

## **ESTES VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES COALITION**

The Estes Valley Community Services Coalition (EVCSC) is an example of sustainability in action in the area of human/social needs. EVCSC was founded in 1998 by a group of citizens representing various human service agencies in the Estes Valley. The organization was named and incorporated with the State of Colorado in the following year. **Its mission is to collaborate to identify and meet human service needs.**

Coalition members are representatives drawn from human service nonprofit agencies (see below) and governmental entities, such as the Town of Estes Park, Estes Park Public Library, Estes Park Police Department, the hospital district, Park School District and Estes Valley Parks and Recreation District. At-large community members also are welcome. Members meet monthly to generate strategies for filling human service gaps, avoid duplication of services, and provide opportunities for collaboration between and among the agencies.

Thus far the Coalition has improved services to the community by playing the role of catalyst in the formation of new entities such as the local affiliate of the **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, Estes Valley Multicultural Connections, and Restorative Justice.** It was active in the formation of the Estes Park Housing Authority and has assisted member organizations to refine and, in some cases, extend their missions.

EVCSC continues to pursue its mission and remains open to new membership for individuals and organizations who wish to join. Coalition meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, 9-10:30 a.m., in the Town Hall and are chaired by an annual facilitating team. Sub-committees form and meet as necessary.

One of the current facilitators described an important concern related to community sustainability as the aging population. Young families have difficulties finding year-round jobs and affordable housing; as a result, many must live elsewhere and commute or find work elsewhere and leave the community.

Following are some of the members of EVCSC:

### **Estes Park Learning Place**

The mission of the Estes Park Learning Place (EPLP) is to provide individual learning support to complement learning in schools, homes and community.

### **Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success (EVICS)**

Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success (EVICS) is a nonprofit, community service organization committed to supporting and promoting early childhood care and education in the Estes Valley.

### **Estes Valley Victim Advocates**

Estes Valley Victim Advocates (EVVA) provides emergency crisis intervention 24-hours a day, seven days per week, 365 days per year to residents of the Estes Valley who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, other crimes and serious trauma.

**Habitat for Humanity of Estes Valley**

Habitat for Humanity of Estes Valley works in partnership with God and people from all walks of life to build simple, decent, affordable homes for families with low incomes while striving to raise awareness of the need for affordable housing throughout the Estes Valley and world.

**Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County**

The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) is an alliance of people from nonprofit agencies; educational, government and health institutions; and individuals dedicated to helping improve the health and well-being of Larimer County's children and youth.

**Partners Mentoring Youth of Larimer County**

Partners Mentoring Youth of Larimer County is a northern Colorado volunteer program that matches positive adult role models with youth, age 8-17 years, who are facing challenges in their personal, social and/or academic lives.

**Salud**

Salud is a health care system dedicated to providing quality primary care for Estes Valley residents. Medical and dental services are provided with cultural and linguistic understanding and care, while providing a sliding fee scale for those with a low income, utilizing income and size of family and key factors.

**United Way of Larimer County 2-1-1**

United Way of Larimer County's mission is to cultivate and mobilize community resources to change and save lives.

**Volunteers of America Northern Colorado Services**

Volunteers of America understands that volunteers are the backbone of our community. We are committed to support human service organizations by providing individualized consulting, valuable resources, volunteer benefits and recognition, staff and volunteer workshops, co-marketing, and volunteer recruitment assistance to help build capacity and sustainability for volunteer programs throughout the Estes Valley.

Information for this summary came from Louise Olson, a current annual facilitator, and from estesnet.com. –Linda Stratton LWV Estes Park—09/09 LWVCO Sustainability Committee