The Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN) was once again selected to be part of the annual Give! Campaign. Give! is a year-end (November-December giving period) philanthropic initiative created by the Colorado Springs Independent to encourage everyone in the Pikes Peak region to give back and get involved with local nonprofits.

The Give! Campaign enables SCHN to highlight its mission of meeting the evolving needs of people throughout southern Colorado affected by HIV and other health conditions and also provides SCHN with the opportunity to raise funds in order to support all SCHN programs and services.

SAVE THE DATE: RED BALL 2022

December 2nd, 6:30-10pm
Asterisk Denver
1075 Park Avenue W, Denver, CO 80205

The Colorado Health Network Red Ball aims to create an evening that unites the creative minds of Denver with the advocates of our organization. This event is a collaboration of artists and activists, stylists, and social workers all coming together in support of one incredible cause.

This year’s Red Ball includes a high-energy fashion show to ignite awareness for World AIDS Day, so we as a community can come together to ignite a greater awareness for those impacted by HIV, both past and present.

Go to https://coloradohealthnetwork.org/events/red-ball/ for more information.

SCHN WILL AGAIN BE PART OF THE GIVE! FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

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https://givepikespeak.org/nonprofit/southern-colorado-health-network/
CHILDREN’S GIFTS, FOOD BASKETS AND FOOD CARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED DEC. 13-22

Eligible Colorado Springs area clients who signed up for the SCHN Children’s Holiday Gift Program will be able to pick-up the gifts from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on week days from December 13-22 at the Colorado Springs office. Colorado Springs area clients who signed up for a food basket can pick it up from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on week days from December 13-22.

Eligible SCHN Children’s Holiday Gift Program clients in Pueblo and other southern Colorado service areas can pick-up the gifts during this same time frame (Dec. 13-22) by making arrangements with their case manager. SCHN clients in Pueblo and other southern Colorado service areas will be mailed holiday food gift cards during this same time frame.

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) Started on November 1

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) for 2022-23 got underway on November 1. 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 2022-23 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 November 1, 2022, and April 30, 2023. For additional information, call the toll-free LEAP line listed above in paragraph two.

WORLD AIDS DAY—DECEMBER 1

Each year on December 1, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the globe unite to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

Each World AIDS Day focuses on a specific theme or themes, which this year will be both "Equalize" and "Global solidarity, shared responsibility." The themes join a growing list of challenges that World AIDS Day has alerted people to globally.

A public event including a candlelight vigil will be held on December 1 to support our community and remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses.

SCHN will be uniting with local universities to host 2 HIV testing events, one at CSU- Pueblo's Wolfpack Wellness Center and the other at UCCS on December 2 in support of World AIDS Day.

Details to come at: www.coloradohealthnetwork.org/events/ Join us for these events!

There is still a critical need for increased funding for the AIDS response, to increase awareness of the impact of HIV on people’s lives, to end stigma and discrimination, and to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV.
HEALTH ACCESS/INSURANCE UPDATE

Open Enrollment is beginning November 1st and runs through January 15th! This is our one time in the year to enroll folks in insurance coverage on Colorado’s insurance marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado. If you’re enrolled in a marketplace plan with CHN, you will be contacted soon by a Health Access Program Coordinator (HAPC) to schedule an enrollment appointment. These appointments won’t take long, but it is very important that you get connected with Kelly, Tabitha, or Carly to ensure that you have continuous coverage through next year.

Please also note that folks must enroll BEFORE December 15th to get coverage on January 1. If you enroll between December 15th and January 15th, coverage will not start until February 1st. Therefore, it is very important that you get in contact with a HAPC to complete an enrollment appointment, or you risk not having coverage in 2023!

October is a time when many companies have their open enrollment period for staff. If you are offered insurance with work, is it very important that you notify a HAPC as soon as possible, so that they can assist you with assessing your options. If you decline employer-sponsored insurance options, it can create complications when seeking alternative insurance coverage, so it is not advisable to ignore your employer’s insurance offering. Reaching out to an HAPC can help ease the burden of Open Enrollment Season, because they are here to help you navigate all of your insurance eligibility options.

