



COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

IMPACT REPORT



A Bit of History

The Community Roundtable (CRT) launched in 1994 to demonstrate God's love to the local community by helping worthy causes and to exhibit to the public the positive impact of its participating Christian organizations.

Throughout the years, this network of Christian nonprofits has created an intentional, sustained and public presence in the region by collectively coordinating local volunteer efforts by their employees as well as gathering and reporting the positive financial impacts of its members in the local community.

In 2003 the CRT matured from an informal network and organized as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation as it sought to serve a permanent role that effectively connects Christian nonprofits to the local community.

Today the CRT continues to inspire these parent organizations to show God's love by collaborating to help neighbors in need.



The Purpose

Since its inception, the CRT has focused community volunteer efforts on "breaking the cycle of poverty in people's lives in the Pikes Peak region."

The Community Roundtable is a local, donor supported charitable organization whose mission is to engage Christian nonprofit organizations in the Pikes Peak Region as positive social contributors to the community and to proactively promote the local economic and social impacts of these parent organizations to the public. In other words, the CRT helps unite local Christian organizations in jointly demonstrating we are good corporate neighbors—to both the economic and social health of the Pikes Peak region.

What the CRT Does

The CRT hosts monthly luncheons that bring together ministries that are reaching out to those in need, and Christian parent organizations who can help provide valuable resources—things like volunteers, expertise, equipment, finances, networking and prayer.

Each year the CRT adopts one or more organizations that are working to break the cycle of poverty in the lives of people living in the Pikes Peak region. For a two-year period, these adoptees receive a small monthly financial stipend along with other support. The adoptees regularly share their current needs at the monthly CRT luncheons, providing the parent organizations and others with the opportunity to bring needed help.



Recent Adoptees

Connections 4 Life Center
www.connections4lifecenter.org

Ecumenical Social Ministries
www.ecusocmin.org

Restore Innocence
www.restoreinnocence.org

Second Chance Through Faith
www.sctfgroup.org

The Purpose

Articles by Matt Steiner | Design by Mike Riester

Photos by Julianne Peters | Ministries featured in the photos include: Connection 4 Life Center, Restore Innocence, Second Chance Through Faith, and High Plain Helping Hands.

Sitting in his office at Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, Community Roundtable board Chairman Eric Smith couldn't help but smile when speaking about the impact the CRT has around El Paso County.

While Smith humbly noted the organization which exists to demonstrate God's love to the local community in the Pikes Peak Region doesn't like to "toot its own horn," he said the CRT has truly embodied a loving community over the more than 20 years since its inception.

"Many hands make light work," Smith said. "And there are many hands in these organizations."

The Roundtable is made up of many parent organizations and at least two adoptees at any one time. The larger parents support the smaller Christ-centered ministries and nonprofits that serve less fortunate people around Colorado Springs in a variety of ways.

Three of CRT's recent adoptees are **Second Chance Through Faith**, **Connections 4 Life Center** and **Restore Innocence**. Second Chance serves young people trying to escape the gang culture. Connections 4 Life is a food pantry and a pregnancy center which offers life skills training and counseling. Restore Innocence supports law enforcement in rescuing young girls from human trafficking, offers mentorship programs, and helps restore the lives of those rescued.

Leaders in all three of the adopted organizations echoed Smith's "many hands" statement. They all said networking within the Roundtable reminds them they are not shining Christ's light in the Colorado Springs area alone.

"It has really gotten us out there more and connected us with other faith-based nonprofits," said Lisa Medina, executive director of Second Chance Through Faith. "It has widened our opportunities and our engagement with other organizations."

A small stipend provided by the CRT helped Medina and her organization secure a regular meeting place, something that she and her husband, Second Chance co-founder Estevan Medina, had been praying for.

"It has been such a blessing," she said, noting that the networking at monthly CRT luncheons has led to more donors and volunteers for her organization.

Second Chance was founded by the Medinas in 2009. Both Lisa and Estevan were involved in the gang culture earlier in their lives. The organization began with a small after-school outreach at Carmel Middle School in southeast Colorado Springs. Now, the Medinas serve between 20 and 30 boys every Thursday. They also work with about 20 youth at El Paso County's Spring Creek Youth Services Center.



"Many hands make light work... and there are many hands in these member organizations."

“We say we’ve got a need and they’re on it instantly. It’s been a welcoming group with open arms ready to help us whenever we’ve needed it.”



Gretchen Baker, Director of Connections 4 Life, and Michelle Korth, co-founder of Restore Innocence, each share Lisa Medina’s enthusiasm for the new community she’s become a part of through the Roundtable.

“We say we’ve got a need and they’re on it instantly,” said Korth. “It’s been a welcoming group with open arms ready to help us whenever we’ve needed it.”

Korth, who moved into new offices in February 2015, said CRT attendees helped her with the move, and donated paint and other practical needs. Korth said Roundtable ministries have also helped with supplies for “restoration bags” of clothing and other essentials given to girls when they are rescued.

Restore Innocence’s vision is to aid victims of human trafficking in the rescue, restoration and reintegration process; which is done through their various programs. The organization aims to restore girls “physically, mentally and spiritually.”

