing after another after another. First, there was the divorce. Then, she had to sell her beautiful home in the Highlands neighborhood of Denver... in a short sale. "I hated to sell it. I really thought I'd die there, I loved it so much," she says. "But after all of your savings

is used up and you've

Deb moved into a trailer home and began to care for her ailing mother, but that meant she could only work part time. Then her mother died and her employer closed the business with just a week's notice. "It wasn't just one or two major things," she says. "You know that psychological list of the top ten things that make you depressed? I had like seven of them. It was just one thing after another."

Determined to get back on track, Deb moved to Texas to complete a software project she had been working on: a home inventory product she hoped to market and sell. Many years before, she had experienced a house fire herself and though she only lost items from a few rooms, she estimates that she lost several thousand dollars from her insurance claim because she didn't have an inventory list.

"The claim process took five months," Deb says. "So, I got the idea to create a home inventory system to prevent others from going through what I did. We all have the same stuff in our houses. Take your couch, for example. Yours might be Italian leather, mine might be vintage plaid, but we both have a couch.

"So, this inventory program has a generic list. You fill in the details and it spits out a report. There are also a lot of safety items on the list. I'm hoping that if people don't have those items—smoke detectors, for one—that they'll go out

and buy them. "Save time, save money, and save some lives. That's the goal," she says.

Deb returned to Denver with \$3,000 worth of discs, excited about her prospects. But, on a return trip from the mountains, her backpack fell off of her scooter. Before she could get back up the road to pick it up, someone else had stopped and she watched, helplessly, as the person drove away with her computer, her back up disc, and all of her business inventory.

"I was living right up against the wire, and that was the tipping point for me," Deb says. She had worked at a nonprofit helping people find housing and avoid being evicted. "Because of that, I knew where the shelters were. I called The Delores Project right away, because I had taken people there myself."

She came to The Gathering Place and was soon admitted into our Housing Stabilization Program, securing her housing for at least a year at Warren Village's First Step. She also met our education and job readiness program manager who recommended her to the Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute (RMMFI).

Deb completed the RMMFI program a couple of months ago. "It was very intense. You looked at everything you need to do before starting a business: marketing, organization, finances, pricing," she says. Her business launch, however, has been delayed for a few months. She was also diagnosed with breast cancer last year and just finished her second round of chemotherapy.

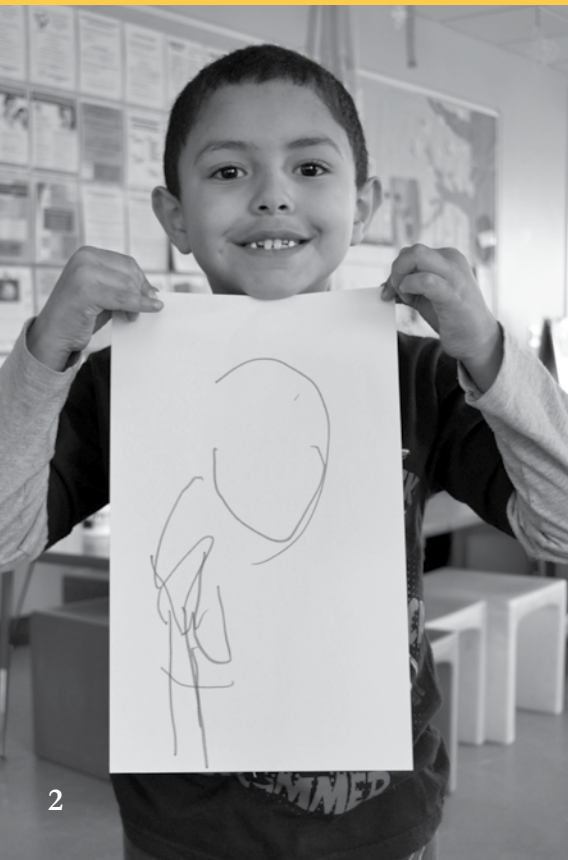
"The last couple of years have been a bit of a whirlwind," she says. Despite the setbacks, Deb has hope for what the future holds, and is using her experience at The Gathering Place to support others by sitting on the Basic Human Rights Committee for The Denver Foundation. "So many people believe that homeless people are scumbags and drug addicts," she says. "But I've experienced the exact opposite. For the most part, the people I've met have had decent jobs. Many were victims of abuse. Some had illnesses. People need to look a little deeper to understand what's going on. This, of course, is something I never thought would happen to me."

