



## SEASON OF GIVING - THANK YOU PUEBLO!

The holiday season is always a great opportunity to see the kindness and giving side of our community. Every year, community programs work with the Infant/Toddler Program to donate food baskets, presents, and financial assistance to children and families in need.

This year, the students from the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program donated 30 Thanksgiving baskets for our families. It was so great to see all the students who are preparing to work in the direct services field care so much about the families we work with.

The Infant/Toddler Program has also been working with the staff members at the Department of Corrections for the past several years to provide Christmas presents for every child enrolled in the Early Intervention Program. The "Angel Tree" has become a tradition at DOC that many staff members look forward to fulfilling each year.

The Annual Bikers Toy Run is another great event that brings gifts for our children and their siblings each year. Families find themselves overwhelmed with their kindness and generosity to provide gifts for the entire family.

With all of the wonderful gifts that are brought to the Infant/Toddler center, the only task left is to deliver them. This year we are working with all the high schools in Pueblo to work with students as they provide a community service. Students will be learning about our program for early intervention and how important it is to support children and families in our community.

Every year, we are able to see, first hand, how wonderful and giving Pueblo is. Families are so grateful to receive the presents that are donated and those who donate also feel good about making the holiday bright for others. CBE is honored to be the link that brings the two together. Thank you to all that continue to care and support our families at CBE.

*Kristie Phillips, E.I. Director*

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# IN TOUCH

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*Fall 2011*

## FASHION RULES

Although the temperature outside was chilly the atmosphere inside the Union Depot on November 10<sup>th</sup>, was HOT! HOT! HOT! As more than thirty Colorado Bluesky fashionistas' strutted their stuff on the cat walk, donning holiday attire from area merchants.

With an estimated 300 plus people in attendance the Bluesky Adult Supported Services program (BASS) presented its fifth annual consumer fashion show to a capacity crowd of enthusiastic supporters. The Union Depot, generously donated for the event by Karen Madeo, was decked out in Christmas décor complete with twinkle lights and Christmas trees, holding to the aptly themed "Winter Wonderland" event.

When the idea for the fashion show was conceived five years ago, the goal was to bring in revenue and supplement ever shrinking program budgets at Colorado Bluesky's Supported Services program. Proceeds from the show made it possible for Bluesky staff to provide a Christmas party and gifts for Supported Services consumers, many of whom spend the holidays alone. However, as the event progressed, it was evident that gifts and parties took a back seat to the sense of pride and accomplishment on the faces of the participants when the audience rose to their feet and cheered as they strutted down the runway escorted by ROTC cadets from East High School, pausing at times to perform a favorite dance move or toss a jacket or scarf over their shoulder, super model style.

A welcome addition to the show this year was a performance by the newly formed "Bluesky Angels" choir from BASS under the direction of CBE Administrative Assistant Mariah Schofield. The choir practiced diligently for months to delight the audience with Christmas carols and choreographed dance steps to "Frosty the Snowman" and "Walking in a Winter Wonderland."



Much appreciation goes to the committed staff at BASS who work tirelessly every year to make this event a success. Behind the scenes they are selling tickets, rounding up donations and items for the auction, helping consumers shop for outfits and, in the end, ensuring everyone is dazzling and ready to go at show time.

In addition many thanks are due to everyone who contributed, participated, donated and supported the annual BASS fashion show. Although there are too many to mention in this small space, our heartfelt appreciation goes out to all; our community partners, businesses and individuals (many of whom have been with us from the beginning), staff from other CBE departments who volunteered their time and efforts to take tickets, serve food, and perform "other duties as assigned, particularly our very own "Vanna

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*CBE is an organization built on customer service by treating others with respect, integrity, and dignity. We empower families, consumers, and employees to achieve lifelong fulfillment.*

## CUSTOMER SERVICE STATEMENT

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### Mission Statement

*We believe all persons have the right to live, learn, and work in the community with the hope, dignity, choices, opportunities and responsibilities accorded all citizens.*

### Vision Statement

*CBE will be an innovative, diverse, consumer driven organization, and a model of excellence in the field of developmental disabilities. Our values will be reflected in every decision, relationship, and service we provide.*



**Executive Directors Report**

By

**Michael F. Atlas-Acuña**



As we come to the end of 2011, I would like to recap some of the changes that have occurred over the year and what we will be looking forward to in 2012.

CBE has had a good year, considering the continued changes to Medicaid and of course ever increasing budget issues at the state level.

