



## Jessica Barczewski Awarded Certificate of Merit



Our Agency Relations/Child Programs Manager was recently honored by Weld County and The Administration for Children and Families for her dedicated work with the faith community.

Jessica has been employed with Weld Food Bank for 2 years and oversees the monitoring of our 106 agency partners as well as our Kids Cafe and the Backpack Program. She builds relationships within the faith community through her role as Secretary of the Greeley Interfaith Alliance and her involvement with Bridges of Hope.

Jessica also works closely with our agencies, over half of which are faith-based. Due to all of her hard work, Jessica was awarded the Weld County Legends of Service Individual Merit Award. Congratulations Jessica for a job well done!

## Weld Food Bank Receives Grant to Assist Clients as They Apply for Food Stamps

These are tough economic times and many families in Weld County are struggling and in need of food assistance.

The recent census gave us a snapshot of our community and the results are not encouraging. Greeley currently has the highest poverty rate in the state at 21.7% and last year our child poverty rate doubled to 36.2%. Here at the food bank we provide Emergency Food Boxes to ensure our neighbors do not go to bed hungry, but that particular program is only a band-aid approach to a much larger problem.

Food Stamps, or SNAP, is one avenue that is available to low income folks in our community to help provide this basic need. However, Weld County Department of Human Services is inundated with people needing help. From November 2006 to October 2010, the food assistance caseload has increased by 124% in Weld County. After a family has applied for assistance, it can be up to a month or more before the assistance is received if the individual or family does not have all the required documentation at the time of applying.

Our mission at Weld Food Bank is to "lead and engage the community in the fight against hunger," and as such we decided to do what we could to assist those in Weld County who were



in need of Food Stamps. We applied for and were the only food bank in Colorado to receive a Bank of America Charitable Foundation grant to help people who are applying for food assistance. Lupe Martinez was hired as a part-time temporary employee and in the last two months has helped 14 families navigate the system and receive monthly food assistance.

Our overall goal with this grant is to work in cooperation with Weld County Human Services and help get eligible folks on food stamps. We are also working closely with the state in this endeavor. Before the grant expires we will conduct an evaluation of the project to determine if this has been beneficial and if outside grant sources will be sought to continue the work.

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Stephanie Gausch - Development Manager



Leona Martens

## Director's Corner

Although the holidays have passed, I truly hope the "good will toward men" has not. At a time when so many families are struggling and the economic recovery has not yet reached many of us, frustration can grow to epic proportion.

As we move into the New Year, there are several things to remember:

- There are so many good people in this world
- Individuals are willing to share with those less fortunate
- We are all making hard decisions, not just the elected officials
- Offering respect to your fellow man doesn't cost you anything
- Smiles given freely brighten the life of both the sender and the receiver

Wishing you and those you love a bright and prosperous 2011.

## Weld Food Bank Gets Geared Up

Preparations are underway for Stone Soup 2011, presented by Noble Energy, which will take place at the University of Northern Colorado Ballrooms on April 30, 2011.

This is the 9th year we have held the dinner and silent auction, a fundraising event that is designed to focus attention on the problem of hunger in our community while providing our guests with an enjoyable evening of dinner and entertainment.

The theme of our evening is inspired by the popular European folk tale, Stone Soup. In this fable, three soldiers, hungry and tired, pass through a war-torn village. Embittered and suspicious from the war, the people hide their food and close their windows tight. One of the soldiers cleverly suggests making a soup from stones. He claims the soup tastes great but just needs a little garnish to complete the dish. Intrigued by the idea, everyone contributes what food items they have until together they make a delicious and nourishing meal that feeds the entire village. This story personifies the notion that when a community works together, each person giving what they can, we have everything necessary to meet our basic needs.



