



# Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

## January 2022

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### **JEY LAWSON AND HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FELLOW UNION MEMBERS ONCE AGAIN PLAY A LARGE ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHN CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM**



CWA Local 7708 union member Jey Lawson and Telephone Pioneers member Nancy Imhoff are shown in front of the SCHN conference room table that is full of gifts for the annual SCHN Children’s Holiday Gift Program. The gifts were purchased by Jey and other union members, Telephone Pioneers, Blush Dry Bar Salon employees, and several other donors.

Jey Lawson has become quite the celebrity around these parts (these parts being the SCHN Colorado Springs office), especially in December. His SCHN celebrity status is the result of his annual determination to spearhead a volunteer effort to purchase gifts for the majority of kids in the SCHN Children’s Holiday Gift Program.

When Jey pulls into the SCHN back door parking lot with children’s holiday gifts galore in early December, smiles and tears of joy appear on the faces of SCHN staff members. The staffers know that the gifts will also bring about smiles and joy to SCHN clients and their children quite soon.

Jey and his helpers had 38 kids on their shopping list this year. Jey’s union, the Communications Workers of America Local 7708 (AFL-CIO), and its members have been SCHN/SCAP Children’s Holiday Gift Program sponsors for nearly two decades and Jey has been the union leader of this effort for six years in a row.

This year, along with other union members, Jey received help from Blush Dry Bar Salon employees (Brandi Martinez, owner), Telephone Pioneers, family members and family friends. In addition to the Jey troops, SCHN staff members and MOMs group members (Dorina and Vicki Hamilton) contributed to the program.

The Plains and Peak Telephone Pioneers of Colorado Springs also donated two bags full of handmade “Hug-A-Bears” to give to the children. The Hug-A-Bear is designed to give children a bit of comfort. The Telephone Pioneers also donated personal care items to the SCHN food pantry.

These generous and kind donations by Jey and the other sponsors are sincerely appreciated by SCHN clients and staff and never taken for granted. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**



Two bags full of “Hug-A-Bears,” handmade and donated by The Plains and Peak Pioneers of Colorado Springs, were given to kids who were part of this year’s SCHN Children’s Holiday Gift Program.

## Chamberlain Ewuzie Joins the SCHN Case Management Team

Chamberlain Ewuzie has joined SCHN as a Medical Case Manager in the Colorado Springs office. Chamberlain adds value to the Network and community with many years of training and experience in pioneering and managing non-profits especially in the areas of homelessness, addictions, mental health awareness, special education, and human resources. Chamberlain is detail oriented and a team player in serving the community through research, advocacy, fundraising, networking, direct contact with at risk populations, and grassroots campaigns.

Chamberlain holds a B.Ed. in Guidance & Counseling/Political Science from Anambra State University of Science & Technology, Awka, Nigeria, and two masters degrees (MA- Mental Health & Wellness and M.Sc.- Addictions Counseling) from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Chamberlain is also an alumnus of Charis Bible College, Colorado Springs (now in Woodland Park), Colorado. He is currently seeking doctoral level training in the areas of counseling, training and supervision. Chamberlain's passion is to help in bridging the gap between different worldviews that impact community outreaches and communities affected by addictions, poverty, mental health issues, and paucity of needed infrastructure. His hobbies and self-care practices include the outdoors, cooking, music, movies, research, online shopping, and Family!!!



### Why Did Chamberlain Join SCHN?

“The community outreach work of SCHN has literally impacted every area of my life, which created a passion and longing to reach out to others who need information, community resources, and encouragement to navigate the ever changing and challenging terrain of health care management. I like to see the sparkle in the eyes of those who seemed hopeless for lack of knowledge of their personal and community resources, when they are equipped with such knowledge, and empowered to find meaning, purpose, and fulfillment in life. SCHN has been and will remain a family and a resource center for community growth. I'm honored, privileged, and challenged as I pick up and run with the SCHN torch of liberty.”

## Applications Now Being Taken for the Colorado Springs Utilities Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP); Program Ends in April, 2022



The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) for 2021-22 started November 1, 2021, and runs through April 30, 2022. LEAP is designed to help eligible low-income households with winter home heating costs and is available to all individuals meeting certain financial guidelines.

If you applied last year, you should have received the 2021-22 application in the mail. If you did not apply last year and would like to apply this year, your SCHN case manager can mail you an application, or you can call 1-866-432-8435 to receive an application. LEAP does not pay the entire cost of home heating. If qualified, you will receive a one-time payment sometime between 11/1/21 and 4/30/22.

