



Update on CHUM/WHI

December 2020

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times."

How about these are **incredibly challenging times?**

March 5, 2012 was our very first night of operation of the Women's Homelessness Initiative, which is operated under the auspices of Capitol Hill United Ministries. We started with one woman, Maria, and most likely 10 volunteers who were ready to serve from the pots of warm soup cooking on the church stove. We were excited to open our new WHI shelter program.

March 20, 2020 was our last night of shelter with 25 women. It was a heartbreaking decision, as we then had to suspend the operation of WHI due to the COVID virus. In between those dates we served women, experiencing homelessness every night, not missing one night. With doors open at 14 congregational sites, and a cadre of over 1,000 volunteers, more than 73,000 cots were filled offering sanctuary and hospitality to women who were in need. We look forward to reopening in 2021.

The support from so many of our partners has been essential to our operation of shelter. CHUM/WHI now has their central work supporting 11 of the agencies who are still able to continue their services during the COVID crisis.

Being in this new reality, and not missing a beat, we channeled the energy and care of our congregational sites and volunteers and added new people to our efforts.

Here is a brief review of some of what this WHI/CHUM community of caring has done to this point:

- Supplying daily lunch bags for eight agencies for months.
- Creating 110 welcome bags for the women going to Rodeway Inn... in 1 day our team committed to the 15 items for 100 women on the list.
- A crew came together representing so many of our CHUM/WHI sites to fill and deliver the bags.
- WHI through our partner congregations bought and distributed hundreds of cases of water to 4 agencies, monthly.
- Since the suspension of WHI we have delivered almost 50 tons of asked-for supplies to 11 agencies every week, then every other week, since March 20th. Supplies are delivered to my porch and then transported by volunteers.
- Since our suspension we have given away over 6,000 face masks, most hand made.
- Most of our WHI sites have emptied their supply closets of needed WHI supplies and added them to be given away to other agencies.
- We led a letter writing campaign to contract motels and hotels for our women ... it is happening.
- We led a letter writing campaign to create safe encampments, the sites are beginning.
- We are supporting with breakfasts and lunches the first SOS (Safe Outdoor Space) site at 1st Baptist, which was one of our WHI Shelter sites
- Organized a special Christmas pancake breakfast for the two SOS sites.
- Created the "Bringing the Joy" Campaign to provide cards and money for 184 staff from 7 of our agencies to bring them joy and thanks.
- With our "Bringing the Joy" Campaign collecting funds and items for 7 agencies for their guests for the holidays, ie: gloves, glove warmers, lotions, books etc.

c/o Charlie Fiser, Treasurer
1100 Fillmore St.
Denver, CO 80206
Phone: 303-832-4188

MEMBER CHURCHES

Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church
10:30 Catholic Community
Ascension Episcopal Church
Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality
Central Presbyterian Church
Corona Church
First Baptist Church of Denver
First Unitarian Society of Denver
Metropolitan Community Church
of the Rockies
Montview Presbyterian Church
Mountain View United
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Park Hill UCC
Park Hill United Methodist
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
St. John's Episcopal Cathedral
St. Luke's Episcopal
St. Paul Lutheran and
Roman Catholic Community Church
South Broadway Christian Church
St. Paul United Methodist Church
Sixth Ave. UCC
Temple Micah
Ten-Thirty Catholic Community
Trinity United Methodist Church

ASSOCIATED AGENCIES & MEMBERS

EarthLinks
Colorado Vincentian Volunteers
CHARG Resource Center
Delores Project
Exempla St. Joseph Hospital
Karis Community
Lutheran Advocacy Office
Metro Caring
Network Coffee House
Open Door Ministries
Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Ctr.
SAME Café
St. Francis Center
The Gathering Place
Urban Servant Corps
Warren Village

DIRECTOR

Capitol Hill United Ministries
The Women's Homelessness
Initiative
Community Minister
Rev. Diana J. Flahive
303-832-4188
flahive@flahive.us

- Children and adults creating 184 Holiday Cards to thank the staff of agencies
- Organizing a cookie bake for a special Christmas gift for one of our agencies.
- Thousands of dollars of donations.
- And there is much more.

WHI worked with various churches for a 6-month reimagined opening of WHI... “Wintering at WHI.” Also, WHI will begin planning for our regular re-opening after the pandemic. So, all support will be gratefully accepted.

Our relationship with the Denver Community, organizations, groups, friends, and colleagues has been amazing. Hearts are open to support the work that Capitol Hill United Ministries and the Women’s Homelessness Initiative has been providing for our many agencies and those in need.

Being in this new reality, and not missing a beat, we channeled the energy and care of our congregational sites and volunteers.

In addition to the work with those experiencing homelessness, our 2020 CHUM focus was centered around how we can come together as community regarding the need of racial and social justice, education, and support. CHUM sponsored a Zoom Conference with writer and peace Activist John Dear, which was well received. We continue working on developing further programs on nonviolence, including a weekly reflection and prayer time led by Fr. Michael Nicosia. The beginning of 2020 started with planning an immigration information day and gathering some items to be taken down to the border.

