

Loaves and Fishes Ministries



2018 Annual Report

Emergency Services

Chayah House Emergency Shelter

The Chayah House is our 17 bed emergency shelter that provides a safe place to sleep for men, women and children. Case management and life skills classes are provided to help our residents' transition into safe housing. In 2018, we provided shelter to 157 adults and 36 children. Two meals are served daily, over 18,321 meals were served in 2018.

In 2018, 504 individuals reported that they were homeless and were seeking housing in Fremont County.

Food Pantry and Clothing Warehouse

Our food pantry provided food assistance to 1,376 families in 2018. Over \$20,000 of donated food is donated monthly. Through our partnership with Care and Share, two mobile food pantries are offered monthly in Canon City and Penrose.

Fremont County has one of the highest food insecurity rates in Colorado. Feeding America estimates that 14.2% or 6,660 individuals do not have enough healthy food to eat on a consistent basis. Even more concerning is that 47% of these individuals are not eligible for federally funded food assistance programs, leaving many families having to rely on food pantries to help subsidize their grocery budget.

Respite and New Creations Inn

Sometimes individuals need a safe place to rest and get relief from difficult situations. Through our partnership with Solvista Health, short-term respite care is provided at New Creations Inn to adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Financial Assistance

In 2018, the following assistance was provided:

- 15 families received rental assistance
- 78 families received utility assistance
- 35 individuals received transportation assistance
- 10 individuals received prescription assistance

Housing Assistance

New Creations Inn Transitional Housing

New Creations Inn is a 12-24 months Christ-centered transitional housing program for single adults who are seeking a fresh start by providing a safe, structured, sober-living environment. Through our partnership with the Evangelical Free Church, over 130 individuals have lived at New Creations Inn over the last 11 years.

Employment, life skills classes, community meals, adhering to a curfew, paying program fees, and one on one case management make New Creations Inn a transformative experience for our residents.

Restoring Hope Rapid Rehousing

Restoring Hope assists families with children who are experiencing homelessness transition into permanent housing through a tailored package of assistance that includes financial assistance and targeted supportive services. Families participate in weekly life skills classes, create a realistic personal budget, and one on one case management.

In 2018, 16 families were enrolled (24 adults and 35 children). We had 7 families graduate and they remain stably housed today.

Since 2003, Restoring Hope has provided housing to 130 families who were previously homeless. 80% of these families are still in stable housing today.

Journey Home Supportive Housing

Journey Home is our community's only supportive housing project for individuals and families who were previously homeless. The new 30 unit apartment complex has 22 one bedroom apartments and 8 two bedroom apartments. On June 11, 2018, 30 families moved in consisting of 31 adults and 16 children.

Loaves and Fishes Ministries Family Navigators help tenants as they transition from homelessness to housing stability. The combination of services creates a synergy that allows residents to take steps towards recovery and independence.

Highlights of 2018

Journey Home

Fremont County is the first rural community in Colorado to be awarded this type of housing project. Journey Home is just another example of how well our community works together to help some of our most vulnerable citizens.



Prior to the families moving into the new apartment, community members adopted an apartment and provided dishes, pots and pans, linens, cleaning supplies, and other items to make the apartments welcoming to the new tenants.

Move in day for our tenants was filled with lots of emotion and happy chaos. For some it had been years since they had their own home. Tenants were overjoyed when they opened their apartment doors and saw their beautiful, new apartments fully furnished including household items.



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. *Jeremiah 29:11*

Highlights of 2018

New Construction at New Creations Inn

For the past 11 years, Loaves and Fishes Ministries has partnered with the Evangelical Free Church to provide transitional housing.

Over the years, our maintenance challenges have increased and even though we have been blessed to have many construction and skilled workers volunteer their time to help us it was becoming economically unfeasible for us to continue to fix the problems.



This past year we had to close 4 resident rooms due to maintenance problems.



Our Building Team

Earlier this year, a generous donation by a private foundation was made to the Evangelical Free Church to help New Creations Inn begin phase 1 of a 3 phase project.

This new wing will have 9 resident rooms plus a laundry room.

Demolition of the south wing happened on August 2, 2018 and has a projected completion date of August 2019.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. *Philippians 4:6*

More Exciting Things

Work and Gain Education and Employment Skills (WAGEES)

The WAGEES project is a successful community re-entry program created by the Colorado General Assembly. The goal is to facilitate successful re-entry and decrease recidivism rate of parolees. Loaves and Fishes Ministries was recently awarded this project and is excited to help those on parole in Fremont County.

Fremont County Homeless Coalition

The FCHC continues to work on various issues surrounding homelessness. Our coalition has over 90 members with representatives from law enforcement, service providers, elected officials, health care providers, previously homeless, concerned citizens, the faith community and homeless providers.

Some of the accomplishments in 2018 include:

- Employment Mentor and Mentee Program
- Day Center for those who are homeless
- Partnering with local churches for cold weather shelter
- Expanded services for the Mobile Medical Van
- Conducted the Point in Time Count

Annual Point In Time Count

The Point in Time count is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless person on a single night in January. The 2018 Point in Time count identified 195 individuals who were homeless in our community.



Volunteers and Financials

Volunteers

Volunteers have always played a vital role at Loaves and Fishes Ministries. In fact, several of the services we offer are operated entirely by volunteers. We have over 80 volunteers who serve monthly plus several hundred more who serve throughout the year. Over 10,000 volunteer hours are recorded annually.

Volunteer training is the first Friday of the every month from 11:30 -12:30. If you are looking for a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity to serve your community, please contact us at (719)275-0593 for more details.

Financials

Loaves and Fishes Ministries is a community nonprofit established 35 years ago by pastors in our community who were seeking a better way to serve those in need. Over 80% of our funding comes from within Fremont County.

When you give to Loaves and Fishes Ministries, you are partnering with us to help those in need in our community.

Enterprise Zone: State Tax Credit for Contribution Information

Loaves and Fishes Ministries is an eligible project within the Central Colorado Enterprise Zone. This status provides an additional 25% state tax credit for cash contribution of \$250 or more annually when the contributor pays state tax with an itemized return. Please call (719)275-0593 for additional information.

Who we are

The vision for Loaves and Fishes Ministries of Fremont County began with our local pastors as they looked for better ways to serve those in need in our community. The Ministerial Alliance believed that having a one stop resource center would ensure that individuals be treated with dignity and respect plus receive consistent and appropriate assistance. As a result of their efforts, Loaves and Fishes Ministries was founded in 1983.

Through the years, Loaves and Fishes Ministries of Fremont County has become the primary resource in Fremont County for those in need. Having served the under-privileged in Fremont County for the last 3 decades, we understand the challenges this population faces.

Our Core Values

Holistic approach— We believe in the holistic approach that deals with the spiritual, physical, relational and economic brokenness faced by those we serve. Our hope is to make a lasting difference in Fremont County by affecting change in all of these areas.

Origin in Dignity—We believe that all people have inherited dignity by being created in the image of God and thus have an innate right to be valued, respected, and to receive ethical treatment.

Partnerships—We believe that partnerships with other nonprofits, local businesses, government agencies, and the faith based communities are essential as we seek solutions for our community. In addition, these relationships extend to those who are touched through this ministry as we strive towards a cooperative attitude through every interaction.

Empowerment—We believe in empowerment instead of handouts, where solutions are lasting and transferable. This method of ministry requires patience and perseverance but this approach leads to healthier families and ultimately a stronger community.



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Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9