Changling Lives in Weld County Together

Teresa Bucenec is excited to see how the United Way of Weld County (UWWC) Housing Navigation Center (HNC) is impacting people. "I think it's a good idea. I think it'll bring housing to a lot of people in need, and it gives them a central location to find all of their resources that they can have," said Bucenec, an intake and resource coordinator for Volunteers of America, who assists veterans who are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless get into stable housing.

The HNC opened its doors to the public on April 1. Located at TriPointe Business Center (northwest corner), 3001 8th Ave. #285, Evans, it is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"I am excited to have the Housing Navigation Center open for those experiencing homelessness or housing instability in our community," HNC coordinator Brandy Chaparro said. "We are committed to a Housing First philosophy, assisting people in getting back into permanent housing and making homelessness rare, short-lived, and non-reoccurring."

Aby Garcia, case manager for recovery support services at North Range Behavioral Health, says: "The Housing Navigation Center gives us a great opportunity to meet with people who are in need of our services, it allows us to come to them and provide services."

The HNC saw a lot of activity in just its first month such as:

- 90 guests visited the HNC
- 49 guests signed up to store their belongings in the lockers
- 21 guests signed up to receive mail at the HNC
- 9 guests received services regarding IDs/Birth Certificates at the HNC in the first week

"On our first day we had eight people sign up to use the short-term locker storage," Chaparro said. "We have agencies coming in every day which will help guests get connected to services and housing resources in our community. Many people experiencing homelessness or housing instability do not have a form of transportation. By having the Housing Navigation Center, we can assist those who are most vulnerable by providing one central place for people to meet with agencies helping people in one central location

We are providing resources such as short-term locker storage, mail collection, computer access, and a central place for people to meet with various agencies in our community - Brandy Chaparro, HNC Coordinator

Please see Housing Navigation Center on page 5
North Colorado Health Alliance has been in partnership with UWWC since its inception nearly 20 years ago. Their work has brought innovators, coordinators and collaborators to health systems in Weld County. They have attracted funds to our community that might not otherwise have been available without their leadership and work. The leadership of North Colorado Health Alliance and Dr. Mark Wallace has elevated the commitment to the Collective Impact movement and conversations in Weld County. As a result, people in our community are receiving the health care they need.

Call 2-1-1
Search and Live Chat at UnitedWay-Weld.org/211
Text your zip code to 898-211

Contributions to the Enterprise Zone (EZ) help create and retain jobs, promote nonprofits and community development projects and assist homeless shelters that provide employment-related services in EZs. When you contribute a minimum gift of $100 - cash/check, credit card or direct bill to the 2-1-1 Information & Referral program at UWWC or Weld’s Way Home Housing Navigation Center you’ll help connect families to health and human services and you will be eligible for 25% credit on state income tax, in addition to your regular state and federal deductions.

COLLECTIVE IMPACT AT WORK: Veterans, families and single adults move to housing stability

The Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System (CAHPS) has successfully and permanently housed more than 315 homeless veterans and 100 chronically homeless households in northern Colorado.

“This work could not happen without the hard work of (CAHPS coordinator) Summer Garcia and all of our partners,” said Melanie Falvo, director of community impact for UWWC. “Our partners do a lot of hard work, and while it wouldn't be possible without Summer and UWWC, it also wouldn't be possible without each and every single one of our partners. This is a huge success and one that is to be celebrated.”

UWWC supports CAHPS both financially and with staff time. CAHPS began with veterans in 2016, the chronically homeless in 2017 and families in 2019.

“If we did not commit to this work, duplication of services and/or people falling through the cracks would still be happening,” Falvo said. “This system is the perfect example of how United Way plays a critical, backbone role in our community. Even though we are not providing direct services to clients, households in our community are securing permanent, stable housing because of our work and the work of our partners.”

The success rate of those staying housed is impressive. These families and individuals are the most vulnerable in northern Colorado. “In a little over a year of the implementation of CAHPS for families...we have permanently housed 101 families. Since September 2016, 31 veteran households have fell out of housing, however, 318 veteran households have been permanently housed,” said Garcia. “Our success rate for veterans staying housed is 90 percent (10 percent have lost their housing). So, for these purposes all 311 are still in housing, which is a 100 percent success rate. If you look at everyone ever housed, that is a 90 percent success rate.”

Garcia said currently, CAHPS has permanently housed 129 non-veteran single adults.

“This effort started in April 2017, so a little less than two years and we’ve housed 129 single adults,” Garcia said.

A few days later, Mark called back to thank the 2-1-1 resource navigator, and to let her know that he was offered the position and would be starting his new job the following week.