Our WHI/CHUM team and volunteers offer their presence of self, soul, and passion.

I believe that where there is a willingness to serve, a passion for the work, and care for those being served ... so much is possible. Our CHUM participants have that willingness and passion. We are fortunate.

We were interviewed by CBS News.... <https://denver.cbslocal.com/2020/08/02/volunteers-create-care-packages-for-denver-homeless-women/>

Diana

Diana J. Flahive

Director CHUM and WHI

(303) 832-4188 (303) 257-8588 - cell

www.chumdenver.org



Women's Homelessness Initiative

Capitol Hill United Ministries is an interfaith organization comprising of churches and faith-based service agencies in Capitol Hill. Our mission is to be a spiritual presence and resource in the inner city of Denver, to practice hospitality, to advocate for our neighbors in need, and to strengthen and sustain our member communities, particularly through effective communication and cooperation, enhancing the ministry of all.

For financial donations, checks can be written to:
CHUM/WHI

Send to: Capitol Hill United Ministries
c/o Rev. Diana J. Flahive
624 Lafayette St.
Denver, Colorado 80218

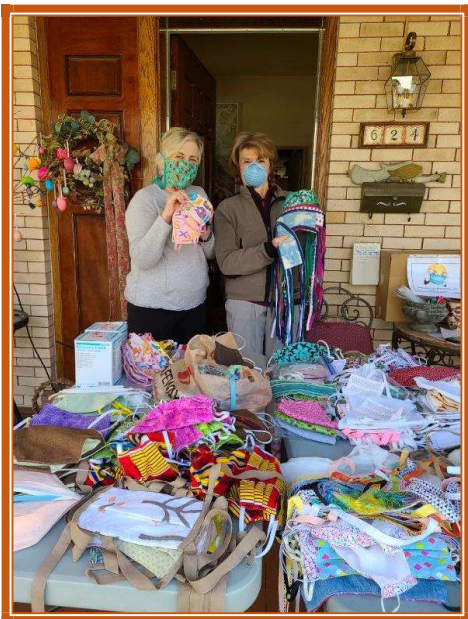
See photos below...



Beth McCoy hand made this banner from WHI facemask given away.



Diana Whitley... made 65 masks...just the other day... and they keep on coming....Thank you Volunteers made and we distributed over 5,000 face masks.



Maureen Hanrahan and friend with a plethora of handmade facemasks



Pat Smith and her husband's truck filled with 65 cases of water to distribute to agencies who are working with those experiencing homelessness.



Roz Heise... one of our Delivery Divas



Another Delivery Diva, Ally Bailey with her Russian Bear Helper



**Divas: Maureen Hanrahan and Sheila Norris...
Other DDs Deborah Horner, Barb Bouche, Inge and Tim, Carol
Timothy and Elizabeth, Marty, Kenton, Katie, Jean, Mercy**





1500 sandwiches made by many volunteers.



The Flahive



front

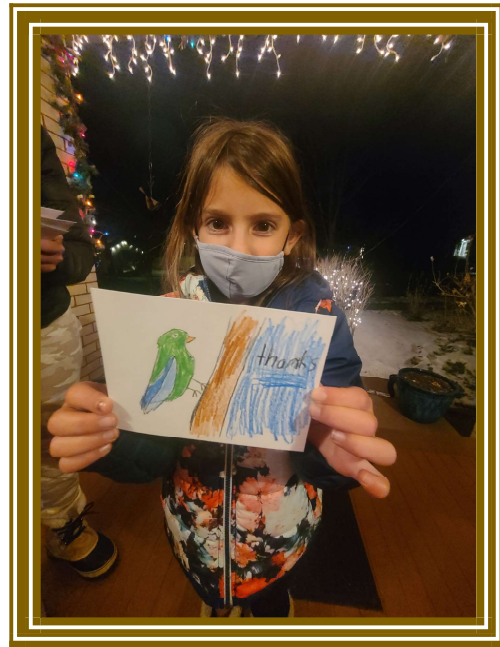
porch and yard packed with so many donations...and more in the house for delivery on Friday. The generosity of so many brings joy to so many more.



One of our many groups of lunch makers and the thousands of lunches made and delivered.



Yim family children with Tom Luehrs - ED SFC. They collected over 400 new water bottles for SFC.



Sloane, WHI Youth Ambassador for homelessness.



Sheila Duffy, Maureen Hanrahan, Peter, Bonaker, Johnathon (the chef) ... X.Mas B-fast SOS
Also helping Susie Pappas and family, Marty and Diana Flahive
Welcoming All in a Community of Diversity

Diana

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"The mind creates the abyss, the heart crosses it." Nisargadatta Maharaj