The year began with a focus on "Person Centered Planning." For those of you who are not familiar with this term, it defines a process-oriented approach to empowering people with disabilities. It focuses on the people and their needs by putting them in charge of defining the direction for their lives, not on the systems that may or may not be available to serve them. In January 2011, I was fortunate enough to be included in a training session at the University of Delaware. This leadership training was specifically geared towards individuals working with persons with developmental disabilities and discussed coming changes in service models and the need for Person Centered Planning. I was greatly inspired and motivated by what I learned in this training and as a result CBE has started focusing on Person Centered Planning by revisiting our values, vision and developing Customer Service statements. Additionally, CBE was involved with Colorado Alliance, which sponsored a "Focus On The Future" project that included "Person Centered Planning" as one of their major recommendations to the state as they consider system redesign.

CBE also re-organized its Case Management and Early Intervention Departments with the goal being to improve our services to consumers and service agencies. Another significant improvement has been upgrading our computer technology which is improving our ability to be more efficient and accessible to our customers. Some of these changes include; development of an online referral process, updating our website, and upgrading our current billing systems.

Finally, CBE held two significant events in 2011. The Quality Improvement Department hosted our 35<sup>th</sup> annual Inservice and Training Day for CBE staff. This is a much anticipated event at CBE, and this year's event, which focused on "Person Centered Planning," did not disappoint. In addition, CBE's Supported Services Department put on their annual consumer fashion show. Kudos, to the Supported Services staff for all of their hard work in coordinating the event, and a heart-felt "thank-you" to those of you who attended and to the generous community donors who helped make this year's event a success.

At the state level, we were recently informed that the Governor has included 173 new resources to the Developmental Disabilities system. As you would expect, this is great news during these difficult economic times. The other significant changes coming our way are moving the Developmental Disabilities System from the Department of Human Services to Health Care Policy & Finance and changes to the three Regional Centers in Colorado. We have the Pueblo Regional Center in our community so this will have an impact, specifically on Colorado Bluesky Enterprises since we provide Case Management services for those individuals. While we have had a successful year it has been challenging and we are anticipating 2012 to be equally, if not more challenging.

My final comment is for our readers to consider Colorado Bluesky Enterprises as you begin to think of making donations to non-profits for 2011. We have many families who need assistance with respite and home modifications and your donations help us meet those needs. So please complete the donation form enclosed in this issue of In Touch.

Thanks to all for supporting our mission and Happy New Year.

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White," Resource Coordinator Amy Rassmussen, who tantalized the crowd with glimpses of items to be auctioned, CBE volunteer Virginia Medina, who always goes above and beyond for our consumers, Pueblo area service agencies who provided various services, Lila Hollin from KRDO, this year's master of ceremonies, who added an additional spark of elegance to the festivities and Todd Ogeden, our enthusiastic and very persuasive auctioneer.

We have been very fortunate to have some wonderful people who have made such a great effort to support the work we do. Our first fashion show took place in a small room at Colorado Bluesky's Infant Toddler Center, but thanks to your support we quickly outgrew that room and have expanded to larger venues to accommodate larger audiences and we anticipate next year's show to be even bigger.

We are extremely grateful to you all for making the BASS fashion show a smashing success and we look forward to seeing you all at next year's show. Keep an eye on our website, [coloradobluesky.org](http://coloradobluesky.org), for event updates, photos and a complete list of all of our donors. Happy Holidays!

*Terri Martinez, Adult Services Director*



**SUMMER/FALL 2011 DONATIONS**

**EARLY INTERVENTION**

- \$500 - \$1,000**  
Pueblo Kawanis Club Foundation
- \$100 - \$500**  
Pueblo Elkettes  
Jan & Dave Kewecki  
Mel & Heather Otero  
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Art & Patty Martinez  
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Jerry Jackson

**HOLIDAY HOPE DRIVE**

- Tracey Apodaca

**IN KIND**

- Caroline Rosales

**FOUNDATION**

- \$100 - \$300**  
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Dave Greenway  
Mike Atlas-Acuña  
Helen Atlas-Acuña  
Dennis & Evelyn Flores  
B. Blickenstaff, BMB Group  
Rosalie & Mary Oreskovich
- \$10 - \$99**  
Anthony & Barbara Bravo  
Paul & Maxine Palermo  
Pamela Jenkins  
Don & Janet Thornton  
Mark & Diane Odell  
Robert Freeman

**FOUNDATION (Cont'd)**

- John & Ouita Harr  
Robert & Delores Ward  
Joseph & Marie Marcovecchio  
Calvin & Donna Noguchi

**BASS**

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- \$100 - \$500**  
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M. E. & S. L. Brown  
Greenway & Associates  
Pueblo County  
Joseph & Caroline Rosales
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