



Chaffee County Hospitality Inc.

7 Poncha Blvd.

Salida, CO 81201

719-539-6422

https://www.gofundme.com/f/chaffee-county-hospitality-inc?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-

November 9, 2020

Dear Salida City Council,

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter! I write with several purposes: to express our thanks, update you about efforts to care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness, share opportunities for volunteering, and invite you to once again support the emergency winter shelter through your financial gift.

So first, thank you! Thanks for your financial support of the emergency winter shelter. Your gift allowed us to shelter men at the Lighthouse from November 15 to April 30, and house women and families at the Mountain Motel from November 15 to March 15. On average we were housing 8 men, 7 women, and 1 family through that time. Through the warmer months your financial support allowed us to provide camping supplies and occasional emergency motel rooms. So thank you!

Since our initial pleas for financial support last fall, a group of dedicated community members has been working to create a more sustainable and supported effort to care for our neighbors struggling with housing insufficiency. Toward that end we have started a new non-profit entitled: Chaffee County Hospitality Inc. Our mission statement reads: "Providing hospitality to our neighbors experiencing homelessness, and walking alongside people as they work to exit homelessness." Toward that end we continue the work needed to provide an emergency winter shelter. This year women will find shelter every night from November 9th to April 30th at First Christian Church and men again at the Lighthouse. We are grateful for both of these sheltering places, and we thank First Christian and Caring and Sharing. We have a great group of 4 women and 4 men working as night managers of the two shelters. We plan to house families again at the Mountain Motel. Our budget to provide these sheltering opportunities is \$75,000. Almost all of that money is needed to pay the night managers and rent rooms. We also are working with a variety of agencies in the community to provide resources for people experiencing homelessness. We additionally are working with the Chaffee County Housing Authority and the Chaffee County Foundation on long-term transitional housing solutions for our county. Together over the next few years we are hopeful that sustainable transitional housing will become a reality in our county.

If you would like to get more involved there are many volunteer opportunities. We are looking for people to be at the shelters for the first hour or so during the evening to help with check-in and to do coordinated entry questionnaires. Participating in the coordinated entry process is essential for receiving grant monies. We are looking for volunteers to participate in occasional cleaning, to help with laundry, to make one pot meals. We need volunteers to host the Monday and Thursday afternoon shower opportunity at the Methodist Church and the first and third Monday laundry opportunities. We need help with fundraising. If you are interested in volunteering send me an e-mail at tom@salidapresbyterian.org.

Finally, we still need your financial support of the winter shelters. Presently we have raised about half of our needed \$75,000. Thank you ahead of time for considering making a donation. If you want to write a check, make it out to Chaffee County Hospitality Inc., and send to the address on the letterhead. You can also give through our Go-Fund-Me page the address is also on the letterhead.

Thanks again for your support of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We look forward to working with you in the days to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom Abbott', is written over a horizontal line.

Rev. Tom Abbott – President of the Board of Directors, Chaffee County Hospitality Inc.

Mike Orrill – Vice President

Dick Nystrom – Treasurer

Barbara Martinez – Secretary

Bob Grether – Member at Large

Amy Brigham – Member at Large

Rev. Brent Wiescamp – Member at Large

Rev. Jim Mundy – Member at Large

Father Mike Fay – Member at Large