“We’ve been utilizing them like crazy,” said Baker, moments after telling how a simple announcement at a CRT luncheon led to her organization receiving two pallet jacks.

“And one of them was brand-spanking new,” she said, noting that she had only said she needed one.

The pallet jacks were only part of the benefit for Connections 4 Life, which started with a 260 square foot facility in April 2010. Now they have a 6,200 square foot location near Fountain in southern El Paso County. Monthly CRT stipends have helped with lease costs. And another Roundtable attendee helped her acquire a 250 square foot walk-in refrigerator/freezer.

Connections 4 Life operates a weekly food pantry that handed out more than 340,000 pounds of food to about 24,000 people in 2014. Baker’s organization also teaches life-skills classes like, cooking on a low-budget. There is also a pregnancy center, commodities center, and a prayer and counseling center.

“We’re breaking the pattern of living in the system,” Baker said, noting that through prayer and education her hope is that people the people who come will one day no longer need her help.

Baker has also connected with Second Chance Through Faith and has provided snacks for the people that attend the Medinas’ meetings. Second Chance is also located in the Fountain area.

“I get it as local as possible,” Baker said. “And I want it to stay as local as possible.”

CRT Parent Organizations

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

ACSI is the largest Protestant educational organization in the world. The organization's focus is to enhance the professional and personal development of Christian educators and to provide support for Christian schools.

719.528.6906 | www.acsiglobal.org

Biblica

More than 200 years ago Biblica began. Today it not only translates the Bible into dozens of languages, but also aims to make sure everyone can have a "life-changing encounter with God's word."

719.488.9200 | www.biblica.com

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Central Colorado is one of more than 1,600 Catholic Charities social service agencies in the United States. The service arm of the Catholic Diocese of Colorado Springs provides services in a 10-county area.

719.636.2345 | www.ccharitiescs.org

The Christian and Missionary Alliance

The mission of The Alliance is to fulfill God's "Great Commission" to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ "to the ends of the earth." The national office of the organization is located in Colorado Springs.

719.599.5999 | www.cmalliance.org

Colorado Christian University

Founded in 1915 and based in Lakewood, Colorado, this Christian university offers adult and online classes available through their local campus in Colorado Springs.

303.963.3311 | www.ccu.edu

Community Bible Study

This organization, which aims to make disciples of Jesus Christ through in-depth Bible studies, was founded in 1975. The Community Bible Study has nearly 700 Bible study classes available throughout the United States.

719.955.7777 | www.communitybiblestudy.org

Compassion International

Compassion International is a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become mature Christian adults.

719.487.6240 | www.compassion.com

David C Cook Ministries

David C Cook specializes in "DiscipleShaping." The organization, founded in 1875 in Chicago, Illinois, is dedicated to publishing and distributing leadership and discipleship resources to help Christians all over the world grow in their faith and pass it on to the next generation.

719.530.0100 | www.davidccook.com



"It has been such a blessing."



“It has really gotten us out there more and connected us with other faith-based nonprofits.”

Every Home for Christ

Active in over 130 nations, Every Home for Christ mobilizes Christians around the globe to actively participate in taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every home on earth while making disciples of new believers.

719.260.8888 | www.ehc.org

Focus on the Family

Focus on the Family, which has its headquarters in northern Colorado Springs, provides help and resources for couples to build healthy marriages, and for parents to raise their children according to morals and values grounded in the Bible.

719.528.6906 | www.focusonthefamily.com

Greater Europe Mission

GEM's mission is to spread Christianity throughout the world, beginning with Europe. It strives to achieve this through “rapidly reproducing churches.”

719.488.4144 | www.gemission.org

Navigators

The Navigators mission is to advance the Gospel through discipleship. The organization is made up of life-long laborers who help others come to know Christ and grow in Him as they navigate through the Christian life.

719.594.2391 | www.navigators.org

OC International

OC International is an interdenominational faith mission in structure, interchurch in ministry, and international in vision. With more than 500 missionaries, OC is involved in evangelism, discipleship, leadership training, church growth, missions, and support services.

719.592.9292 | www.onechallenge.org

Reach Beyond

This organization uses modern media, solar powered radio distribution, and ministry through medical clinics to take the Gospel to areas where it seldom has been heard. Reach Beyond also works to equip those regions to continue God's work in their own countries, languages and cultures.

719.590.9800 | www.reachbeyond.org

Summit Ministries

Summit Ministries is an educational Christian ministry which responds to the current post-Christian culture and works to influence and equip Christian youth to defend the faith and have a positive impact on society.

719.685.9103 | www.summit.org

Young Life

Young Life's mission is to build authentic friendships with kids on their turf and in their culture. The organization believes in “the power of presence” to be a conduit of God's love.

719.867.3590 | www.younglife.org

Youth for Christ

YFC reaches out to young people, to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

719.471.0333 | www.yfc.org

If you know of an organization that would like to become an active member of the Community Roundtable, or of a ministry that could benefit from the mentorship of the CRT, visit www.crtcolorado.org.



Community Roundtable

Breaking the cycle of poverty in people's lives in the Pikes Peak region

crtcolorado.org