



## WE NEED AMBASSADORS FOR GROWING HOME!

One of Growing Home's biggest needs is to spread awareness about all the wonderful work we do in our community. The more we grow our network of volunteers and supporters, the better we can support families and children in our community. You can help Growing Home reach more people by becoming an Ambassador! Ambassadors are short-term volunteers who bring 10 or more people on a Growing Home tour. By sharing the reasons you are passionate about Growing Home, others are more likely to get excited about us too! Tours and presentations are only 1 hour long and Growing Home does NOT ask for money.

There are lots of ways to be an Ambassador:

- Bring 10 guests to any of our regularly scheduled tours (the 2nd Thursday of the month, 12:00pm - 1:00pm and the 4th Wednesday of the month, 5:30pm - 6:30pm) over the course of 3 months.
- Can't make the tour dates? If you can gather a single group of 10 or more people, we can schedule a private

## Join us for a Tour!



**Learn more about Growing Home's work nurturing children, strengthening families, and creating community. And find out how you can help!**

**Regularly scheduled tours are every 2nd Thursday of the month at 12:00pm and every 4th Wednesday at 5:30pm.**

The next tours are:

tour at a time that works best for everyone!

- Host a Tour-in-a-Box: Growing Home will come visit you and your group at your office, church, rotary, or even your home!
- Thinking about doing a drive for the holidays? Get people excited by hosting a tour first!

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador, please contact Kristen Raisch at 720-407-1970 or [Kristen@growinghome.org](mailto:Kristen@growinghome.org).

## 2016 BACKPACK GIVEAWAY IS A SUCCESS!



Growing Home has concluded the 2016 backpack and school supply drive for 2016 - the third year of providing the children of Growing Home families with what they need for a solid start to the school year. In all, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors and volunteers, Growing Home was able to provide more than 1,200 backpacks filled with school supplies.

We started the first week of August by providing every Tennyson Knolls Elementary School student who registered for the 2016-17 school year - and who requested one - with a backpack filled with grade-appropriate supplies. Any siblings accompanying them also received one.

Later in the week we distributed additional backpacks to Parents as Teachers families, as well as families enrolled in other Growing Home programs.

Growing Home extends a huge thanks to the businesses, churches, and individuals who worked hard and gave generously to achieve this success. These organizations and individuals donated backpacks, school supplies, and more than \$2,000, which Growing Home used to address shortages.

Wednesday, August 24, from 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Thursday, September 8, from 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Wednesday, September 21, from 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Thursday, October 13, from 12:00pm - 1:00pm

[Sign up now!](#)

## VOLUNTEER

School is back in session and we're looking for volunteers to help tutor students for the 2016-2017 school year! Volunteers, 16 years of age and older, are needed to help tutor 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students at Tennyson Knolls elementary school. Help students progress in the areas of reading and math as you build positive relationships with children in a one on one tutor/student setting.

Growing Home's tutoring program will begin on Tuesday, September 13th. Tutoring sessions will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30pm-4:30pm. Our goal this year is to recruit 20 volunteer tutors to work with the students at Tennyson Knolls. Please let us know if you can help!

If you're interested in becoming a tutor please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Erik Hicks, at (720) 407-1987 or at [erik@growinghome.org](mailto:erik@growinghome.org).

## WAYS TO GIVE

By Pell Fender, Development Director

Thank you also to the many volunteers who worked days and evenings to distribute them.

## A WALK IN THE "PARK"



On a beautiful Colorado July day, nineteen Growing Home kids took six Growing Home staffers and board members on a 2 ½-mile hike in Golden Gate State Park. Embarking from Growing Home's offices at 72nd and Lowell, the group made the trek in two of our vans singing and laughing along the twisty, tree-lined road to Raccoon Trail.

For some of the kids, this was a first introduction to the Front Range Mountains that are just outside our back door. The magic of wild flowers and the lure of flowing creeks with real minnows were almost too much for the senses! Imagine trying to stick to a schedule, only to be sidetracked by constant curiosity and squeals of excitement. It was nothing short of wonderful!

More outdoor activities and exposure to new experiences will be available to our families as we continue to find effective ways to enrich Growing Home's current programs. Sure, we're proud of the food pantry, educational services, housing assistance and our many other programs, but sometimes it's the simple pleasures that make the biggest impact!

## GROWING HOME WELCOMES A NEW STAFF MEMBER: WILLY ESPINOZA

Willy Espinoza joined Growing Home in July as our new Impact and Evaluation Fellow. His position is grant-funded by the University of Utah-Sorenson Impact Center for a year to conduct a feasibility study on the impact of Parents as Teachers upon children's kindergarten readiness.

Willy will be working closely with Westminster Public Schools



In 1986, the Colorado legislature created enterprise zones as a way to assist businesses and non-profit organizations located in economically depressed areas throughout the state. Growing Home is located within such a district, and your contribution of \$100 or more (or \$500 or more annually) qualifies for a 25% Colorado state income tax credit on cash contributions. Over the years, this program has proven to be of great value both to Growing Home and its supporters.

Here is how it works: There may be a substantial tax benefit for donations made to Growing Home through the Enterprise Zone. The estimated after-tax benefit for a gift of \$1,000 is approximately \$528.52 (using a 33% Federal Tax Rate). In this way a gift of \$1,000 costs only \$471.48 after taxes. Specific net after-tax benefit for the same gift will differ based on individual tax situations.

To qualify for the credit, donors make a contribution by credit card, check (or online through Colorado Gives via our website), \$100 minimum amount to \$400,000 maximum amount. Donors should indicate Enterprise Zone on the memo line of the check (donors send check to Growing Home), or in the appropriate online box.