Deb intends to have her business website up and running by mid-June. You can visit it at www.HomeInventoryNOW.com.

Did you know?

SINCE OCTOBER 1, 2013, THE GATHERING PLACE HAS:

- Received a total of 31,477 visits
- Provided 33,452 meals and sack lunches to members
- Gave out over 28,262 pounds of food and 1,074 toiletry bags from Betsy's Cupboard
- Saw an average of 324 individuals each month in Bridget's Boutique
- Distributed 399 bras through our partnership with SoL Lingerie
- Gave out more than 7,900 diapers to mothers and their babies
- Provided 78 haircuts
- Arranged 1,583 meetings with our on-site Denver Department of Human Services employee, Stacey Galvan
- Facilitated 70 visits with pro bono lawyers
- Saw an average of 43 artists each month in The Card Project and sold over 12,500 cards
- Received 4,575 visits to our computer lab
- Held 45 GED tutoring sessions
- Celebrated with 14 women who received their GED certification



2012-2013 annual report now available

Our 2012-2013 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 2012-2013 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.

If you have any questions or would like to receive a copy of the full auditors report, please contact our Development Department at 303-996-9027.

THE GATHERING PLACE FINANCIAL STATEMENT October 1, 2012-September 30, 2013

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$1,856,288
Net Special Events Revenue	\$228,049
Contributed Supplies	\$354,685
Donated Professional Services	\$182,685
Program Service Income	\$215,068

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE \$2,901,722

Expenses

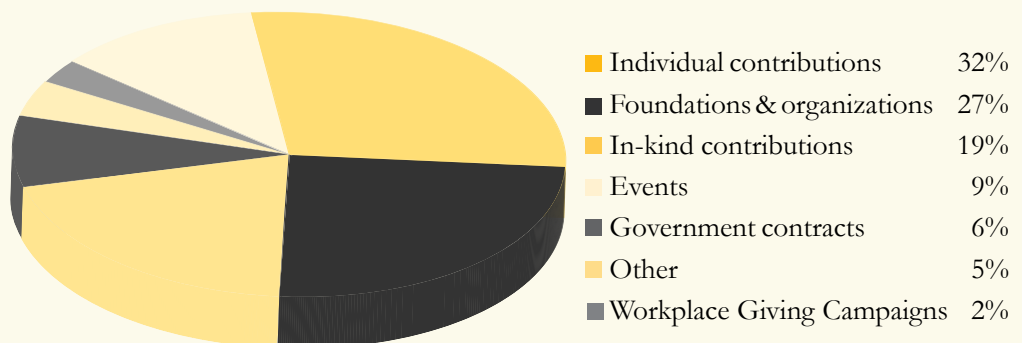
Programs and Services	\$2,189,037
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Supporting Services

General and Administrative	\$336,589
Fundraising and Development	\$309,965
Total Support Services	\$646,554

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,835,591

2012-2013 REVENUE SOURCES FOR THE GATHERING PLACE



2014 gala, An Evening with The Rat Pack, raises \$164,000

More than 350 friends of The Gathering Place came together on April 11 to celebrate and support our work at our annual gala, "An Evening with The Rat Pack." Held at the Hyatt Regency, Denver Tech Center, the event raised just over \$164,000 to help fund our programs and services.

Special guests for the evening included emcee **Alyssa Kopf**, CEO of Community Shares of Colorado, and our two "Above and Beyond" award honorees: **Convergent Technologies** and **Andrew Peterson**. Over the years, Convergent has become our "go to" group for building, security, and IT problem solving. And Peterson, a partner at Wood, Ris & Hames, has served on the board of directors for The Gathering Place for seven years and was its chair in 2010. We appreciate the many efforts of both Convergent and Peterson on our behalf and were proud to honor them at the event.

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, two VIP passes to the Starz Denver Film Festival, four tickets to the BMW Championship Golf Tournament at Cherry Hills Golf Club, and a trip to a Grand Mayan resort in Mexico complete with airline tickets from Frontier Airlines.

