



CCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 12/2020 to 01/2022

Federal Tax I.D. No. 82-5001338

Dear Supporters, Friends and Volunteers:

I would like to take this opportunity to get you all caught up on our achievements since December, 2020, and provide information on our newest program that serves people experiencing homelessness. The program focuses on improved health and wellness for those served.

COVID Relief Grant

Community Compassion Outreach received a \$25,000 grant from Metro United Way Denver as part of the 7th Round Colorado COVID Relief Grant. These are the highlights of the 12/18/20 to 3/31/21 Colorado Covid Relief Fund #2 (\$25,000) plus (\$5,585) private donations—\$30,580 Total:

A. **Purpose** ~ Non-congregate shelter, volunteer services and messaging campaign:

- a. \$14,259 toward Motel nights or Rent Assistance (non-congregate shelter)
- b. \$ 5,064 toward Volunteer Services and Messaging
- c. \$11,257 toward part-time staff and general operations
- d. Details of population served:

- i. We extended motel nights for a Hispanic single mom (survivor of domestic violence) with 3 & 4 year old girls, because her 4 year old fractured her foot and was unable to walk with a cast; they had been sleeping in their car.
- ii. Native American couple expecting a baby in March 2021 and sleeping in their car, so we provided 14 nights quarantine until they were provided housing by another agency.
- iii. Native American couple with 5 children ages 2-to-12 were sleeping in their car, and they exceeded their stay of 3 months at the Durango Shelter and we provided 14 nights; a few weeks later, the children needed to shower and rest from sleeping in the car, so we provided an additional 7 nights which was more reasonable than the one-night rate;
- iv. Hispanic family with 4 children had no water or heat in their mobile home, so we provided them 14 nights until repairs were completed;
- v. Three White individuals with underlying health issues or on disability were quarantined for 14 nights;
- vi. A White chronically homeless male in recovery was found by local police officers sleeping near the railroad tracks and cars; had traveled on foot from out of town; drenched with night temperatures very low outside ~ we provided 14 nights and some food & clothing ~ until he was well enough to return to the streets (he does not have an ID);
- vii. Native American male exposed to single digit night temperatures was given 7 nights to recover;
- viii. An Indigenous LBGTQ couple given 14 nights during the time when their apartment would be available;
- ix. White female, disable and escaping domestic violence/stalking from another town was provided 14 nights, and extension of 7 additional nights before she returned to sleeping in her car (she has 2 dogs and could not stay at the shelter);
- x. Approximately (20) other individuals did not qualify for motel nights with other agencies or the shelter — we provided 7-14 nights with below 10^o night temperatures.
- xi. A White female was behind in her rent at Spanish Trails where she was renting month-to-month—we paid her back rent;
- xii. Two White males with month-to-month rentals at the motel were helped with rent assistance; and,
- xiii. Two other males with new employment were given up to 14 motel nights.

B. Challenges:

- 1) We turned away nearly 10 households with bad history at Spanish Trails Motel and/or other motels stopped accepting CCO's reservations.
- 2) Motel rates increased since Summer 2020.
- 3) When clients were placed in the motel after normal work hours, food and meals had to be purchased from local grocery stores & restaurants for delivery to their rooms. Clients without vehicles would get groceries delivered by the stores or our volunteers; at times, we ordered food boxes from Manna Soup Kitchen with volunteers and staff making deliveries.
- 4) The Christmas and New Years holidays challenged our motel guests with limited access to buses and volunteer transportation.
- 5) An outbreak of COVID at the only sanctioned encampment had our staff tracking individuals who were tested positive when public health officials could not locate them.
- 6) We coordinated with law enforcement to provide motel nights for people they found sleeping in uninhabitable spaces.
- 7) Thefts within the homeless population quickly depleted donated camp equipment, so we bought some of those items from local stores.
- 8) An increase in new homeless arrivals to our community with reduced donations added burden on available resources.
- 9) CCO participates with the Balance of State CoC Coordinated Entry System. When meeting with new clients, and providing non-congregate sheltering, we actively seek to provide housing assessments using the VI-SPDAT forms for family, single adults and youth:
- 10) More than a dozen assessments were performed by us during the period of this report. Approximately seven clients received housing through ESG, Rapid ReHousing, CEAC, transitional housing or permanent supportive housing during the period starting 12/18/2020 until current;
- 11) Housing inventory has been extremely low-to-none with January median rent rate at \$1,535; and,
- 12) A low-income family of 4 or 5 children cannot find housing with three or four bedrooms in this town - so, they return to us asking for motel nights.

Recovery Empowerment Support Services RESST – January 2022 New Program

We submitted a proposal and budget to the West Slope Casa management services organization for CCO's RESST Program. The contract is in preparation for signatures. It covers six (6) months of the annual budget of \$130,535 (January 2022 to June 30, 2022). It will cover training costs for people with lived experience (peers) and in recovery (1) year for mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders (including alcohol & opioid use). Trained recovery coaches and peer support specialists/professionals become the workforce we will hire through the grant.

