

OUR Center

Vision

We will be recognized as a leader in transforming people's lives by joining them in reaching their potential.

1986
Established

Serving
**St. Vrain Valley
School District
Area**

37
Staff

Mission

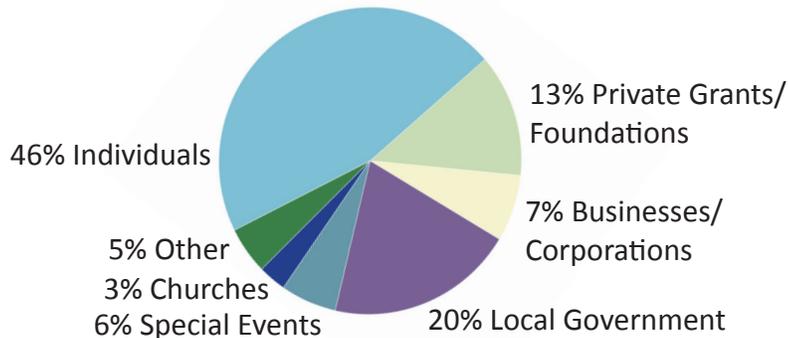
OUR Center helps people move toward self-sufficiency by unifying community resources.

\$2,136,240
2017-2018 Budget

5,500
families served annually

501(c)3
Org structure

Types of Funding



Key Programs

Child Care
Clothing Bank
Homelessness Prevention
Food Pantry & Meals

Serving Our Community

According to the Self Sufficiency Standard for Colorado (2016), due to the very high cost of living in Boulder County (which includes Longmont), it requires more money and resources to be self-sufficient, for any size household, than in nearly all other counties in Colorado. Through two main programs, Basic Needs and Aspen Center for Child Development, OUR Center serves approximately 9,500 participants (unduplicated) each year in Longmont and adjacent communities, more than 95% of whom live in households with incomes that are extremely low- and very low- income. Due to the high cost of housing in Longmont in particular, many vulnerable residents are facing displacement out of the community and into adjacent counties, away from their jobs, their neighbors and their children's schools; and those households that lack the resources to relocate are at risk of becoming homeless. We work hard to help these families remain housed in our community, by providing rent and/or utility assistance, landlord-tenant mediation, budget counseling, intensive case-management services, referrals to transitional and/or supportive housing, and, as a supplement to overall monthly income, free hot meals, groceries, clothing, and affordable 5 star Colorado Shines-rated preschool services. In addition, we offer full wrap-around services for our participants, including Nurturing Parenting classes, Getting Ahead classes, nutrition classes, professional culinary training, financial skills classes, LENA early childhood literacy classes, family leadership development training, health and wellness classes such as yoga and meditation, art classes, on site dental care, nursing care, bilingual mental health services, and even support for household pets.



Highlights

In 2017, OUR Center conducted 25,634 interviews with individuals seeking assistance; provided 61,380 items of clothing; served 107,600 hot meals; distributed 1,000,569 pounds of groceries; provided 323 households with utility assistance and 160 with rent vouchers; provided 10 families with emergency shelter; provided 68 children with affordable, premium preschool services; and provided hundreds of homeless individuals with laundry and shower vouchers, voice mail and phone service, transportation to shelter, and with all other basic needs as listed previously. In 2017, OUR Center became a member of FRCA and gained nearly two dozen service partners, some co-located on site, who served more 3,000 OUR Center participants with legal services, reentry services for those exiting the prison system, health screenings, dental services, nutrition classes, Nurturing Parenting classes, sexual assault support, art therapy for those with mental illness, free books for young children, and wellness services (yoga, meditation), among other services. In 2017, OUR Center was awarded the Longmont Area Chamber of Commerce Carla O’Boyle Nonprofit of the Year, and Consumers United Association’s Right on the Money Award for Excellence in Financial Education.

Family Success Story



After divorce, Jamie, 38, faced homelessness with her boys, ages 15 and 12. They lost their housing because she could no longer afford it by herself, and they were homeless for a year. She lost her job during this time as well. “I felt unsure and helpless and thought, ‘What are we going to do?’” Jamie thought of leaving Colorado, but her boys had grown up with the same friends since kindergarten. “I didn’t want to pull them out of a safe place. We were already established here.” She heard about OUR Center and started using the food and clothing bank. “They were able to help me with first month’s deposit and several months of rent.” She took financial skills classes which helped her get back on track financially. She found a job and says she is finally starting to improve her situation. Jaime says that her experience with OUR Center was life-changing. “I don’t know if we would have been able to stay in Longmont. I don’t even know where we would be right now without the OUR Center.”



How You Can Help

Hats, Gloves & Warm Socks

Personal Hygiene Products

Canned Meat & Canned Fruit

Donate: www.ourcenter.org/donate

Volunteer!