2-1-1 Colorado at UWWC has been in existence since 2003 and is always here for you to make connections that are critical and essential for safety and well-being in areas such as rental and utility assistance, clothing, personal, household and transportation, income support and legal, consumer and public safety.
UWWC Board provides leadership and accountability
Q&A with Board Member Jenny Scholz

Q: How did you become involved with UWWC?
JENNY: My first introduction was through my employer, Hensel Phelps. We have very dedicated employees who work hard to support the causes of UWWC. I saw the diversity of programs that UWWC touched and knew that I, too, wanted to become involved. Eventually (UWWC President & CEO) Jeannine Truswell approached me to see if I would sit on the board. As you know, it is always difficult to say no to Jeannine.

Q: Why do you think UWWC is important to Weld County?
JENNY: Hands down, it’s the number of people in Weld County who benefit from the organization. UWWC reaches out to so many different demographics within the community - from babies to the elderly. The vast amount of help that can be offered is just so important to those in our community.

Q: Why do you feel that it’s important to volunteer your time?
JENNY: I feel very fortunate to have talents that I can share with others. I feel those talents are in part because I was given opportunities along the way. I think it is important for all of us to use our talents to help others so that they, too, may have opportunities. We all can do amazing things, if just given the opportunity to do so.

Q: What are your goals as a board member?
JENNY: As a board member, ultimately I want to help give opportunities to as many people as possible who may not know how to go about getting that opportunity. I realize that as people work together, they can make a much bigger impact than if we all work by ourselves. To me, being on the UWWC board means providing my talents with other individuals who are also very talented, all of us working together in order to get the greatest outcome. As Jeannine explained to me UWWC’s new approach called Collective Impact, it got me pretty excited. The idea of all of us working together for a common goal is exactly what I want to see as a board member.

Q: What are you passionate about outside of work?
JENNY: My family is my world outside of work. I love anything I can do with them. Whether it is dance parties, playing outside on the swing set, reading books, bike rides, movie night or going out to dinner … I love my family time. My husband and I can be entertained for hours by our daughter and son. They seem to be growing up so fast, so we cherish all of our time together any chance we get.

The Kenneth W. Monfort Society (KWMS)
The Kenneth W. Monfort Society is an opportunity for passionate individuals to become more deeply involved in United Way of Weld County’s mission. The society recognizes local philanthropic leaders and volunteer champions who have devoted time, talent and resources to create long-lasting changes by tackling our community’s most serious issues. National and international membership is also granted for United Way World Wide Tocqueville Society to individuals who contribute at least $10,000 annually to United Way.

Neil Allen
Jamie and Sarah Baessler
Dick and Reva Bond
Carrico Family Foundation
Bill and Sharon Farr
Fund at the Community Foundation
Kyle Futo
Don and Lynn Janklow
Dr. Richard and Mary Kemme
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Tom and Kay Norton
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Tate and John Todd
Bob and Betty Tointon
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Shop and support the Housing Navigation Center

Your local King Soopers stores in Weld County are giving back to the community and will pay up to $125,000 per cycle to UWWC’s Housing Navigation Center through its Community Rewards program. It doesn’t cost you anything and you will be supporting UWWC just by doing your everyday shopping. Register your Loyalty Rewards card with us and for every dollar you spend at King Soopers, they will donate 5 percent back to UWWC. Here’s how:

1. Go to: www.kingsopers.com/topic/king-soopers-community-rewards
2. Sign In using your current account or Create an Account to Enroll
3. Click on Enroll Now
4. Search for United Way of Weld County or use code “LF892”
5. Click Enroll

Make your everyday purchases count!
Colorado Reading Corps program has students thriving in Greeley-Evans School District 6

Greeley-Evans School District 6 students in kindergarten through third grade are making great growth due to the Colorado Reading Corps program that was implemented this school year. UWWC teamed up with District 6, AmeriCorps and Youth for a Change to offer Colorado Reading Corps, a national program that helps build literacy skills and increase reading proficiency. Seven schools in the district with seven tutors are serving 158 students in the program. The current numbers are that 93 students (66 percent) are exceeding target growth and are on pace to close their achievement gap. As of April 24, 2019, a total of 3,157 tutoring hours – daily one-on-one sessions for 20 minutes for each student – have been implemented during the school year. Thanks to UWWC donors who support this program, it enables children in Weld County to receive the resources needed so they can be reading at grade level by fourth grade to reach their greatest potential.

For questions or to make a donation, contact UWWC President and CEO Jeannine Truswell at (970) 304-6161 or jeannine@unitedway-weld.org.

Shop and support! Make your everyday purchases count!

Do you shop through Amazon? Then here is a great way for you to support children, youth, families and older adults in Weld County just by doing your normal everyday shopping. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to UWWC. Link your account through smile.amazon.com, choose United Way of Weld County as your charity and support UWWC with every purchase you make on Amazon.