The EZ program requires that donors provide Growing Home either a Federal Employer Tax Identification Number (FEIN), your Colorado Taxpayer Identification Number, or the

and with the Parents as Teachers national organization to collect data and measure impact of the Parents as Teachers curriculum. The feasibility study precedes a Pay-for-Success pilot program, scheduled for 2017-18, in which Growing Home will expand Parents as Teachers enrollment.

Willy, a native Peruvian, earned a M.S. degree at Carnegie Mellon University (H.J. Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management), in public policy and management, graduating with Highest Distinction Honors. He did undergraduate work at the Universidad Esan and Universidad de Lima, from which he earned a bachelor's degree in economics. His background includes work experience with NGOs in Pittsburgh (where Carnegie Mellon is located) and Peru, and work as a consultant with Price Waterhouse Coopers, in Peru.



Willy lives with his wife, Diana, in Westminster. Willy said, "I am delighted to be working at Growing Home. We have a lot of work to do to take Growing Home to the next level of impact, and I am enthusiastic about what lies ahead."



*Shelter volunteers from Holy Cross Catholic Church chat with Dolores Ramirez, Manager of Early Childhood Initiatives at Growing Home during Growing Home's 2016 Appreciation Picnic.*

## THANK YOU!!

As we near the end of summer and start preparing for the change of seasons, it's easy to get caught up in our day-to-day tasks and projects. Many of us are in the midst of adjusting to back to school schedules and activities, or even contemplating the next holiday season. And while the daily rush of life is unavoidable, exciting, yet stressful, whatever our individual

last four digits of your Social Security Number. Growing Home needs this information before January 31 of the following year in order to issue the form.

### Program Benefits:

Decreases donor's state tax liability through a 25% state tax credit for cash gifts. We hope that you give to Growing Home to support the real impact your gift has on the 5,000 families we serve annually. But, why not get a nice tax advantage in return?

Contact [pell@growinghome.org](mailto:pell@growinghome.org) for more information; 720-407-1986.

## GROWING HOME IN SEATTLE



This July, a group of Growing Home board members, volunteers, and staff attended a fundraising seminar on the topic of "Advanced Sustainability," in Seattle. Representing Growing Home were Board members Keith Smith, Jason Dean, and Eric Sundberg; volunteers Bev Bishop, Mary Ellen Litzau, and Kathy Marquez; and staff members Teva Sienicki, Pell Fender, Charlene Shelton, Erik Hicks, Dolores Ramirez, and Kristen Raisch. Keith, Pell, and Erik also attended the intensive biannual Benevon Conference.

The Growing Home team worked together, with the help of our coach, Laura Mellinger, to determine goals for the coming

troubles and challenges, it's important to take a moment every now and then to appreciate all that we have. In this newsletter, we want to do just that, we want to take a moment to stop and say THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our Growing Home friends for a fantastic summer, for the great relationships that were born, the collaborations, the projects, and all the activities that gave life to suites 110,108, 109 and 112.

This year Growing Home's volunteers, donors, and community members worked to make this the most exciting summer yet. And while every Growing Home program has much to be grateful for, we want to share with you a few highlights.

With consultation from our Community Organizer, a group of mothers in an apartment complex nearby united their voices and advocated for their rights as tenants for the first time.

One day in July, members from Growing Home's Board of Directors shared the beauty of Colorado's mountains with a group of 19 children from the Blocks of Hope neighborhood.

The food pantry was constantly full of fresh fruits and vegetables for our families, thanks to our volunteers who devotedly made trips to ensure that the children in this community can have a nutritious meal.

Our shelter volunteers provided a canopy of love and compassion for families at their most vulnerable times.

Our Parents as Teachers program coordinators worked tirelessly to complete a five-year endorsement process.

The Growing Home fundraising team attended a conference in Seattle to garner fresh ideas to ensure Growing Home's future.

And more than 1,200 children received backpacks full of supplies to start the school year ready to learn.

Because of everyone's contributions, Growing Home will continue striving for equality of opportunity for all children and their families. And we will continue creating long term change for tomorrow by addressing barriers at the root causes today.

Thank you!

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year, and a plan to meet those goals. All involved returned tired, but enthusiastic.

The group came to understand that the key to securing increases in both volunteer and philanthropic support is to boost the number of people in what is known as the "pipeline" - the number of people who learn about Growing Home by attending scheduled tours, or who attend tours conducted in people's homes, churches, or workplaces.

Essential to bringing more people to Growing Home are our Ambassadors. Ambassadors - volunteers who commit to arranging at least one tour at Growing Home or off-site for 10 people - are central to our success. Currently, Growing Home has about six such Ambassadors and is in the process of recruiting more. Anyone interested in helping with this all-important campaign is invited to contact Kristen Raisch, Development Coordinator (and pipeline manager), at [Kristen@growinghome.org](mailto:Kristen@growinghome.org); 720-407-1970.

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## SHOUT OUT

Thank you to the following foundations and agencies for their recent grant awards to Growing Home:

- Mile High United Way
- Anschutz Family Foundation
- Holy Name Province May Bonfils Stanton
- Denver Post Charities
- City of Thornton



Ladies of the Growing Home Running Team, Dolores Ramirez, Kristen Raisch, and Charlene Shelton at a 3W summer race event. 3W supports Growing Home by being a part of our Building Homes Society and collecting food and hygiene items at races for the Food Pantry.

## JOB OPENINGS

Are you interested in joining Growing Home's growing team? Visit our website to learn about [Careers at Growing Home](#).

### Every penny counts!

Please consider making a gift to Growing Home today. Click here to [DONATE](#).

Thanks for reading and thanks for being a part of our Growing Home family.



## READ MORE

[Mile High Connects Grantee Highlight: Growing Home](#)

*For each new morning with its light,  
For rest and shelter of the night,  
For health and food, for love and friends,  
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

### GROWING HOME

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