

# So, What's New?

Adult Education and Family Literacy

Volume 2, Issue 7

## From the Desk of Pam Smith, State Director

The week of October 18 marked National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week following a resolution authored by Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) to pay tribute to adult education and family literacy programs, for their impact on the education of the nation's adult learners and their families.

"Colorado has recognized that building an educated workforce requires broader scrutiny of our educational process," said Pamela M. Smith, State Director of Adult Education and Family Literacy for CDE. "Because intergenerational literacy skills transfer, improving the education of parents can change the inevitable cascading pathway toward nonliteracy for their children. Family literacy programs do break this cycle of illiteracy." To celebrate the week, Adult Education and Family Literacy programs, along with Even Start programs, participated in a statewide **Read-A-Thon**.

**2,300** adults and children read for a total of **6,990** hours

Eighteen programs reported their reading activities. Congratulations to:

- *Boulder Valley Family Literacy Program*
- *Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Center Campus and Aspen Campus*
- *Delta County School District 50, Even Start Program*
- *Education and Life Training Center*
- *Focus Points Family Resource Center*
- *Front Range Community College, Center for Adult Learning, Loveland and Fort Collins*
- *Harrison Adult and Family Education*
- *Littleton Public Schools/Bemis Public Library*
- *La Llave Family Resource Center, Alamosa and Center*
- *Metro State College Family Literacy Program*
- *Montrose School District RE-1J*
- *McLain Community High School*
- *Phillips County Family Education Services Program*
- *Pine River Community Learning Center*
- *South Central BOCES*
- *Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning*
- *Summer Scholars*
- *TSJC-Valley Campus, Alamosa*

A full report on the Colorado Read-A-Thon was submitted to Congressman Jared Polis. A thank you was included from all Colorado Adult Education programs.



## Inside this issue:

<i>Focus Points Family Resource Center/Open Book</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Adult &amp; Family Education SD11</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>CDE- Literacy Gallery Walk</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>November Calendar and Upcoming Schedule of Events</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Welcome New AEFLA Program Directors</i>	<b>4</b>



Colorado Department of Education  
201 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203-1799  
Phone: 303.866.6884  
Fax: 303.866.6599  
E-mail: [mcdonald\\_j@cde.state.co.us](mailto:mcdonald_j@cde.state.co.us)

## Jolene Goerend, Focus Points Family Resource Center, Denver

Attached are photos of a Radiothon sponsored by 1150 am, in which the proceeds went to Focus Points and Clinica Tepeyac. The Radiothon took place in the parking lot of Invesco Field on Friday, Sept 18th.



Focus Points' administrative assistant Alejandra Lopez speaking live on 1150am at the Radiothon.



Focus Points employees Cynthia Gallegos, Linnea Bjorkman, Karol Gorman, Grey Gorman and Alejandra Lopez at the Radiothon.



tionists volunteer their time and expertise to lead hands-on courses that instruct adults, teens and kids living on a low-income how to get the most nutrition out of a limited budget. Last year Operation Frontline Colorado coordinated 72 courses that impacted a total of 5,553 families. In 2009 our goal is to provide 108 courses in our sixteen county service area.

Open Book students participate in an Operation Frontline nutrition class. ([http://strength.org/operation\\_frontline/colorado/](http://strength.org/operation_frontline/colorado/))

From the Operation Frontline website: Twenty-one percent of children in Denver are living in poverty and are at risk of hunger.

Share Our Strength's Operation Frontline is a groundbreaking nutrition education program that helps families help themselves by teaching them how to prepare healthy low-cost meals. Professional chefs and nutri-



## Melissa Burkhardt-Shields - Adult & Family Education SD11, Colorado Springs

In August Colorado Springs School District 11's Adult and Family Education Program opened for classes at the newly christened Jefferson Educational Center. As part of a district-wide reutilization plan, the former elementary school was repurposed and now houses Adult and Family Education along with the AchieveK12/HESP program.

The Jefferson Educational Center is centrally located in the heart of Colorado Springs. Adult and Family Education principal, Melissa Burkhardt-Shields, feels that the new, convenient location is most likely a contributing factor in this year's 15% increase in ESL enrollment from previous years.

Included in the repurposing was the construction of the \$100,000 Center for Family Learning. The Family Center houses an infant classroom, a toddler classroom and a preschool classroom—as well

as an awesome playground designed to fit the needs of all early childhood students!

The Jefferson Educational Center has 21 classrooms. During the day, those classrooms are shared between Adult and Family Education and the AchieveK12/HESP

program. In the evening, Adult and Family Education occupies them all! In the past, ESL classes and ABE/GED classes were held on opposite nights due to lack of space. Now that all classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings the program has a renewed sense of unity. Families with one adult in ESL class and another in ABE/GED can now at-

tend school together, and students are setting educational goals for themselves across the spectrum of adult education and beyond!



If you'd like to schedule a visit to the new home for Colorado Springs School District 11 Adult and Family Education, call Melissa Burkhardt-Shields at 719.328.3000.

## Colorado Department of Education - Literacy Gallery Walk

Commissioner Jones has as a priority for 2009-2010, "development of a consistent voice around literacy with which to address literacy challenges in our state that will provide a foundation for focused support from CDE." This is a necessary step toward "launching a statewide literacy achievement plan that creates a coherent system for preschool through post-secondary initiatives (*2009 Forward Thinking Progress Report*)."

During October, the Adult Education and Family Literacy office met with Debora Scheffel, Ph.D., Special Assistant to the Commissioner of Education, to discuss the **Colorado Literacy Alignment Project** and its goals, and to explain our work in adult education. **The first goal** was to review what initiatives CDE supports/administers that touch on literacy.

**The second goal** was to work with CDE staff to distill from the many literacy related initiatives, common language that can provide a foundation for focused sup-

port from CDE to its constituents. To support this second goal, several common elements emerged from our various units and the language we use to inform our work related to literacy.

To help us discuss and further refine the collective meaning around the common elements of literacy, we were invited to share our voice at the **Literacy Gallery Walk, Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**, in the CDE lobby.

For this **Literacy Gallery Walk** we provided research material on best practices in adult education, NIFL documents relating to teaching adults to read, adult ESL literacy instruction, intergenerational literacy activities, LIA information, and training monographs for adult educators.



# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

- November 19, Four Corners Corrections Education Forum, Ignacio
- November 25-26, CDE Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 27, State Mandatory Furlough Day, CDE Closed
- December 4, CDE State-wide Discussion of Planning Instruction for Adult Learners

## Welcome to our New AEFLA Program Directors

Lynell Wiggers, Archuleta County Education Center, Inc., Pagosa Springs

Krisan Crow, Colorado Mountain College, Glenwood Springs

Glenda Sinks, Community College of Denver, Denver

Kit Stephenson, Delta County Public Libraries-Adult Literacy Program, Hotchkiss

Lyn McCarty, Harrison Adult and Family Education, Colorado Springs

Robin Leist, La Llave Family Resource Center, Alamosa and Center

Roger Scott, Lamar Community College (effective January 1st, 2010), Lamar

Dave Patten, Littleton Public Schools—Adult ESL Program, Littleton

Lilia Myers-Van Pelt, Pueblo Community College, Pueblo

Gaye Horne, Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning, Denver