

# Interfaith Community Social Services

## Volunteer Newsletter July 2023

### Director's Notes

OK it is official...Summer arrived on June 21. So...did you notice????? Happily it did NOT up in the high country.

### A few things to note:

1. A HUGE thank you to members and friends of the Gathering Fellowship for their service day here at Interfaith in June. Linda and Lonnie Johnstone (Thursdays) led the group in garden work with Scott Dasko; around the yard work and buildings; and cleaning and straightening of clothing. It was so much fun for me to step back, listen to the chatter, and genuine caring and sharing with each other while they worked. The youngsters worked right alongside, or played so nicely with one another. Talk about the real meaning of it all....!!
2. **We will be CLOSED** Monday July 3 and Tuesday July 4 to honor Independence Day.
3. No trainings in July...whew!
4. **July 14 at Black Oak Casino**, we will be participating in their Employee Health and Resource Fair. Time is 8:30am (set up) opens at 9am, and runs to 3pm. Lunch is provided. We would like to invite any of our volunteers to assist...in 3 hour shifts. At this time, we need two more folks to participate. We have one for 9-12noon, and one for 12:30-3pm. Please let me know if you can help. It is also a good time to learn of other resources, collect brochures, etc.
5. **No more holidays** (after the Independence Day days Closed), until Labor Day Sept 4<sup>th</sup>.
6. **Reminder:** don't forget to let Cathie know if you plan to be off, especially since summer is here, people and families are traveling, and we may be short of staff. Once and awhile, we may have to call someone in to fill a slot or two, so we can continue to serve without interruption.
7. **Bags...we NEED big time!** We use a lot of bags in the Pantry...plastic and brown bags, and yes, the cloth bags too. If you have any you want to get rid of, we can sure use them. Let your family and friends know as well.
8. **Women's Retreat...** "Celebrating the Beauty Within" August 26, 2023. See attached flyer.

### Announcements:

**SWOT** follow up and on-going conversations. In last month's Newsletter I mentioned the SWOT Analysis comments. I am working on presenting the comments to the Board with

options for improvement, comments of satisfaction questions that were asked, and our responses.

**Church newsletter** would be great for me to learn what is going on, share our info, announce any event which might be of interest to our staff and clients. We can share info in our newsletter...events, in our Prayers (our volunteers), items we need, projects that can be done by their groups, and presentations upon request/invitation.

**A Cosmetologist** will be coming to Interfaith on the fourth Fridays of the month starting in July. Her barber chair and small table will be placed in the Men's Clothing Dept., near the sink. Haircuts only.

**Volunteer Recognition Dinner** will be held again in the fall. The Board Committee is beginning to plan, and info will follow soon.

**Recruiting Volunteers:** Always needing new volunteers. Substitutes are welcome as well. All departments are in need. You can try another department if you'd like, come in once or more times a month, and you are all welcome to invite friends, church friends, etc.

Mondays: If there is not much overflow of the bins, donations, we will be putting the "open" for donations sign up. The sign will instruct the donor to "Knock on The Door", and our volunteers will answer, and help the donor as usual. Since we don't have to mess with the emptying of the bins, we do have time for the most part to receive items. It's at the Clothing folks' discretion.

**Remember:** This is the season for dehydration. In summers past... we have had clients and volunteers feel confused, disoriented, and out of sorts, finally fainting/falling. Be sure you take care of yourself, your family, and remind your friends. If an incident occurs here: a) one person alert me or Barbara. B) Immediately assist the person to a chair, make a safe spot on the floor. Help make the person as comfortable as appropriate. C) Designate 2 volunteers to set up a privacy curtain...using blankets being held up by one or two volunteers. (dignity)! someone get a wash rag with cold water, wring it out, and make it available for the effected person to place it around their neck. It will be determined if an ambulance is needed or not. Have someone stay with that person until an ambulance arrives, or the client's contact person is called to take them home, or, the client is able to take care of themselves. **ALWAYS** complete an Incident Report, and turn in to Cathie.

**One more safety issue:** Occasionally, we have had an incident ramp up in the back parking lot. Be aware that help is always available by calling out (back into the building, or actually come into the building) and call for help. When another volunteer is on hand, the situation seems to subside more quickly. I have reminded problem folks we "have the cameras rolling (pointing to it), and I do have your license plate (sometimes I do and sometimes I don't). But remember, it might be difficult for the inside staff to hear you, know who's calling out, and from, where. But two people in front of the "disturbers" is better than one.

**OK.** More in the next fascinating, “can’t put it down” reading, updates and vital information we NEED to know.

Have a nice holiday weekend. Be safe, and enjoy yourselves!