



## **TSC 2013 Annual Report - Message From Cindy Morse, President, Board of Directors**

2013 was a year of change for the Teller Senior Coalition (TSC). TSCs' most significant change is that following an extensive search we have hired a new Executive Director. Our new Executive Director has had years of management experience in both the corporate and nonprofit worlds and brings with her an abundance of new and creative ideas to streamline office procedures in order to better serve our growing senior population. She is committed to increase the visibility of TSC so that the seniors in Teller County become aware of our services. Her priority is to make life as a senior a positive and rewarding experience. We welcome Barbara Berger and expect great things from her as she leads TSC forward in 2014.

As our scope of work has grown over the last few years, the need for a larger office space with an area for confidential conversations became apparent. Four employees, four desks, clients stopping in to chat, volunteers getting assignments --- all this chaos plus the regular TSC daily operation was taking place in a space of less than 300 sq ft. With the new Executive Director working out of a shopping bag dragged from home to office, we knew that we would have to relocate ASAP; the search was on! As 2013 came to a close, boxes were packed with anticipation of a move to a more suitable location. Spoiler alert for the 2014 Annual Report – we moved in February!

Another new addition to the staff is Donna Finicle, LCSW/BCD. She is a clinical social worker and is working for TSC as a repite care giver counselor. She makes home visits and has family consultations and we are extremely fortunate that she has decided to work with TSC. As a veteran herself, she has worked extensively with the returning wounded warriors and is the Executive Director of Welcome Home Warrior.

This year also saw another change, the passing of Vivian Giesler in October at the age of 94. Vivian Giesler, along with Roberta Winn and a small group of concerned seniors, formed the Teller Senior Coalition in 1996. She served on the TSC board until 2011. She and Roberta worked tirelessly to secure services for seniors in Teller County. It is because of their hard work that TSC grew from an idea into the non-profit we are today, meeting the needs of over 500 seniors in our county. To celebrate her life and work with seniors, we are having a plaque made to commemorate her service which will be located in our new office.

Fortunately for TSC, not all things change. Whether on the road, in the office, or in the Senior Center, Gerry Coulter, Leni Stevenson, and Linda Sprardlin continue to be dedicated members of the TSC staff. They are the foundation on which we build.

2014 will be a year of continued growth with the introduction of new services vital to our 'silver tsunami' of senior citizens that are sure to make more demands on our services. We have to stay flexible in what we offer as they make their needs known. YAY, the boomers are here!! I can't wait!

### **Mission Statement**

To provide services to the Teller County senior citizens to enable them to live full, active, and independent lives with dignity and independence.

## Narrative

Teller Senior Coalition exists to improve the lives of seniors living in Teller County. Our services make it possible for seniors to live independently at home and to remain active members of our community and county for as long as possible. We do not charge a fee for the services we provide but suggest donations to offset our costs. No service is ever denied a client due to an inability to pay.

Our outreach services support the complex and diverse nature of Teller County providing transportation, meals, respite care services and access to social activities in our rural county that encompasses 599 square miles. Support for our veterans and legal assistance is also available through TSC.

Nothing tells the story better than testimonials about how we make a difference in our senior's lives:

*Maggie, at 65 was a victim of spousal abuse that left her with a closed head injury, PTSD symptoms, and impaired memory that left her unable to navigate services that could assist her. Through involvement with the Coalition, she received help to apply for spousal retirement benefits, had transportation made available to help with her appointments and access to the Rural Aid Program. She recently reconnected with her sons through the support and help of her counselor.*

*We serve Golden Circle meals on week days. This is an opportunity for our seniors to not only get a hot, nutritious meal but to also have a chance to interact with other people. It is wonderful to hear the conversations and the laughter. We know that we are helping these seniors to live full and active lives.*

Our success is due to the commitment and dedication of our paid staff as well as a variety of volunteers who donate their skills and talents in many of our day-to-day activities. They bring the "heart" to what drives the Coalition. People like:

- Gerry Coulter, the 2012 Woodland Park Employee of the Year, who many know as our Transportation Manager/Coordinator. He has worked with the Coalition for 13 years, providing transportation for seniors as well as delivering frozen and shelf stable meals to those that are homebound.
- Leni Stevenson, Case Manager, has been with the Coalition for 5 years. She meets individually with every applicant to identify the services that TSC can provide to best support their needs. She assists in solving debilitating personal issues that significantly impact their lives and is tasked with the responsibility of addressing their personal concerns often using the help of Colorado Social Services or other agencies.

