

Sharing Life Stories

Colorado LifeSharing Community Newsletter

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Winter 2011

Letter from our Executive Director

As the year is closing, I have done much reflecting on my first year. I am pleased that Cheryl put together an interesting overview of CLS "By the Numbers" (see page 2). I think it states clearly about where we have come and what has been accomplished in the last 12 months. Beyond those numbers, though, I see the growth in those whom we serve. Such amazing progress in people's abilities to: self advocate, communicate, build meaningful relationships with peers and coworkers, explore new art mediums (Have you stopped by Our Place and checked out the ceiling tiles?), lend time to others in the community and work toward building a stronger community within CLS and also our larger community of Loveland.

I am looking forward to the "numbers" we will see in the New Year and beyond. How many new volunteers will there be? What new programs will the Day Program start?

There is an excitement here at CLS about our future! Please consider how YOU can be a part of it?

In Service,

Courtney Todd, Executive Director

Welcome 2012!



*Warm Wishes
from Colorado!*



Fabulous Fall

The CLS community enjoyed our beautiful autumn weather here in Colorado. Day Program participants visited Osborn Farm, in Loveland, CO, where the owners generously donated pumpkins to us. CLS participants then had fun carving and decorating them for Halloween. Thank you, Osborn Farms, for supporting our organization.

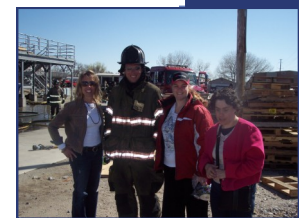


Osborn Farm, Oct. 2011

2011 ~ By the Numbers

Here's a little of what we've been up to this year – by the numbers:

- 1 Very dedicated Intern worked in the office and at Our Place
- 2 Partnerships developed: "B" Sweet Cupcakes and Loveland Youth Garden Program
- 3 New managers hired
- 4 New participants started in the day program
- 4 Members joined the Board of Directors
- 4 New AmeriCorps members joined our community
- 4 Community dinners and celebrations took place at Green House
- 5 Booths manned at community outreach opportunities
- 6 Contracts approved by our new pro-bono lawyer
- 7 Computer techs from the Front Range PC Users Group volunteered their time to improve our computers and networking
- 8 Volunteers from CSUnity volunteered to landscape Green House
- 12 Goose eggs decorated at Easter
- 21 Pumpkins carved or painted to celebrate Halloween
- 50 Ceiling tiles painted by our day program participants; come check out their art work
- 600+ Games bowled
- 800+ Hours our participants volunteered at local organizations such as Mandolin Café, Hearts and Horses, HELP International, House of Neighborly Service, Loveland Youth Gardener, and Good Samaritan Society
- 4300+ Hours our participants spent in our day program facility
- 5000+ Hours our participants spent out in the community during our day program



Community Connections

In both our day and residential programs, our participants have traveled to some very interesting places—both fun and educational. Our favorites include: Loveland Fire Department, Fort Collins Cat Rescue, Wild Animal Sanctuary, Bicycle Co-op, Loveland Dog Club, Denver Mint, Taste of Colorado, Denver Aquarium, Timberlane Farm Museum, Celestial Seasonings, Osborn Farm, Butterfly Pavilion, watched elk bugle in Estes Park, Art Museum, and Denver Museum of Nature and Science.



In 2011, our program saw significant growth. Currently, a number of participants are waiting to join us. **We need your help** to expand our program services so we can serve more participants. With your generous donations, you will be part of this exciting growth!

Pledge Today

Pledge two ways:

- ◆ pay with a credit card today by clicking on the “Donate Now” button on our website: www.coloradolifesharing.org
- ◆ send in the form below

**We invite you to join us today
by becoming a member of
Colorado LifeSharing’s circle of friends.
Your gift will help build a remarkable community! Thank you!**

Yes, I/we want to become a member of Colorado LifeSharing’s Circle of Friends with a gift of:

\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1000	Other _____
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I would like to make an in-kind donation of: _____

Please contact me about possibly volunteering with Colorado LifeSharing.

If you would like to designate your gift, please check:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Please make checks payable to **Colorado LifeSharing** or visit www.coloradolifesharing.org and click on “Donate Now” to pay through PayPal.

(Colorado LifeSharing Community Initiative is a 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

I’d like to Go Green – send all updates/newsletters/correspondence via e-mail.

Mail to:

Colorado LifeSharing
PO Box 7485
Loveland CO 80537

2012 Calendar

Jan. 2

Closed

New Years Day

Jan. 6

New Year's Dance

Jan. 16

Closed

Martin Luther King Day

Feb. 20

Closed

Presidents Day

March 4

Community Dinner

at Green House

March 16

Closed

Staff In-Service

Special Thank You ~ Lindsey Hopper

CLS would like to acknowledge, with deep gratitude, the legal assistance of **Lindsey Hopper** throughout this past year.

As a member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association, CLS submitted a proposal for pro bono legal service. Shortly after submitting our request we received a call from Lindsey Hopper, an associate lawyer with the Denver firm, Sherman & Howard L.L.C. Lindsey felt "good" with our mission and work, and agreed to offer her services to CLS through her firm.

This was an exciting event for CLS as we had just installed a new Executive Director who realized our agency's need to create policies, procedures, agreements, and contracts to run more efficiently and have good business practices in place. After all the paper-work was signed, Lindsey went straight to work reviewing, revising and forwarding our newly created documents, to meet the legal standards necessary in Colorado for the services we provide. Courtney and I also at-

tended the Sherman & Howard Annual Labor and Employment Law Seminar in Denver, as Lindsey's guest.

Lindsey's legal oversight is on-going, as are the draft contracts and policies we keep on sending for review, in this busy year of change! Thank you Lindsey, your expertise and partnership has played a major role to build our confidence as providers.

~**Nancy Jones, Board Chair**

Change in Householders

In October, **Sam Davies** left her position as the Green House householder to pursue a new artistic life endeavor. We thank her for the service and support she gave to the Colorado LifeSharing community. We will miss her humor, devotion and smile as well as her pup, Sheba. Sam continues to be a part of our community and we value her friendship to all participants.

We would like to welcome and introduce **Gary and Kati Smith** as the new Green House householders. Gary and Kati moved from California, where they provided support for individuals with developmental disabilities, to Colorado in order to join the Colorado LifeSharing community. They bring wonderful community and person-centered ideas, a human-centered philosophy and a love of nature and the arts. We are looking forward to their participation in developing our community identity as well as their direct support to all members of the Green House. If you would like to know more about them, visit their website at: www.awarebydesign.net.



In our last newsletter, we showed a picture with the Loveland Youth Gardner Program story, when in fact, that picture was not from their gardens. We apologize for the error.

“Inspire”

Breathe Fire into the New Year

Colorado LifeSharing is hosting a New Year's Celebration Dance for adults in the Northern Colorado community with developmental disabilities. *Please join us for lots of music, refreshments, fellowship and fun!*

New Year's Dance
Friday, January 6, 2012

6:00 to 8:00 pm

Odd Fellows Hall

319 East 4th Street, Loveland

Cost - \$3 for participants

Caregivers are free.

❖ **Music & Dancing**

❖ **Refreshments**

❖ **Door Prizes**

❖ **Goodie Bags***

❖ **Photo Booth****

❖ **Chair Massages****

*while supplies last

**offered for an additional cost

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Rituals Salon

and more!

For more information or to RSVP contact Colorado LifeSharing at info@coloradolifesharing.org or 970-663-6696. Walk-ins are welcome.



Happy Holidays 2011



from Colorado LifeSharing