A special thank you to all of our 2014 gala sponsors: the **Randall A. Carter Foundation** and **Benefactor/Boettcher & Co.**, platinum sponsor; the **Kathy and Brad Coors Foundation**, gold sponsor; **Janice and Jim Campbell** and **Becky and Eric Jacobson**, silver sponsors; **CenturyLink**, **CoBiz, Inc.**, **Colorado Housing and Finance Authority**, **Cresa Denver**, **EKS&H**, **Leslie Foster** and **Jane Berryman**, **Intrepid Benefits**, **Elizabeth Gundlach Neufeld** and **Daniel Neufeld**, **Peck Shaffer**, **Renee Ripol** and **Brenda Roush**, **Sherman & Howard**, **Sopra Communities, Inc.**, **Vectra Bank**, the **Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell Foundation**, and **Rosemarie and Oatfield Whitney**, bronze sponsors; **Denver Life Magazine**, media sponsor; **Beverage Distributors** and **Frederick Wildman and Sons, Ltd.**, beverage sponsors. We appreciate your support!

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. (l to r) Gary Keogh and Terri Glassman came dressed the part for our vintage Vegas event. 2. (l to r) Rob Phillips, general manager of Convergent Technologies is presented a certificate recognizing Convergent as an Above and Beyond award winner by Brenda Roush, vice president of community engagement at The Gathering Place. 3. (l to r) Leslie Foster, president and CEO; Andrew Peterson, board member and Above and Beyond award recipient; and Charles Peterson, pause for a photograph. 4. (l to r) Sandra Martinez, Michelle Martin, and Kourtney Gobel of Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell enjoy the silent auction.



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 182 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

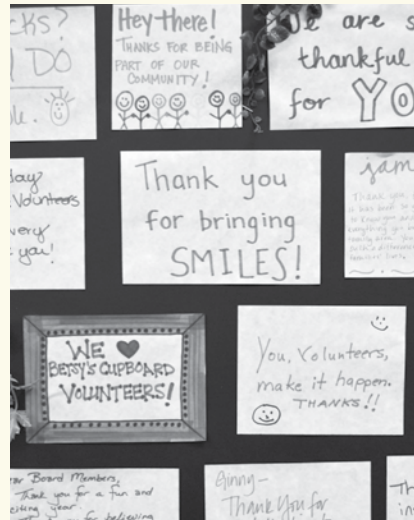
- Baby powder, lotion, shampoo, and bath wash
- Baby wipes • Children's vitamins • Pedialyte • Sippy cups • Unexpired baby food • Unopened packages of diapers (sizes newborn, 4, 5, 6 and Pull-Ups)

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

Celebrating our volunteers during National Volunteer Week



Every year, more than 1,000 volunteers come to The Gathering Place to contribute their time, skills, and most importantly, they help us build a positive, supportive community for those who visit us. In fact, during the 2012-2013 fiscal year, our volunteers contributed 23,052 hours of service to The Gathering Place, time that is equivalent to just over 11 full time staff positions!

This year, our National Volunteer Week recognition (held April 6-12 onsite at The Gathering Place) had a Mayan theme to correspond to the ongoing exhibit at the Denver Art Museum. We provided complimentary passes to our volunteers for the exhibit on May 3 and even created a Mayan temple replica behind our Welcome Desk, "built" with bricks of our appreciation for all that our volunteers do for us (some of those bricks are visible in the above photo). From the Kitchen to the Family Area, the Computer Lab to the Resource Desk, we simply can't provide the services we do or engage with our members without you. So, thank you to all of our volunteers for everything you contribute to The Gathering Place!

Full time volunteers serve for a year

The Gathering Place has benefited this past year from the hard work of two full-time volunteers (pictured here at our gala from left to right): **Alison Reist** and **Mandy McDorman**. Reist was a member of our Community Access Team and McDorman served as a resource advocate in the Family Area.

In addition to working at The Gathering Place, each of these women were participating in a program that asked them to commit not only to a year of service with a nonprofit organization, but also to live in community with other volunteers, follow a simplistic lifestyle, and explore the issues surrounding poverty and injustice.

Reist came to us through the **DOOR** (Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection) program and McDorman was a member of **Urban Servant Corps**. We are grateful for our ongoing partnerships with these organizations and we want to say thank you to these two women for all they've contributed to our community this past year!