That belief in cooperation and the premise of strength in numbers serves as the foundation for the work we do at Weld Food Bank. We would love for you to be a guest at this year's Stone Soup and show us what is possible when our community comes together. The evening will be memorable with a silent auction, prime rib dinner, and music from the Jurassicasters. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 this year and we need your help to make this happen. Tickets will be available February 1, and there are still opportunities for sponsorship available. If you have an item that you would like to donate for the auction, we would be happy to speak to you. Please contact [Kasey@weldfoodbank.org](mailto:Kasey@weldfoodbank.org) for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

Weld Food Bank values its donors' privacy. We never sell, rent, or barter our donor information. Annually we publish our supporters' names in our Annual Report. If you would like to opt-out of having your name listed in our Annual Report or from being on our mailing list, please contact Stephanie at [Stephanie@weldfoodbank.org](mailto:Stephanie@weldfoodbank.org) with your complete name, address and telephone number and ask to be removed.

## 5th Annual Blue Jean Ball Honors Community Food Donors

Last year WFB distributed 7.9 million pounds of food, which would not have been possible without the generous contributions from our food donors. Each year we try to show our appreciation to these food donors by honoring the individuals, organizations, and businesses who support Weld Food Bank by donating food. This year, we honored donors in the following 5 categories:

- Donor of the Year**  
Troy Weber and the National Association of Letter Carriers
- Innovative Donor**  
Dr. Lee Anne Peck, Ph.D, University of Northern Colorado Cans to Candelaria & Grandview Elementary School
- Community Food Donor**  
JBS USA
- Agricultural Donor**  
Strohauer Farms
- Donor Partner**  
Walmart Supercenter #980



The following businesses also helped to make the night a success: Coca-Cola, Westlake Wine and Spirits, Big R, New Belgium Brewing, Island Grove Regional Park, Odell Brewing Co, and the Ehrlich Family of Dealerships. On behalf of all the families served, thank you for your generosity!

## Upcoming Events

### Scouting for Food Saturday March 12th, 2011

Leave a bag of shelf stable grocery items in a bag on your front porch and your local Boy Scout troop will pick them up and deliver them to the food bank.

### Corporate Food Challenge March 22nd, 2011- April 8th, 2011

Have your company join in the 7th annual food and fundraising challenge. Local businesses compete to see who can collect the most food and money for the food bank. Contact Scott Westfall at 970-356-2199 x306 for more information.

### Dine Out For Hunger April 7th, 2011

Support WFB by eating at a participating restaurant on Thursday April 7th, and a portion (10-20%) of sales will be donated to the food bank to help alleviate hunger. Check our website for an updated list of participants.

### Stone Soup April 30th, 2011

Join us at 6pm in the UNC Ballrooms for a prime rib dinner, silent auction and music by the Jurassicasters.

### Poker Run May 1st, 2011

Enjoy a day with fellow motorcycle enthusiasts from around the state at our 22nd annual Poker Run in support of ending hunger in Weld County. Check our website for the list of participating bars and entry fees.

### Stamp Out Hunger May 14th, 2011

Participate in the 19th annual postal worker food drive by leaving a bag of grocery items by your mailbox for your postal worker to pick up and deliver to the food bank. Help us beat the record we set last year!

## Volunteer Opportunities

WFB is always looking for energetic and enthusiastic volunteers to help in our warehouse during our regular business hours. If you are part of a community group or faith-based organization and are looking for regular volunteer opportunities or someone to speak to your group about WFB, please contact our Event/Volunteer Manager, Kasey Pennington. We value all donations of volunteer time and energy!



## Specialty Volunteer Positions

We are seeking a volunteer to pick up food donations from stores in Windsor. This volunteer will be able to use the food bank van to transport the food back to the warehouse. This position would require a Tuesday and Thursday morning commitment from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. If this is something you are interested in or would like more information on, please speak with Kasey Pennington.