TSC is able to provide a wide range of services. At TSC, seniors can purchase Ensure at a reduced price to support their nutritional needs. We have an active group of volunteers who are an essential part of TSC. Many of our volunteers are seniors themselves who find joy in helping other seniors. We have a handyman crew: a group of volunteers who are on call to take care of minor home repairs and install safety devices for clients. Volunteers also work in the Senior Center assisting with lunch tickets for the Golden Circle Meals.

Our respite services provide a break to caregivers from their caregiver responsibilities. This gives them the opportunity to attend to their own personal needs and have a change of venue. Our dedicated staff and volunteers bring support and fellowship to our seniors at the Senior Center or whenever we interact. Our success depends on our workers and volunteers, and on their unceasing diligence and dedication. We appreciate all who work and volunteer at TSC.

## Services

**Transportation:** We provide transportation to seniors 60 and above and to disabled qualified citizens who need assistance to medical appointments and other essential services.

**Daily Hot Meals:** In conjunction with the Golden Circle Meal Program, we offer hot lunches at the Senior Center in Woodland Park.

**Rural Area Meals:** Seniors may qualify for delivery of frozen or shelf-stable meals. Contact TSC to determine eligibility.

**Nutritional Supplements:** TSC offers Ensure by the case at a discounted price.

**Caregiver Support:** To support caregivers, TSC offers a modest stipend to pay a Respite Provider to care for your loved one (60 or older) while they take a needed break. In addition, we offer the services of a professional counselor.

**Handyman:** We have local volunteers that improve home safety by making minor repairs or by installing safety devices, such as shower grab-bars.

**Case Management:** Our senior services advisor serves as a senior advocate, assesses seniors' needs, and refers seniors to services provided through TSC programs and other available community resources that strengthen seniors' abilities to remain independent in their homes.

**Veterans Services:** Information and appointments can be coordinated through our office.

**Legal Aid:** At this time, services are monthly by appointment only.

## Service Impacts

In 2013, we provided the following services:

- **11,015** miles were driven to transport clients
- **3,509** Golden Circle Lunches were served
- **147** cases of Ensure were provided for no cost or for our cost
- **5,649** meals were delivered
- **58** Caregivers were provided with counseling services
- **70** Caregivers engaged our Respite Providers to give them a well-deserved breaks
- **3,357** Hours were donated by volunteers



Geri, on the left, has been one of our volunteers for 10 years. Linda, on the right, is one of our meal site managers for our Golden Circle meals.

## To Continue To Provide These Services, We Need Your Help

### Volunteer and Make a Difference

If you have time, we could use your help as a volunteer helping to facilitate the Golden Circle meal program or to help us in the office.

### Your Donation is More Important than ever

Your donation will help make a difference in the lives of our seniors and help keep them in their homes where most of them would prefer to be.

To make a donation online, go to [www.tellerseniorcoalition.org](http://www.tellerseniorcoalition.org) or mail a check to:

Teller Senior Coalition  
P.O. Box 6956  
Woodland Park, CO 80866

### *What's next?*

With over 500 clients using our various services, we have been limited in the past to grow as an agency due to physical workplace restraints and a lack of personnel to provide the services that our community requires. Within the last month, TSC has been able to hire an additional driver so that we can transport people five days a week instead of four. This enables us to better serve clients that we weren't able to assist previously.

Our new office suite has a conference room where our counselor can meet clients privately, in other than the clients' home. The conference room also provides a location for inter-agency meetings and our monthly board meetings. The space can be utilized by volunteers to work and the Colorado Legal Services to conduct their consultations. In the future we hope to be able to provide presentations to seniors or their caregivers on topics relevant to their needs and I am sure that we will find a myriad of uses for the space as we continue to grow our operation.

Teller Senior Coalition Has Moved!  
750 E. Hwy 24, Bldg. 2, Suite 100  
Woodland Park, CO 80863



Our phone number has not changed.  
719-687-3330  
For information about our  
services, call or stop by.