

Growing Home

TRANSFORMING LIVES BY NURTURING CHILDREN,
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND CREATING COMMUNITY.



We envision our community working together so that all children and their parents can have a place to call home, food on the table, and the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Dear Friends,

2015 was an exciting year of growth and development here at Growing Home. We began the year by creating six new staff positions to better serve families and strengthen internal operations. After months of planning, our Board of Directors adopted Growing Home's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, a document to guide program delivery and growth into the future. With the help of an extraordinary and generous group of volunteers, we renovated the Food Pantry over the summer, vastly improving how we serve families visiting our food pantry and participating in the shelter program. We launched a redesigned website and introduced a new logo to better tell the stories of Growing Home and the more than 5,000 families we served. Those are just a few of the things that kept us busy last year! Here are some more highlights:

Blocks of Hope – Growing Home's initiative focused upon the Tennyson Knolls Elementary School community – successfully completed its initial year and began year two in August, 2015. Growing Home again gave away backpacks filled with school supplies to every Tennyson Knolls student who wanted one, along with other children living in our neighborhood – 1,300 in all. Our volunteer-led, after-school tutoring program expanded to serve both 1st and 2nd grade students in 2015.

We also published the results of our Blocks of Hope Community Survey, which we invite you to read in full on our website. The survey revealed both the shortcomings in available services which Blocks of Hope families navigate and the considerable strengths they display in family life, as they work hard to give their children every opportunity for success.

In May, I (Teva) was honored to receive the Livingston Fellowship award, allowing me to meet with and learn from innovative thinkers across the globe. I'm bringing those lessons and partnerships back to Growing Home where we can put them into practice. In the coming year, we will spend more time considering the underlying issues faced by many of the families we serve and working to become even better advocates in and for our community.

Each year, as we look back over everything we've accomplished, we are awed and humbled by the contributions of our 1,400 volunteers, our Building Homes Society members, our donors, our partners, our staff, and our community. If you haven't visited Growing Home in a while, we'd love to reintroduce you to our work and hopefully inspire you to join us – as a volunteer, an Ambassador, or a donor. Check out our website at www.growinghome.org, and while you're there, sign up for a tour!

Thank you all!

Sincerely,

Teva Sienicki, MA
President and CEO



Leslie Gonzalez, MEd
Chair, Board of Directors





GROWING HOME'S

Parents as Teachers (PAT) program

Growing Home's Parents as Teachers (PAT) program reached a huge milestone in 2016 by completing a three-year process of Quality Endorsement and becoming eligible to apply for Blue Ribbon Affiliate status. To earn the Quality Endorsement, affiliates must complete a comprehensive self-study and review process that demonstrates they are meeting or exceeding the Parents as Teachers Essential Requirements along with 75 of 100 Quality Standards. (Our PAT program met 97 of these!) Growing Home's application for Blue Ribbon status will be submitted in 2017 which, if awarded, will make Growing Home's PAT program only the second in Colorado to receive this prestigious designation. Thank you to our PAT team for all your hard work!

"I am very proud of the work of my team, not only because of the wonderful outcomes reached by the families, but the hard work that goes into maintaining fidelity measures that came in well above the national minimum."

Parents as Teachers is an evidence-based early childhood program operating in all fifty states that includes home visits, group meetings, health and developmental screenings, and building social capital. Parent Educators use the PAT curriculum to encourage positive parent-child interactions to help parents improve their parenting processes, prevent child abuse and neglect, and help prepare their kids for success in school. Evaluation of PAT programs shows that parents participating in PAT are more likely to encourage reading in the home, exhibit more confidence in their parenting abilities, and showed more use of positive parenting practices. Children whose parents participated in PAT demonstrated better readiness for school based on pre and post-tests, and fewer children whose parents participated in PAT were rated delayed or very delayed in school readiness proficiency assessments.

Olga Lopez, Manager of Growing Home's Parents as Teachers program, is very grateful for the efforts put in by her team to reach this milestone. "I am very proud of the work of my team, not only because of the wonderful outcomes reached by the families, but the hard work that goes into maintaining fidelity measures that came in well above the national minimum."