Art Restart: A vision for the future 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 to them. One way to do that is to send customized greeting cards to clients on special occasions, such as holidays, birthdays, and even business relationship anniversaries.

Currently, the greeting card landscape for this specific type of need is all but void of options that allow businesses to make a purchase that goes beyond simply showing interest in their client to displaying an investment in the overall community. And if we know anything about today's consumers, it is this: They are increasingly socially conscious. In a 2013 survey conducted by Cone Communications, when given a choice between virtually equal service or product options, 88% of consumers said that they will choose the one that has a link to a social mission. Furthermore, customers were found to be more loyal to that company or brand year after year, when reminded of its social impact.

The Gathering Place has a new venture aimed to fill the greeting card with a social impact void and build on the long standing success of The Card Project: it's called Art Restart. Through Art Restart, members of The Gathering Place will license their art to be reproduced for large orders of greeting cards for corporate clients. These double-branded cards (with the logos of both Art Restart and the purchasing company) will be the perfect reminder of both the company's importance to their client and their investment in our shared community.

To launch this social enterprise, The Gathering Place participated in a year-long training cohort, conducted by the **Colorado Nonprofit Social Enterprise Exchange**. There, alongside seven other organizations, a team of four individuals from The Gathering Place learned about the basics of social enterprise, conducted market research, developed a business plan, and participated in a pitch session for potential funders.

In the Art Restart structure, artists will be able to create designs, license them to Art Restart, and continue to benefit



An artist in The Card Project works on a series of similarly designed cards. Through Art Restart, artists will be able to license designs to be reproduced for businesses placing bulk card orders.

from that one design for months to come through the 5% royalty they receive from the sales of cards reproduced with that design. A corporate order of 250 cards from one artist's design will earn that artist \$12.50. In The Card Project, the same artist would have to create 8 individual cards to earn that same amount.

Our plan is to launch Art Restart this fall, just in time for businesses to place their holiday orders. Initially we will outsource the printing and mail order services, but our long-term goal is to create an in-house program with job training opportunities for members of The Gathering Place.

The Art Restart enterprise will benefit the long-term financial stability of The Gathering Place, while allowing us to expand our programming and meet numerous ever-present needs of our population: a way to obtain financial resources, participate in creative programming outlets, and build skills through job training. It's a win-win-win scenario.

If you'd like to support this start up social enterprise, or order cards for your business, contact Brenda Roush, vice president of community engagement at 303-996-9027 or brenda@tgpdnver.org.

**THINKING ABOUT YOUR
HOLIDAY CARDS YET? WE ARE.**

**Get an order started today with Brenda Roush
at (303) 996-9027 or brenda@tgpdnver.org.**

supporters

Regis University students engage with The Gathering Place

For the past several years, students in **Professor Geoffrey Bateman's** courses at **Regis University** have completed projects that required interactions with members at The Gathering Place. Last spring, students in his Gender and Homelessness course conducted interviews and wrote pieces focused on the various difficulties



our members face. This year, students in his Research and Writing in the Community course conducted a focus group of artists in The Card Project, asking information to determine how Art Restart could best serve the needs of those who might participate.

"I've incorporated community-based learning projects into these courses because I believe students gain a great deal by putting our ideas and values about peace and justice into practice," says Bateman, who is also a member of The Gathering Place board of directors. "As they listen to the experiences and stories of members, these students learn to empathize with them, understand them better, and ultimately identify these larger issues—homelessness and poverty—as issues they come to care about, and hopefully will want to continue being engaged with once they leave my class."

The strategy seems to be working. A student who took Bateman's course last year got the university to commit to finding funding for Regis students to sponsor a monthly breakfast at The Gathering Place. Since January, a mix of Regis students, faculty, and staff have come to prepare and serve these hot breakfasts, which typically include chocolate chip and blueberry pancakes—quite the treat!

If your company, community group, religious organization, or school is looking for ways to get involved with The Gathering Place, please contact

Brenda Roush at brenda@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9027. From meal sponsorships to donations drives and more, we have a number of ways for you to engage with us and would love to have you become a part of our community!



