FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Mary Oliver, an American poet, in her poem “Sometimes” gives us “instructions for living a life” –

Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

So simple a guide for living and yet so profound. Ultimately, it is about letting ourselves see the world with new eyes and allowing ourselves to be amazed by it.

I recently had the incredible experience of travelling to the Galapagos Islands which are six hundred miles off the coast of Ecuador. It is a place unlike any other on earth, made up of otherworldly volcanic islands with a remarkable collection of animals and plants that are found nowhere else on this planet. I could not help but pay attention and be astonished as I witnessed the Galapagos sea lions frolic in the surf, the marine iguanas scurry across the sand, and the giant tortoises lumber over the fields. Surrounded each day by creatures of the land and sea, I felt like I was in the midst of a vast spiritual cosmic community. As Pope Francis has said, “there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person’s face.”

“There is a mystical meaning to be found … in a poor person’s face.” This profound observation leads me to another experience last December that caught my attention and astonished me – Colorado Gives Day. While perhaps more ordinary than a trek to the Galapagos, this day was no less magical. You – and people like you – contributed abundantly so that Sister Carmen Community Center can continue its mission of assisting those in need. In this Annual Report you will read about Sister Carmen Community Center’s impact, programs, and services made possible by your willingness to share. Thank you.

So, with Mary Oliver’s recipe for life before us, I encourage myself and those reading this letter to open our eyes to that which is around us, to be astounded by it, to embrace all living creatures and nature in its beauty, and to discover the sacred in all people and all things. We will then be living our lives to the fullest.

Gratefully,

Kathleen Rimar
Board Chair

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Sister Carmen Community Center provides assistance to the residents of East Boulder County who are in need, without discrimination.

**WHO WE SERVE**

- **6,682** individuals served
- **34%** served are children
- **7%** served are seniors (65+)
- **2%** have a disability
- **23%** do not have health insurance
- **33%** are unemployed
- **4%** are retired or on a fixed income
- **25%** are single or divorced
- **55%** Female
- **44%** Male
- **<1%** Transgender

**OUR TEAM**

**STAFF**
- 26 full-time, 11 part-time
- 8 are bilingual
- 19% identify as non-white

**BOARD**
- 4 women, 8 men
- 17% identify as non-white
- 1 former participant

**VOLUNTEERS**
- Over 1,500 active volunteers, including groups
- 25,000 total volunteer hours
COMMUNITY & FAMILY EDUCATION

Our goal is to empower families by offering them the skills and resources they need in order to make positive changes both at home and in the community. We strengthen families through parenting education courses that are evidence-based and proven to help reduce child abuse and neglect. Through Bridging Digital Divides with BVSD and other area organizations, we offer digital literacy classes, internet access, and computer devices to families. We also offer civic engagement and leadership opportunities. Additionally, we’ve become a hub for professional development to support our staff and other Family Resource Centers by offering trainings on the Strengths-Based approach to service, the California Quality Standards of Care, Protective Factors, Motivational Interviewing, and the Family Development Credential.

Offered 6 Nurturing Parenting Classes, which empowered 72 parents of 102 children with new information on parenting skills and positive alternatives for discipline

Offered 13 Digital Divide Level 1 classes and 2 Level 2 classes. 221 participants attended Level 1, and 21 attended Level 2.

21 adults and 12 youth recruited for the Family Leadership Training Institute. 19 adults and 11 youth successfully completed the program

ADVOCACY

Our Advocacy Program is committed to strengthening individual, family, and community relationships through guidance that is one-on-one, culturally competent, and centered on the strengths and needs of the entire family. Our goal is to support healthy families and assist them in recovering from challenging experiences through access to coordinated resources, education, prevention, basic needs, and holistic support services.

1,976 individuals received advocacy services

Over $70,000 distributed to 155 families for utility assistance

$166,040.52 distributed to 278 families for mortgage or rent assistance

Supplied $34,420.50 in Thrift Store vouchers for essential items for families

543 individuals received bus tickets

I was previously a participant who came full circle from unemployed to employed. I love it here! I love what we do, the people we help. I can see what we do in the community every day and how it makes a difference.

BARB, SCCC STAFF MEMBER
An important aspect of regaining stability is consistent access to nutritious food, necessary medical care, and mental health counseling. Sister Carmen provides supportive services that can stop the downward spiral of a crisis situation so that families are not faced with the difficult decision about whether to buy food or pay for rent. We also offer nutritional classes and workshops about preparing healthy meals on a budget.