For additional information, call 1-866-432-8435.

Other Colorado Springs Utilities flexible payment plans and assistance programs such as Home Efficiency Assistance Program (HEAP) and Project COPE are available to customers. Visit [csu.org](http://csu.org) or call 719-448-4800 to learn more. You can also call 2-1-1 for a referral for utilities bill assistance and other essential services.

## **FOOD, LIGHT BULB DONATIONS HELP BRIGHTEN THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN SCHN PUEBLO OFFICE**

Twenty-three turkey dinners were donated by the Bessemer Food Pantry to the SCHN Pueblo Food Pantry for distribution to both Ryan White and Access Point clients for Thanksgiving.

Clients who picked up boxes were very appreciative and happy to receive the dinner. The SCHN staff extends a heartfelt thank you to Brandi Adakai and her staff for the donation.

The SCHN Pueblo office also received a donation of 10 cases of energy efficient light bulbs from Love's Inc. on behalf of Black Hills Energy. For anyone needing to replace light bulbs, please feel free to stop by the SCHN Pueblo Office between the hours of 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

And as always, please visit the SCHN Pueblo food pantry. Food pantry hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

On behalf of the SCHN Pueblo staff, we wish everyone a very safe and Happy New Year!!

### ***HEALTH ACCESS/INSURANCE UPDATE***

Clients with Marketplace insurance: please keep an eye out on your mail-and open all mail that comes from your insurance provider or a medical provider! If CHN is paying for the premiums of your marketplace plan, you will need to submit your January 2022 invoice to a Health Access Program Coordinator, Kelly or Carly. Without these invoices, CHN is not able to confirm that your enrollment went through properly. Please send a photo or copy of your January 2022 invoice for your marketplace plan ASAP. If you receive a medical bill in the mail, please submit it to CHN as soon as possible to prevent collections notices.

Clients with employer insurance: many employer plans turn over into a new plan year on January 1st. If your plan with your employer has renewed, please send the updated summary of benefits and premium rate information for 2022 to [denverassistance@livant.org](mailto:denverassistance@livant.org) or to your Health Access Program Coordinator.

**FEBRUARY 7**

**NATIONAL  
BLACK  
HIV/AIDS  
AWARENESS DAY**

LET'S STOP HIV TOGETHER | Ending the HIV Epidemic

**MARCH 10**

**NATIONAL  
WOMEN & GIRLS  
HIV/AIDS  
AWARENESS DAY**

LET'S STOP HIV TOGETHER | Ending the HIV Epidemic



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## In-Person Luncheon Slated for National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Save the Date! March 10 is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NWGHAAD). Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN) is joining this campaign to increase awareness, spark conversations, and highlight the work being done to reduce HIV among women and girls in the United States while showing support for those with HIV. SCHN will host a Women and Girls Luncheon on March 10, 2022 to share highlights and unite with our community in showing support. Time and location are TBD.

**National Women  
and Girls HIV/AIDS  
Awareness Day**



#NWGHAAD

Did you know: Though HIV diagnoses among women have declined in recent years, more than 7000 women received an HIV diagnosis in the United States and dependent areas in 2018. PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) is highly effective for preventing HIV from sex or injection drug use, and only 7% of women who could benefit from PrEP were prescribed PrEP in the US in 2018.

## For Now, An In-Person Red Ribbon Ball Is Planned for April 9, 2022



Save the Date! The Red Ribbon Ball is a premier southern Colorado annual gala benefitting Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN). This year's Red Ribbon Ball will take place the evening of April 9, 2022, at the Antler's Hotel, located downtown Colorado Springs. This celebration is a time to reflect on the incredible gains we have achieved together as a

community in the fight against HIV/AIDS. It is a time to remember those we have lost as well as look to the future of how we can successfully adapt to the changing face of HIV in Southern Colorado.

SCHN staff are excited to have you join us to celebrate with an outstanding evening of delightful dining, inspired fundraising opportunities, a silent auction, and (of course) outrageous dancing! This high energy evening helps support services and programs that impact those living with and at risk of acquiring HIV.

### Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them. **Tuesday & Thursday**  
**10am-12:00pm & 1:30pm-4:00pm**  
Southern Colorado Health Network  
807 N. Greenwood St., Ste 200  
Pueblo, CO 81003



719-621-1105

### Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter!

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<https://www.facebook.com/SoColoAIDSProj>