Gratitude for recent grant gifts

The Gathering Place is fortunate to receive generous grants from family, community, and corporate foundations. Through the first half of our current fiscal year, foundations have contributed more than \$360,000 in support of our services and programs. The following funders have provided substantial awards already this year: **The Anschutz Foundation, Mile High United Way, The Colorado Trust Directed Contributions Program, A.V. Hunter Trust, Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province May Bonfils Stanton, and Mel Wolf Foundation.** Many thanks!

Events in the community benefit The Gathering Place

We are thankful for the many community members and businesses who choose to show their support for The Gathering Place by creating and hosting a special event or fundraiser on our behalf.

Third-party events and fundraisers are essential to The Gathering Place. In the past six months, we've received both monetary and in-kind donations from events like:

- **Colorado Women's Bar Association** Fashion Show
- **Henry & Belle** launch event at the **Blue Jeans Bar**
- A performance of the *Vagina Monologues* at the University of Denver
- Yoga classes at The Yoga Mat

If you are interested in hosting an event or fundraiser for The Gathering Place, please contact Brenda Roush at brenda@tgpdenver.org or 303-996-9027.



Workplace contributions make a huge difference

Does your company have a workplace giving program or participate in one through an organization such as Community Shares of Colorado or Mile High United Way? Workplace giving is an easy way to support The Gathering Place and you probably won't even notice the small amount missing from your paycheck each month. But think about what a \$10/month contribution becomes in just one year!

The following are The Gathering Place's ID numbers for various workplace giving campaigns:

- **Community Shares of Colorado: #5026**
- **Colorado Combined Campaign: #5050**
- **Combined Federal Campaign: #41763**
- **Mile High United Way:** Ask your campaign coordinator for an agency write-in form.

If your company has a workplace giving program, be sure to sign up to support The Gathering Place and encourage your co-workers to support us, too!

Make an impact through planned giving, matching gifts, or recurring donations

Planned giving, matching gifts, and recurring donations are all high-impact ways to give to The Gathering Place. Planned giving allows donors to incorporate their philanthropic wishes into their financial and/or estate planning. You can leave a legacy and help sustain the mission of The Gathering Place by naming us as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy, 401(k), IRA, or other estate plans. For more information about naming The Gathering Place as a beneficiary, please ask your estate planner or attorney to contact Lisa Zavoda at lisa@tgpdnver.org or 303-996-9061.

Many companies have matching gift programs that will double or even triple your donation to The Gathering Place. You can find out about the availability of these types of programs by contacting your human resources department.

Finally, recurring donations are a great way to give a small amount each month (week, quarter, etc.) to The Gathering Place, which adds up to a significant gift over the course of a year. We have a recurring donors club called the Sustainers of Hope, because your monthly gift of \$10 or more will help to sustain the hope that we offer to our members, reminding them that people care and offering them the support they need as they face

their next challenge. To learn more about our Sustainers of Hope program, visit our website at www.tgpdnver.org/hope. For questions, or to sign up over the phone, contact Alice Wurst at alice@tgpdnver.org or 303-996-9067.



Tax credit information for gifts made to The Gathering Place

The Gathering Place operates in a Denver County Enterprise Zone and contributions equal to or greater than \$500 are eligible for a 25% state tax credit. In addition, stock and substantiated in-kind contributions qualify for a 12.5% credit. To receive this credit, the state requires you to provide your Social Security or taxpayer identification number when you make your donation. You also must file your taxes electronically.

Alternatively, gifts of \$1,000 or more made to support our Family Area program are eligible for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit. This allows up to 50% of your contribution to be used as a state tax credit. Stock and in-kind contributions are not eligible for this credit. Please contact your tax advisor for up to date information about the value of the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit, as it changes regularly.

According to state regulations, either of these credits must be requested at the time of the donation. If you are making a donation by check, specify the credit name in the memo section. If you are using a credit card, attach a note. If you are calling in your donation, please tell The Gathering Place representative you speak to that you would like to receive the credit.

For more information about either of these tax credits, contact Alice Wurst at 303-996-9067 or alice@tgpdnver.org.

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 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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www.tgpdenver.org

A MEMBER OF COMMUNITY SHARES OF COLORADO

Campaign Codes:
Community Shares of Colorado: 5026
State of Colorado (CCC): 5050
Federal Campaign (CFC): 41763



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