**FOOD**

1,152,173 pounds of food and household items distributed to 2,044 families

801 pounds of food harvested from our onsite community garden

5,435 pounds of food distributed to 87 families through our Kestrel satellite food pantry

**EXERCISE**

56 individuals attended 1+ classes

2 classes per week (Zumba and Yoga)

**EDUCATION**

42 individuals attended our Eating Smart, Being Active class for adults

Offered 5 4-week sessions, including 2 in English and 3 in Spanish

**OTHER HEALTH SERVICES**

90 individuals received onsite mental health counseling

Spent $21,772.80 on vision needs for 75 participants

51 adults and children received bikes
THRIFT STORE MURAL AND DEDICATION

Through a joint collaboration with the City of Lafayette, Arts! Lafayette, and Alley Art Amazin’, artists Jaime Molina and Pedro Barrios completed the beautiful mural “Colorful Community” on the west side of the Sister Carmen Thrift Store building. On August 27th 2019, we held a lovely open-to-the-community dedication party featuring a pop-up thrift shop, ice cream from local Eats & Sweets, music by Mariachi Voces Mexicanas, and ending with a monarch butterfly release.
Our terrific Craig Forman was very happy to receive his award for outstanding volunteer service to the organization! Since, 2015 Craig has volunteered in the food bank on Tuesdays and, as of 2017, he saw the need at our Thrift Store and stepped up to volunteer there as well. Since then, Craig has given over 550 hours of his time to Sister Carmen Community Center!

Every Thursday, Craig can be seen with a broom or mop in his hand at the Thrift Store. He always has a smile on his face, and is super welcoming to all of the new volunteers. Craig sees what needs to be done and takes action: sweeping, mopping, and even carrying a putty knife around just in case he needs to scrape gum off the floor! Craig is a very warm and friendly guy and Sister Carmen is a better place with people like him as our volunteers.

LEIDY PINEDA FLORES: FLTI YOUTH SERIES

Meet Leidy! Leidy was a graduate of the 2019 Family Leadership Training Institute Youth Series – the first FLTI youth cohort at Sister Carmen.

Leidy lives in Lafayette and, as a first generation Mexican-American, is a sophomore at CU Boulder, earning dual degrees in Environmental Studies and Political Studies. She hopes to go into law school or even nonprofit work herself one day. Leidy is a big advocate in her community, serving as a Program Coordinator for Nature Kids Youth Advisory Board. When not studying and serving the community, Leidy loves to go hiking and just be outside.

Inspired by her mother who completed the FLTI program 2 years ago, Leidy joined the FLTI youth program in 2019, focusing on environmental science for her project. She did an internship through Nature Kids Environmental Education Corp. Her goal was to bring awareness to opportunities in the environmental science fields to teens, especially Latinos and people of color. She was successfully able to get a few others to join field internships in the environmental science fields! Leidy said of the FLTI program, “I loved it so much! Especially that I got to see a lot of diversity in the program, especially by age: middle school, high school, and college students.”

One of Leidy’s favorite parts of the series was the Peace Circle, “We would close every session holding hands and would each say something about the day. It was a positive way to end the day and make us feel connected as community members.”
FINANCIALS

INCOME

- In-Kind Food & Personal Items: $2,318,664
- Donations (Individual, Foundation, Other): $1,650,506
- Thrift Store: $719,679
- Boulder County: $431,287
- Interest and Other: $18,140
- Gain on Disposal of Assets: $5,000

TOTAL: $5,143,276

EXPENSES

- Program Services: $4,065,699
- Thrift Store: $630,090
- Fundraising: $194,975
- Administration: $149,225

TOTAL: $5,039,989
THANK YOU TO OUR FY 2018 - 2019 SUPPORTERS!

Thank you to the following generous donors who each contributed over $1,000 to Sister Carmen Community Center during our past fiscal year!

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**Faith Groups**
- All Souls Church of Boulder
- Flatirons Community Church
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
- Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church
- St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church
- Unity Columbine Spiritual Center

**Government**
- Boulder County
- City of Boulder
- City of Lafayette
- City of Louisville

**Organizations**
- Boulder Valley School District
- Energy Outreach Colorado
- Family Resource Center Association
- Foothills United Way
- Jack and Sarah’s Charitable Fund
- Lafayette Lions Club
- The Colorado Trust
- WorkLife Partnership
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