In addition to PAT services, families participating in PAT are able to access the full range of Growing Home's wraparound services including the Feeding Families Food Pantry, Canopy temporary housing program, homelessness prevention through rent/utility assistance, clinic for uninsured families, and the full range of Growing Home's evidence-based support programs for parents of children ages 0-9.



"Growing Home transforms lives by nurturing children, strengthening families, and creating community."

UNINSURED FAMILIES
RECEIVED FREE MEDICAL
CARE THROUGH GROWING HOME'S CLINIC

103

FAMILIES RECEIVED

HOLIDAY GIFTS THROUGH

GROWING HOME'S

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM

1,100
BACKPACKS FILLED WITH GRADE-APPROPRIATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES WERE DISTRIBUTED TO CHILDREN FROM 748 FAMILIES TO ENCOURAGE THEIR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

113
INDIVIDUALS (I

INDIVIDUALS (INCLUD-ING 55 CHILDREN) FROM 31 FAMILIES RECEIVED TEMPORARY HOUSING THROUGH GROWING HOME'S CANOPY PRO-GRAM STUDENTS AT TENNYSON KNOLLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTICIPATED IN AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

3,107
INDIVIDUALS FROM 849
FAMILIES RECEIVED A
THREE-DAY SUPPLY OF
HEALTHY, KID-FRIENDLY
FOOD AT LEAST ONCE IN
2016 FROM GROWING
HOME'S FEEDING FAMILIES FOOD PANTRY

RESIDENTS OF THE BLOCKS
OF HOPE NEIGHBORHOOD
WORKED WITH GROWING
HOME'S COMMUNITY
ORGANIZER TO IMPROVE
HOUSING, SAFETY, AND
QUALITY OF LIFE IN THEIR
NEIGHBORHOOD

483
CHILDREN FROM 427
FAMILIES WERE SERVED
THROUGH GROWING
HOME'S AWARD-WINNING PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM



Pay for Success Project

In 2016 Growing Home continued its Pay for Success project, which focuses on improving Growing Home's data collection and evaluation capacity. Although it does not sound exciting, this work represents a huge step forward for Growing Home's ability to demonstrate the impact of its programs. This effort was supported by an Evaluation and Impact Fellow, Willy Espinoza, who worked with the Chief Program Officer to develop a Theory of Change for the overall organization and logic models for each program area. These elements have become crucial to Growing Home's ability to show donors and grantmakers that our services and programs make a difference in the lives of the families we serve.

New Partnership for Growing Home's Clinic

This year Growing Home established a new partnership with Red Rocks Community College's Physician Assistant training program which will result in a new home for Growing Home's clinic and new professional volunteers to provide basic medical care and referrals for uninsured families. In 2017 Growing Home's pop-up medical clinic will be relocated to Growing Home's main facility on 72nd Avenue, which will make accessing basic medical care easier for uninsured families. Beginning in late 2017, Red Rocks' Physician Assistant students will work in the clinic, supervised by their practicum instructors and licensed medical personnel. Growing Home also plans to expand the clinic's operating schedule once this partnership becomes operational, so stay tuned for updates!

Day Center Renovation

Work began the weekend after Thanksgiving, when members of the Spirit of Christ Youth Group gathered to rip out the old (and worse) carpeting in the basement of the Lutheran Center, which Growing Home uses as a day center for families in the Canopy temporary housing program. The work on this project carried on throughout the holidays and was completed in mid-January, 2017. Scores of volunteers contributed time, energy, and considerable skills to lay 2,200 square feet of vinyl flooring; the project was financed through contributions from Spirit of Christ Church. Growing Home thanks the Smith and Garland families, Chuck Hutchcraft, Steve Schulte, Dave and Lu Rogers, and the many others who participated. The new floor looks great, and we literally could not have done it without you.

