



Dear Friends,

As you know, the Crisis Center is in the midst of many exciting changes, and we recognize the importance of transparent communication with our constituents. If, at any time during the upcoming months, you have questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. **Also, if you do not currently receive our monthly e-newsletter, please sign up at www.thecrisiscenter.org/contact-us and you will be added to our list.** The e-newsletter is a great way to stay up-to-date about current happenings at the agency.

IN THIS LETTER:

- An update on program shift and building sale
- New happenings with Social Enterprise
- Funding concerns going into the summer months

Shelter program model shift and sale of the Castle Rock building:

To recap prior communication: Research has shown that long-term client advocacy and transitional housing models are far more effective than short-term emergency shelter programs in seeing positive outcomes for clients. A distinct trend shows that while our shelter clients have domestic violence in their lives, they are chronically homeless and not necessarily in imminent danger.

- We are in the process of selling our building in Castle Rock and will be moving our clinical, development and management teams to our current shelter location, which will become our new office space. A portion of the funds from the sale of the building will assist with renovations to the current shelter building. Remaining funds will help support ongoing general operating needs, as well as provide partial funding for the startup of our social enterprise (see below).
- **We will continue to offer limited emergency shelter** at our current shelter location to those in imminent danger domestic violence situations. While the majority of bedrooms will be converted to offices, six beds will remain open for emergency client needs.
- Along with the shift to providing longer-term client advocacy, we will continue to provide individual and group therapy and legal advocacy programs in both Douglas and Elbert Counties, as well as operate our 24-hour crisis line which is answered by advocates and volunteers and provides callers with access to crisis intervention, counseling, information, and referrals.
- In July 2016, our direct service staff will be participating in training by the Community Advocacy Project (CAP), designed to educate and train Community Advocates on their new role with clients. While job titles and duties will change for some direct service staff, we do not anticipate a loss of regularly-scheduled positions with this program shift. We anticipate a complete implementation to the CAP model by September 1, 2016. **We expect to serve a similar number of clients and see better outcomes with the client advocacy services we will be providing.**

Social Enterprise business opportunity:

The Crisis Center is pursuing opportunities for a Social Enterprise, a business owned by the Crisis Center to create sustainable, unrestricted income to help fund our mission.

- We are part of the Colorado Nonprofit Social Enterprise Exchange, an 18 month program, aimed at helping nonprofit organizations develop a social enterprise business to create sustainable, unrestricted funding for the agency. Management staff and board members attend six monthly courses, each focused on a different aspect of creating the business. The final course is September 2016, where we will pitch our idea to potential funders and investors. The last 12 months provides continued access to business mentors as we adjust and implement our business plan.
- We are currently working on a feasibility study and business plan of our proposed business idea: **Life Transitions Services**: Focusing on the aging population, providing an array of services to those in life transition by providing direct support for daily money management, medical bill management, and estate executorship; and providing referrals for other services needed (downsizing, packing, remodeling for aging in the home, etc.)
- There is a growing aging population in Douglas County, and few services of this type in the market. After vetting several ideas, we determined that this concept meets our designated criteria, aligns well with our mission and will help fill a gap in the market.

Cash flow funding concerns...WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Shifting our shelter model, selling the Castle Rock building and creating a Social Enterprise are steps that will help mitigate future funding concerns for the agency. **However, until everything falls into place, we continue to experience cash flow issues during the summer months.** Part of this is due to ever-changing timing of grant deadlines and funds received; and part of it is due to a natural annual decline in donor giving and third part collaborative events during the summer.

Approximately 35% of our individual donors make their generous contributions in November and December. While we are incredibly grateful for these gifts, we are encouraging each of you to consider giving throughout the year (monthly, quarterly or bi-annually). **And, if possible, please consider giving now!** If each of our individual donors gave an extra \$100 by May 31, the Crisis Center would have nearly an additional \$60,000 by June, which would dramatically and positively impact our cash flow concerns.

Through all these changes and transitions, we remain diligent in our mission. As always, our ultimate goal is to increase safety, self-sufficiency and well-being in those we serve. We are confident that the shift in our shelter program, along with the new and innovative opportunities we are pursuing for a social enterprise, will indeed help us accomplish this goal. We cannot do this work alone, and we thank you for your continued faith in us and dedication to our mission of serving those impacted by domestic violence. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Walker
Executive Director



Michael J. Prendergast
President, Board of Directors