Phase I of RESST Program Strategy started late June 2020 after Donna Mae Baukat completed the Addiction Recovery Coach Training by CCAR/Recovery Coach Academy. At the end of October, she completed 72-hours of Peer Support Professional (PSP) training by the Colorado Mental Wellness Network (CMWN). More than ten (10) individuals and one family (parents and adult child) are working with our PSP in this program which begins with information and education of the "multiple pathways to recovery". We have a few Native Americans who continue to struggle with substance use disorders—but, treatment centers are located outside of Southwest Colorado. This is the challenge we face today, while they revolve in and out of Detox without treatment. It is why we hope you will continue to support CCO monetarily. Without housing, it is difficult to succeed in recovery¹.

February 2022 will see activities at our current location to offer art classes, exercises, workshops, and other evidence-based services to support people on their way to recovery, or for those who want to maintain wellness and sobriety.

We have been at Espero Apartments with the RESST Program each Wednesday where residents may volunteer to participate in this program. Since November 2020, when people experiencing homelessness transitioned into the Permanent Supportive Housing of Espero Apartments, they are still trying to settle into their new lifestyle. We will be reaching out to people at Purple

¹ Tragically, homelessness and [substance abuse](#) go hand in hand. The end result of homelessness is often substance abuse, and substance abuse can also contribute to homelessness. The National Coalition for the Homeless has found that 38% of homeless people are [alcohol](#) dependent, and 26% are dependent on other [harmful chemicals](#). Source: <https://www.addictioncenter.com/addiction/homelessness/>



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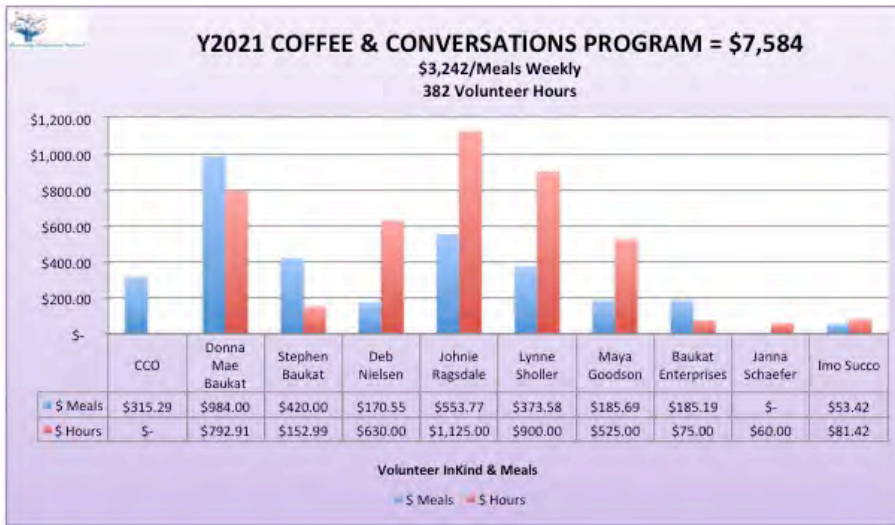
Cliffs and anywhere people may be residing, e.g., temporary and transitional housing. Our target population will include college students who may be experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.

- RESST is currently training an individual who just completed the Addiction Recovery Coach training, and she will be continuing her training while holding a full-time job.
- RESST does not charge clients as we are dependent on grants and private donations.
- When our PSP meets criteria to sit for the exam and after receiving certification, CCO will be able to bill Medicaid and Medicare.

Phase II of RESST Program Strategy is to develop sober-living units of housing in a village setting. At a minimum, our region needs homes for six-to-eight persons in separate units: 1) male; 2) female; 3) Native Americans (run by a Native American); 4) Families; and, 5) Youth.

- CCO plans to provide the Essential Homes that will be certified as Sober-Living Homes.

Coffee & Conversations Program



On December 4, 2020, we celebrated (3) years feeding meals to people with food-insecurity at Schneider Park, starting at 12:30pm-1:30pm on Saturdays. We averaged ten (10) meals prepared by volunteers on a weekly basis.

While you may think this number is small, please know that our motto is to insure not one person goes hungry. We've had as many as 20 people come on any given Saturday for To-Go Meals. Extras or leftovers have gone to Purple Cliffs, but now we are taking leftovers to Espero Apartments. Many residents are having difficulty maneuvering grocery shopping.

Thanks to St. Columba Food Pantry, we have been receiving large brown bags of nonperishable groceries. After Espero Apartments opened in November, we stopped offering those groceries at the park and we are now delivering groceries each Friday to Espero residents. Purple Cliffs gets groceries and food from other volunteers.

If you would like to learn more about our work, please don't hesitate to contact Donna Mae at the phone, cell phone or email shown below.

"Donna Mae" Baukat, Peer Support Professional
President/CEO-Cofounder & Executive Director