Community Organizing

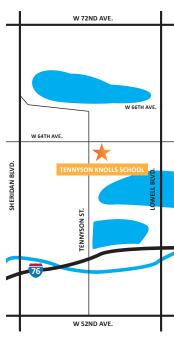
Growing Home's Community Organizer had a busy and productive 2016 as she worked with a total of seventy-one community members around the issues of affordable housing, raising the minimum wage to a living wage in partnership with the Colorado Families for a Fair Wage Campaign, and creating healthy play spaces for kids in a nearby apartment complex. Blocks of Hope residents came together and learned how to make their collective voices heard to city, county, and state legislators and decision makers. According to one Blocks of Hope community leader, Growing Home's Community Organizer has help to create a sense of community among neighbors, raise awareness of what's going on in the neighborhood, and build lines of communication leading to unification and trust among neighbors.

The Community Organizer also worked with Blocks of Hope residents to address the lack of available or affordable fresh produce by starting a community garden at Growing Home's Day Center. This project brought together people and other partner organizations from a wide variety of backgrounds, and serves as a focal point for community organizing and community-based efforts to deal with other social concerns.



Blocks of Hope

Art, backpacks, classes for parents, flu shots, and lots of after-school tutoring marked 2016 at Tennyson Knolls Elementary School, located within the Blocks of Hope neighborhood. A partnership between Growing Home and the Art Students League of Denver brought an eight-week art creation pilot program to first and second grade students at TKE, and some of their art was displayed at the Blocks of Hope Luncheon in April 2016. In fall 2016 Growing Home distributed more than 1,200 backpacks filled with school supplies to TKE students and families in the Blocks of Hope neighborhood, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of donors and volunteers. Families participating in other Growing Home programs such as Parents as Teachers were also eligible for free backpacks and grade-level appropriate school supplies. In fall 2016 Growing Home offered free flu shots at TKE and in the food pantry to help families stay healthy. Throughout 2016 Tennyson Knolls Elementary School also provided space for Incredible Years parenting classes, Cradling Literacy family reading workshops, and the Cafesito workshop series on healthy relationships that Growing Home offered in partnership with COLOR (Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights).



"In order to end poverty once and for all, we need to treat the root causes of the problem, not just the symptoms."

– Teva Sienicki



Teva's TEDx-MileHigh Talk

In October 2016 Teva Sienicki, Growing Home's President & CEO, gave a talk at TEDxMileHigh in which she challenged the audience to think differently about poverty. Her talk highlighted a teen whose family received services from Growing Home, who years later returned to Growing Home as an adult to access food pantry and shelter services for her own family. This encounter produced an 'aha' moment for Teva about the long-term consequences of growing up in poverty and reinforced the need for effective solutions to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Teva also discussed the well-documented gap in school readiness that exists between children who grow up in poverty and their middle-class peers, and the need for dual-generation approaches in anti-poverty work. Attendees found her talk powerful and motivating, and they appreciated her willingness to search for better solutions to poverty.

If you haven't had a chance to watch Teva's TEDxMileHigh talk, here's a link to the full video: https://youtu.be/ vvlozhvQPJw

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OUR MISSION IS TO GUIDE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES ON THE PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE. THIS MISSION LIES AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.

- 1. WE **RESPECT** AND CARE FOR THOSE WE SERVE AND FOR ONE ANOTHER. WE WELCOME DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND BACKGROUNDS.
- 2. WE FOCUS ON EFFECTIVENESS. WE EXPECT RESULTS, EVALUATE WHAT WE DO, AND RELY ON THE RESULTING DATA AND OUTCOMES FOR DECISION MAKING. WE DO WHAT WORKS AND DO IT WELL.
- 3. WE CREATE SPACE FOR LEARNING. WE ALWAYS STRIVE FOR OUR BEST AND EXPECT THE BEST FROM THOSE WITH WHOM WE WORK. ALONG THE WAY, WE HONOR MISTAKES AND IMPERFECTION AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH.
- 4. WE ENCOURAGE SHARED RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP. WE NURTURE COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP OF OUR MISSION AND WE WORK TO FOSTER CONFIDENCE IN EVERYONE WE TOUCH. WE WANT TO SHARE THE TOOLS FOR SUCCESS.
- 5. WE OPERATE WITH PROFESSIONALISM. WE DEMONSTRATE EXCELLENCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, RESOURCEFULNESS, CUSTOMER SERVICE AND COMPETENCE.
- 6. WE CULTIVATE INCLUSIVENESS IN ALL WE DO. WE TAKE THE TIME TO LISTEN, AND TO WELCOME AND VALUE THE RICHNESS OF DIVERSE COMMUNITY. WE COMMIT TO WORKING THROUGH THE TENSIONS THAT ARISE IN THE MIDST OF GENUINE COMMUNITY.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When New York City is plagued by paranormal phenomena in the movie Ghostbusters, we repeatedly hear that famous refrain, "Who ya gonna call?" When it comes to a smooth running Canopy Program, Growing Home's answer is: Lynn Smith.