*For more information regarding volunteer opportunities or special event information, please contact Kasey at 970-356-2199 x307 or [Kasey@weldfoodbank.org](mailto:Kasey@weldfoodbank.org).*

## Beacon of Hope



Dr. Lee Anne Peck, a Professor at UNC, created and developed the Cans to Candelaria food drive. 2010 was the 5th year that Lee Anne motivated the UNC community to invest in Weld Food Bank. Cans to Candelaria has raised \$29,210 and 21,628 pounds of food. Lee Anne has decided to retire from Cans to Candelaria, but her dedication to teaching students about hunger awareness will have a long lasting effect.

Thanks Lee Anne for being a Beacon of Hope in our community!

# Food Drives and Fundraisers

## Tuna Fish and Peanut Butter

Last August, KUNC once again held its annual Tuna Fish and Peanut Butter concert at the Hammond Amphitheatre in Loveland. There were about 200 people in attendance and we collected 811 pounds of food and \$1,664.21 in monetary donations. We hope to see you there next year!

## To Kill a Mockingbird

WFB thanks Rudy Young and his cast from Family of Christ Presbyterian Church for their hard work in presenting "To Kill a Mockingbird." Their efforts raised \$5195.22 toward feeding the hungry in Weld County. The entire production was fantastic. The outdoor set was authentic, the costumes were excellent, and all of the actors did a great job portraying their characters. Thank you Family of Christ for your support of the food bank!

## Weld Food Bank Kitchen Shower

In September Weld Food Bank invited the community to celebrate the near completion



of our Commercial Kitchen. A Kitchen Shower was held, hosted by Amy Oliver Cooke, Chalice Springfield and Linda Winter to help raise the remaining funds necessary to make our kitchen operational. Guests were asked to sponsor small kitchen items. With the sponsorship money and generous donations we were able to purchase \$4,300 worth of equipment. The kitchen is now stocked with pots, pans, whisks, and much more!

## Zumbathon!

Thanks to Amy Ortiz for organizing the 1st annual Zumbathon! Over 150 people gathered at Whiskey River to party themselves into shape. A great time was had by everyone and \$1,706 was raised to help feed hungry children over the weekend. Thanks to the Zumba instructors and all the participants, 23 kids will receive backpacks this school year!



## Halliburton Tailgate Party

A big "thank you" to Halliburton and their partner organizations that combined to raise \$12,500 for the Weld



Food Bank programs in our community. The tailgate party took place in Denver near the Broncos Stadium and it was a great day with music, food, fun, and philanthropy. Hundreds of Halliburton staff and partners worked together to make this event a success – and the event raised over \$50,000 for food banks in Colorado!

## Raging Bull Classic at Boomerang Links

WFB joined the Outback Restaurant and Pub on a cold day in September for the first annual Raging Bull Classic Golf Tournament. The day was a huge success, raising \$5,000 for the food bank! Participants played a round of golf, enjoyed good food and beer, and had a great time while demonstrating what members of our community can do when they work together.

## Encana Chili Cook-off

It has been said that one can never have too much chili. This was indeed the mindset at the recent "Encana Cares Chili Cook-Off." The team from Encana made some of the finest chili around and also raised nearly \$3,000 for the food bank. Kevin Mullin, Director of Development for the food bank, was one of the judges and was greatly moved by the generosity of the Encana staff who participated. And in addition, the Encana Corporation contributed \$2,000 as part of the Halliburton Tailgate Party the next day. "Encana Cares" is more than a campaign slogan, it is a priority. Thanks Encana!

## Colorado Shares - 9Cares and Turkey Food Drives

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 9Cares and Turkey food drives. We were outside local grocery stores on back to back weekends leading up to Thanksgiving. With the help and the support of the community we were able to collect 459 turkeys, 14,278 pounds of canned food, and \$6,014.48. A huge thanks to everyone who helped us make sure no one went hungry this holiday season.



Please support our most recent financial donors:

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Thank you to everyone who has donated, volunteered or served as an advocate for Weld Food Bank.

<http://www.weldfoodbank.org>

Check out our new website at [www.weldfoodbank.org](http://www.weldfoodbank.org)