

DEEP Newsletter

The Deep Program - *Supporting the City Family*

May 2007

Board Profile—Christine McGroarty



Christine McGroarty, Chris Weimer & Buster

Christine McGroarty is one of the most inspirational people you will ever meet!

Could it be because she is one of DEEP's original founders and holds the position of co-chair on the DEEP board, or because she is a highly valued member of the management team in the city's Budget and Management Office? Or does it have anything

to do with the fact that she is a bright, intelligent woman who loves outdoor activities and ballroom dancing?

Well, it is all of the above and more. While she is the best at all she does without limitations, she is seeing impaired.

With the help of Buster, her seeing-eye dog, there is no

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Fall Weatherization Event



On Wednesday, November 29th DEEP and Xcel Energy sponsored a weatherization expo in the atrium of the Webb building.

The event was a great success with representatives from a variety of energy related organizations including Xcel's Homesmart program, Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), Energy Outreach Colorado, Denver Urban

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Special points of interest:

- Xcel Energy partners with DEEP
- New Board Members
- Upcoming Third Anniversary!

DEEP Partners with Xcel Energy



In the summer of 2005, DEEP formed a partnership with Xcel Energy's Personal Accounts Department, which has allowed DEEP to stretch its donations further and assist many more city employees.

Xcel's Personal Accounts Department was created in 1982 to assist low income and medical needs customers by working with them to establish payment plans and prevent shutoffs. The Personal Accounts Department also assists people in need by being the liaison to the state's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and Energy Outreach Colorado.

Since so many of DEEP's applicants request assistance with utility bills (approximately 70% of requests are for assistance with utility shutoff notices), the DEEP program is extremely appreciative that Xcel has been so willing to form this unique partnership.

Typically DEEP applicants make a payment arrangement with Personal Accounts and then DEEP provides the good faith payment (usually \$100) necessary to initiate the payment plan. Keeping most good faith payments at \$100 means that DEEP has more funds to distribute to other applicants, or that an applicant has not exhausted his or her \$300 maximum award and can return for assistance if they run into trouble again.

Xcel has found that the success rate for DEEP applicants in completing their payment plans is much higher than in the general population which means that our partnership has been beneficial on several fronts.

The partnership is expanding as we begin to work together in other ways such as the Weatherization event held in the Webb building on November 29, 2006.

"approximately 70% of DEEP's requests are for assistance with utility shutoff notices"

DEEP Welcomes New Board Members

We are very pleased to announce two new members to the DEEP board, Nancy Hogue and Dolores Bachand.

Nancy works at DIA. She has participated on several boards and committees at DIA over the years. In addition, she is an active volunteer at her church and in her community-tutoring, teaching CPR & first aid, caring for the sick, provid-

ing for needy and homeless families.

Dolores is from the Animal Shelter. She has been helping Chris Weimer, Director of Employee Assistance and DEEP co-chair, with resources to help employees in need since before DEEP's inception. She has done so much to support DEEP's mission over the years.

We are confident that the energy and compassion these ladies have will be invaluable to the DEEP board!



Sincere Thanks!

The DEEP Board extends a heartfelt **thank you** to all the city employees who have supported the program. In 2006 the city family assisted 109 employees and paid out \$22,500 in grants.

In 2007 187 city employees made contributions to DEEP through the DECC Campaign for a total pledge of \$18,968. Due to your huge generosity, the DEEP program will be able to assist at least 60 of our fellow employees to keep their lights on, keep a roof over their heads and assist with other emergencies.



Thank you everyone for your tremendous support and generosity!

Farewell to Karen Brennan & Marinda Kincaid

It's with great sadness that we bid farewell to board members, Karen Brennan and Marinda Kincaid.

Karen joined the DEEP board in October of 2004. She has given the board a tremendous amount of energy and commitment. She has lead several fundraising endeavors such as food drives, DECC campaigns, the 2006 DECC silent auction, and DEEP's 2006 anniversary and fundraising event.

Karen always volunteered for special projects and provided valuable input on every topic and issue the board faced. Her leaving is a tremendous loss to the board.

Marinda joined the Board in January of 2005. At that time, she worked at DIA. Shortly after, she went to the Fire Department. One of our favorite memories of Marinda was her utter delight and excitement

as she brought in 88 Boston Cream pies to last years DEEP anniversary and fundraiser celebration. She had asked Volmer's Bakery for a donation, but had no idea they would donate so many pies! ***Marinda & Karen will both be sorely missed!***



DEEP Board Members

Mike Aleksick
 Dolores Bachand
 Shirley Garcia

Nancy Hogue
 Christine McGroarty
 Loretta Martinez

Chris Weimer
 Chrisanne Wilhelmi
 Jesse Wolff

Board Profile—Christine McGroarty (cont'd)

doubt she will get to her destination, where ever that may be.

But Buster is much more than a working dog, he is her loyal, loving companion. Buster came to Christine in January 1999, when he was three years old. He is now eleven.

Christine hails from the eastern part of the United States – Boston. She is the youngest of five children having two brothers and two sisters. She attended Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. While in college, she spent a summer in Colorado and fell in love with

the area. After college, in April of 1999, she returned to Colorado to live. She misses the trees and ocean of her hometown but doesn't miss the humidity and bugs. Colorado's year round sunny weather keeps her here, well its sunny most of the time. Christine has been employed with the City & County of Denver, Budget and Management Office, since November 1999.

Christine lives life with passion and determination, and it shows in all she does. Christine gives the word "inspirational" a powerful meaning!

Fall Weatherization (cont'd)

Ministries, and Metro CareRing. These organizations provide a variety of services from assistance with paying bills, to home energy inspections and appliance warranties.

City employees flocked to the fun and educational exhibits from SunPower who demonstrated energy savings techniques such as wrapping hot water heaters, changing furnace filters, and caulking and sealing windows.

Since everyone can benefit from energy saving tips DEEP and Xcel thought a weatherization expo would be fun and would benefit many people, a belief that was supported by the high and enthusiastic participation at the Webb building. Given the strong turnout and interest at the expo, we plan to hold similar events next fall. We are considering expanding to the Human Services building, DIA and other locations around the city. Stay tuned and stay warm!