Lynn and her husband, John, have helped Growing Home in many ways: they are members of Growing Home's legacy association, the Building Homes Society. Lynn routinely hosts two tables of ten at our annual fundraising luncheon. She has organized backpack and school-supply drives and toy drives at her place of work, Avaya, and routinely marshals more than a dozen co-workers to help Growing Home during our annual backpack and school supply drive. Lynn also serves on the Sustainable Funding Committee.

"When my family asked what I wanted for Christmas I told them, 'Your help in installing the new floor at the Day Center."

Lynn Smith has been a Growing Home volunteer for many years and came to Growing Home through her church, Cross of Christ, a faithful member of the Canopy program, which serves families in need of temporary housing. She has worked tirelessly, mostly behind the scenes and not looking for any credit, to recruit volunteers from her church – and from other churches – to cover shifts for a given week, to identify potential volunteers, and to improve the Day Center facility housed at the Rocky Mountain Lutheran Synod.

In 2016 alone, Lynn organized the effort to repaint the day center, remove tired carpeting, and install laminate flooring in its place. Not only did Lynn recruit skilled volunteers for installation, she also led the campaign to secure funding to cover the entire cost. The space was completely transformed. In late 2016, Lynn's husband and sons asked her what she wanted for Christmas. She replied, "Your help in installing the new floor at the Day Center." And they did!

Growing Home, and our Canopy program in particular with its complex association of churches, volunteers, and staff, would not be what it is without Lynn's service.

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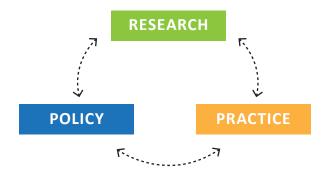
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Kathleen Drozda, Founder Emeritus Faith Community Nurse Coordinator, St. Anthony Health Campus North

MODEL FOR SUCCESS

Growing Home takes a comprehensive approach to building equality of opportunity within our community by combining research, practice, and policy. To ensure the most successful outcomes for Growing Home's families and community, Growing Home seeks to expand its high-quality, direct-service strategies while advancing thinking and systems change.



RESEARCH:

- Bringing the latest research from ivory tower to the classroom, home, and community.
- Developing quality programming to fill needed gaps.
- Evaluating data to ensure program effectiveness and support data-driven decision making.

PRACTICE:

- Delivering evidence-based programming, including Parents as Teachers, Cradling Literacy, and Incredible Years parent groups.
- Providing complimentary services to support families in overcoming immediate and long-term obstacles.
- Operating within targeted service areas, such as Blocks of Hope, to increase community impact.

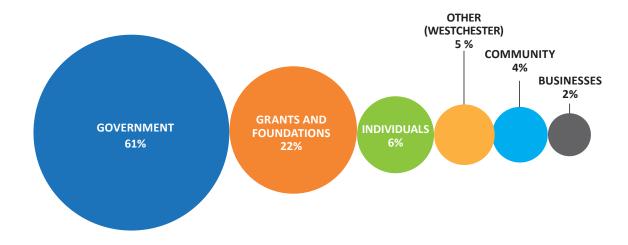
POLICY:

- Addressing systemic problems and inequitable systems through policy development and community engagement.
- Advancing discussions around necessary reform.
- Developing community leaders and inviting them around the table.