PUEBLO HEALTH HUB UPDATE

The Health Hub started kicking into gear this month, in part due to staff being hired! Bob Benvenuto transferred roles into the Health Hub as the Outreach Education Coordinator. We have extended an offer for the Peer Navigator position and anticipate to have our new hire start on November 14! Sarah and Bob have spent the month planning and beginning outreach to providers. The next goal is completing needs assessments with local providers and participants at Access Point Pueblo.

Sarah had the chance to attend the National Harm Reduction Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico between October 13 – 16. They attended many sessions regarding best practices for integrating low barrier services at syringe access programs and met many individuals doing similar services. In particular, they identified multiple technical assistance centers to support the development and quality assurance activities. Bob and Sarah will be following up to identify best practices, lessons learned, and tools to best develop programs in Pueblo.

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SCHN CS: 1301 S. 8th St. Colorado Springs, CO 80905 Phone: 719.578.9092
SCHN Pueblo: 807 North Greenwood St., Suite 200, Pueblo, CO 81003 Phone: 719.621.1105 www.coloradohealthnetwork.org
SCHN WAS THE HOST FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WOMEN’S RETREAT

SCHN has put the finishing touches on another successful Women’s Retreat! SCHN brought female and non-binary participants from across the state together on Sept. 30th and Oct. 1st for this sixth annual gathering. The retreat theme this year was water. Water flows and connects us, helps rejuvenate us, and can calm us. Through the fully virtual retreat, SCHN was able to connect participants from across the state during the Zoom sessions as well as through the specific Women’s Retreat online, social platform.

Some of the workshops this year included: Bath Bomb Creation for Stress Relief; Tai Chi; Gratitude Jar Activity; Crocheting; and multiple social hours. Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the retreat this year, and SCHN greatly appreciates those staff members who’ve continued to provide a safe and reflective space. SCHN hopes to continue building upon this successful 2022 retreat next year with more participants, so please stay tuned for more information next year!

Fadela Gacis Castro is SCHN’s newest Bilingual Medical Case Manager

Fadela comes to SCHN with more than 10 years of experience working in the non-profit sector both in San Antonio, Texas, and in New York City. Prior to joining the SCHN team, Fadela worked for Columbia University in the City of New York as a Community Outreach Specialist, a Workforce Development Coordinator, and an adult education Facilitator. She is also the co-creator of an educational program for Unaccompanied Minors in Detention in the state of Texas.

A statement from Fadela:
“One of my greatest passions is to contribute to my community through service, volunteerism, and creating new avenues to help people in their self-actualization journeys. I have moved 19 times throughout my life to various cities and countries including Mexico, France, and now the U.S. I just moved to Colorado a few days ago after having visited Colorado Springs to attend a friend’s wedding, and falling in love with the natural beauty of the state. I feel blessed to have been given the opportunity to join SCHN to continue my lifelong commitment to service, and hope to contribute to the community in my own capacity in the years to come.”

HEY 719 ADDS ANOTHER PREVENTION COORDINATOR—ARBOR ARCHULETA

Arbor comes to CHN with prior experience in academia as a lecturer and advocate for the LGBTQ community. Arbor is a wonderful addition to our team and brings a wealth of knowledge and passion to their role.

A statement from Arbor:
“I am coming from my last position as faculty at the Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy at MSU Denver. I was published this year in the new addition of Trans Bodies/Trans Selves (if you’ll pardon the shameless plug). I have a deep appreciation for long dogs, short cats, tiny cars and dope tats.”

Access Point Pueblo

Free, sterile supplies available for those who need them.
Tuesday & Thursday
10am-12:00pm & 1:30pm-4:00pm

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Are you interested in receiving the Positive Press through e-mail? If so, please contact your Case Manager to be added to our e-mail list! You’ll get the newest Positive Press at the moment its published!