AmeriCorps VISTA Spotlight

Amanda Goins is the Volunteer Engagement VISTA at UWWC. She recently was named VISTA of the Month. From June 30, 2017, to July 1, 2018, 22 VISTA members at 15 agencies increased capacity of organizations through accomplishing:

- 1,458 community volunteers recruited
- 14,039 volunteer hours logged
- $781,324 raised
- $159,544 in-kind donations raised

Here is more about Amanda:

Q: Tell us about yourself.
Amanda: I am from Louisville, Ky. I have a bachelor of arts degree in Sustainable Agriculture with a minor in Africana Studies from Warren Wilson College.

Q: Why did you decide to get into the VISTA program?
Amanda: There are a lot of opportunities for personal development built into the program, and it offers an education award.

Q: What are your VISTA responsibilities at UWWC?
Amanda: My responsibilities include: enhancing the effectiveness of our current volunteer database, working as a part of the volunteer engagement team to connect volunteers to needs in the communities and providing general support to make sure our volunteer events run smoothly.

Q: What do you like about being a VISTA?
Amanda: The VISTA program provides opportunities to travel, which I like.

Q: Any surprises or challenges so far?
Amanda: It was challenging to step into this role because I didn’t have experience working in volunteerism before this, but there are a lot of resources available to VISTAS to help them adjust to their role.

UWWC has managed the VISTA program since 2007 placing VISTAs who work 40 hours a week for one year at nonprofit agencies and schools in the county. For more information on AmeriCorps VISTA, contact VISTA Project Coordinator Hannah Hostak at (970) 304-6168 or hannah@unitedway-weld.org.

Contributions to the United Way Child Care Fund help increase the quality and availability of child care in our community and enable parents to be productive at work and move their families toward financial stability. When you or your business contributes via cash/check, credit card or direct bill to promote and develop child care activities, you may get a 50% Colorado Tax Credit in addition to your regular state and federal deductions. A gift of $1,000 or more is recommended. Situations vary, please consult your tax adviser.

For questions or to make a donation, contact UWWC President and CEO Jeannine Truswell at (970) 304-6161 or jeannine@unitedway-weld.org.
United Way of Weld County thanks our companies for their support

Whether it’s being a Cornerstone Partner, helping out with either a children’s book drive or Warm Toes Sock Drive, Day of Action, putting together personal hygiene kits, volunteering at Weld Project Connect or conducting their employee campaign, Professional Finance Company steps up to the plate to help UWWC.

Professional Finance Company, led by CEO Mike Shoop, has a legacy of caring and has been a loyal partner to UWWC for well over 30 years. They are excellent corporate citizens. Their commitment to UWWC, as well as several of our agency partners including Boys and Girls Club of Weld County and Boy Scouts, shows that they care deeply about children and youth.

Professional Finance Company also cares deeply about their employees offering UWWC Family Business Solutions, which partners with companies to create workplace programs that provide child care assistance to working employees.

Companies are invited to find out more about United Way of Weld County by calling (970) 353-4300 or going to www.unitedway-weld.org.

Thanks to donors, volunteers and partnerships for all their help at the UWWC Housing Navigation Center cold weather shelter

The UWWC Housing Navigation Center cold weather shelter closed for the season on April 15, 2019, with these final numbers:

- 524 unduplicated guests
- 376 unduplicated men, 132 unduplicated women
- 32 veterans
- 51 youth (ages 18-24)
- 218 (ages 25-40)
- 163 (ages 41-55)
- 92 older adults (55+)
- 9,975 total nights of stay
- 17,456 meals served

“Whether you served a meal at the cold weather shelter or stopped by to bring breakfast items, you can’t help but be taken back by the number of veterans, men and women who get up early to go to work and the number of young couples and the people who are over retirement age,” said Jeannine Truswell, president and CEO of UWWC.

The cold weather shelter operates thanks to a partnership between UWWC and Catholic Charities. It is made possible because of key donors and hundreds of volunteers.

To learn more about the HNC, volunteering or to make a donation, contact Melanie Falvo at mfalvo@unitedway-weld.org or (970) 353-4300.

United Way of Weld County thanks our companies for their support

Professional Finance at Live United Celebration

Please give today! www.UnitedWay-Weld.org
THANKS TO YOU
UNITED WAY IS WORKING TO CHANGE LIVES RIGHT HERE IN WELD COUNTY

Join Us! No matter the size of gift it is going to make a difference for someone in Weld County!

Give
Your gift funds the programs and initiatives that make life better for 1 in 5 people in our community who need help. Help your neighbor. Change our community.

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Volunteer
You can help people in your own community. Tell us what you love, and we'll pair you with the perfect volunteer opportunity.

www.UnitedWay-Weld.org/volunteer

Leave a legacy
Your legacy ensures that the issues and community you care most deeply about will enjoy continued support after you’re gone.

Contact us at 970-353-4300

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