FINANCIALS

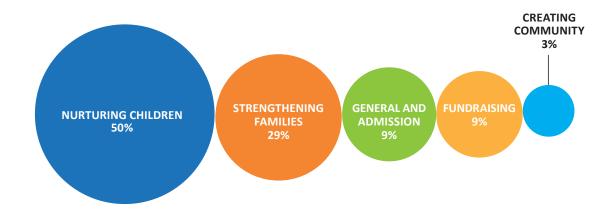
Revenue

ΤΟΤΔΙ	\$2 165 666	100%
Businesses	\$32,585	2%
Community	\$94,464	4%
Other (Westchester)	\$116,888	5%
Individuals	\$125,373	6%
Grants and Foundations	\$476,135	22%
Government	1,320,222	61%



Expenses

TOTAL	\$2,090,379	100%
Creating Community	\$72,381	3%
Fundraising	\$191,692	9%
General and Administration	\$195,760	9%
Strengthening Families	\$609,433	29%
Nurturing Children	\$1,021,113	50%





to come

to come

Angelica

Angelica enrolled in the Parents as Teachers program in 2015, and Lety was assigned as her Parent Educator. Aside from readying her one-year-old for school, Angelica's main goal was to improve the family's economic circumstances. Her first thought was to open a beauty salon in the community. Angelica had begun her studies in Mexico before immigrating to the United States. It was her dream to open her own salon.

Lety encouraged her to give it a try, and taught Angelica how to search on the internet to learn about proper licensing, permits, and a place to rent. Angelica launched her business out of her home, with neighbors as her first customers, and word spread of her talent. Angelica soon moved her salon out of her house and into a rented space in Westminster. Business is booming.

To show her gratitude, Angelica wanted to give back to Growing Home. In 2015 Angelica received gifts for her entire family from Growing Home's Adopt-a-Family program. In 2016, Angelica adopted a family of her own. Said Lety, "I didn't ask her to give back. It was Angelica's idea."

David

David is in the second grade at Tennyson Knolls Elementary School. He has difficulty with both reading and math. For the second year, David is being tutored by Growing Home volunteers, along with a group of fellow students who have been designated for special education. David's mother lives outof-state, and his father - while occasionally present in his life - is rarely home. David spends most of his time with his grandmother and great-grandmother.

David is easily discouraged by failure. When he approaches a task, his first response is, "I can't do it." But in February, he had a breakthrough. His tutor challenged him to finish one exercise. He did, and answered every problem correctly. His tutor then challenged him to finish the rest of the exercises, and David – excited now – was the first person in his group to finish them; once again, not an incorrect answer in the bunch.

According to his tutor, his confidence is growing by the week. David has started to help the other children in his group with their print-making in art class and says he is going to be an artist when he grows up. David has begun to love school.

Diane

Diane dotes over her two busy grandchildren, a 14 year old granddaughter and seven year old grandson. Their dad, Diane's son, works two jobs, leaving Diane as the primary caretaker. Even though Diane works in food service, she started coming to Growing Home's food pantry in 2015 to help make ends meet. While she was at the food pantry getting healthy food, she learned that Growing Home also offers a free medical clinic for families just like hers. Diane excitedly explained that she was always on her feet at work, and she'd wanted someone to look at her left knee for a long time because she was in constant pain. Diane has arthritis in both knees, and standing on her feet all day worsened her condition.

Diane came in a week later for her appointment at Growing Home's clinic, and she left with a big smile. Diane now gets free refills of her arthritis medications and, thanks to her family support specialist, she is now on Medicaid, is connected to a primary care physician, and is being evaluated for surgery.

Diane shared with us, "I feel so lucky that I came to Growing Home to get food that day. Now I might even get some new knees!" Diane is just one of the many clients Growing Home helped this past year, thanks to your support and that of many other generous donors.

Donors

Thank you to all who help make Growing Home what it is today!

Michelle Bettis

Steve & Ann Brandenburg

Community and Civic

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kNotcause Low Income Family Empowerment (LIFE) Northglenn United Methodist Church Richard A Seymour Insurance Sisters of Charity Spirit of Christ Community St. Mark Catholic Church Trinity Presbyterian Church

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United Methodist Church Westminster Presbyterian Church Westminster Rotary Wines for Humanity

United Methodist Women, Good

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Adams County Housing Authority, ESG

Adams County Community

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