



Positive Press

The Official Newsletter of the Southern Colorado Health Network

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SCHN Children's Holiday Gift Program

SCHN CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL AGAIN THANKS TO SANTA JEY (and his family, friends, and fellow Union members) ALONG WITH OTHER COMMUNITY SPONSORS

The S-CAP/SCHN Children's Holiday Gift Program is a heartfelt tradition that has been ongoing for at least 20 years. For almost all of this time frame, members of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7708 (AFL-CIO) have played a generous role in securing holiday gifts for these children.

Several years ago, CWA member Jey Lawson got involved in the SCHN Children's Holiday Gift Program with his fellow union members and he became the lead organizer of the CWA group. In recent years, the CWA Local 7708 decreased in numbers, so Jey used his power of persuasion to recruit involvement by family and friends in the SCHN program. So once again this year, along with other union members, Jey received help from Blush Dry Bar Salon employees (Brandi Martinez, owner), the Plains and Peak Telephone Pioneers of Colorado Springs (Nancy Imhoff and others), friends and family (mom, dad, and grandmother). These folks sponsored 40 children in the holiday program. The Telephone Pioneers also donated personal care items to the SCHN food pantry.

In addition to the Jey recruits, other contributors included SCHN staff members, Dorina and Vicki Hamilton, SCHN Regional Council member Scott Rabinowitz, and members of the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church.

These generous and kind donations by Santa Jey (along with the rest of his troops) and the other sponsors made the 2022 SCHN Children's Holiday Gift Program successful yet again. The SCHN staff and clients sincerely appreciate your charitable contributions and do not take the gift giving for granted. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!



A SEASONAL SONNET FOR SANTA JEY

At the beginning of December each year, the distinctive holiday is getting so near. So SCHN can expect Santa Jey at our back door, bearing good tidings and presents galore. The offerings Santa Jey brings are for SCHN kids, and figuratively, his generosity always blows off our lids.

The SCHN kids are the recipients of these holiday gifts, the kindness of Santa Jey's good will, our spirit it lifts.

So, thank you, thank you, thank you Santa Jey, you helped the kids have a more special holiday.

Yes, thank you, thank you, thank you, your effort leads to some holiday dreams coming true.

Bravo, hurrah and hooray Santa Jey, The SCHN staff sends sincere appreciation your way.



National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is March 10. SCHN will host an in person event on this day to highlight Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness. Every year on March 10, communities come together to shed light on the impact of HIV and AIDS on women in the U.S.

Join SCHN to talk about how HIV and AIDS impacts our community of women and girls.

MORE DETAILS TO COME



We look forward to safely gathering in person in Colorado Springs at the April, 2023, Red Ribbon Ball to celebrate the advances in HIV prevention, treatment and care. The Red Ribbon Ball is a premier Southern Colorado annual gala benefiting Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN). 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 also a time to remember those we have lost as well as look into the future of how we can successfully adapt to the changing face of HIV in Southern Colorado.

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

2022 Full of Accomplishments and Growth for CHN

The year 2022 was one of growth and accomplishment for the Colorado Health Network.

- 5,000+ people living with HIV received services
- 1,000+ served by CHN housing programs
 - 3,500+ Housing Services visits
- 40,000+ served by CHN food pantries
- 3,700+ Free HIV & STI Tests provided
- 6,000+ people served by the Syringe Access Programs
 - 1,500,000+ syringes distributed

These are a few of the CHN highlights for 2022. To find more CHN program highlights and accomplishments, visit www.ColoradoHealthNetwork.org.

PUEBLO Health Hub Update

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With the Drug User Health Hub now fully staffed, December's focus was program planning and organization. We are starting to work through the details of each activity and taking steps forward. The overarching goal of this program is to connect people who use drugs to medical care and social/supportive services to decrease HIV/HCV incidence, and support people using drugs in meeting their medical and basic needs. Our current actions include: finalizing templates for a needs assessment with clients, developing client screening tools, developing a training plan for providers, and creating service delivery models. We are waiting on some actions from our funders before fully integrating into our syringe access program, but we are continuing to support participants unofficially until all systems are in place.

In December, we officially formed the Regional Provider Network to start connecting providers and services. We have 14 responses to the Provider Needs Assessment from community partners so far! We are learning about services and resources that we never had the capacity to provide. Both the desire for involvement and clear need for a community collaborative effort to address substance use have been really encouraging to the team.

Part of our community involvement has included attendance at City Council work sessions and meetings. There have been many topics discussed that directly impact SCHN programs in Pueblo, including warming shelters, unhoused populations, food resources, transportation, housing, and substance use. One of the City Council president's goals for 2023 is to learn more about substance use in Pueblo. We will be meeting with her and other city council members throughout January to provide education on harm reduction, talk about substance use and its impact on Pueblo, discuss current efforts, and propose potential solutions. This all includes presenting the Health Hub as a conduit to begin addressing de-fragmentation of healthcare, which has been identified as a top priority by City and County officials.

Looking forward:

We are hosting a Heater Bloc building event on Saturday, January 21, on-site with Community Resources United (CRU). CRU's goal is to collaborate and provide resources by utilizing existing knowledge and skills from the broader community. Heater Blocs are low cost, tent-safe heaters constructed with supplies such as a Mason jar, copper tubing, cloth, and isopropyl alcohol. We are working to identify other resources to provide that day. If you would like more information about this event, or would like to donate time or resources, please contact Jereme Maffei, Health Hub Peer Navigator, at Jereme.maffei@coloradohealthnetwork.org!

Pikes Peak United Way's 211 & Colorado Springs Utilities Provide Help with Utility Bills and other Essential Services

Our publicly owned energy provider, Colorado Springs Utilities, can help with flexible payment and assistance programs. If you are having difficulty paying your utilities bill, Colorado Springs Utilities flexible payment plans and assistance programs may be able to help. You might also qualify for federally-funded programs.

Options include:

- Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps with home heating and water costs from Nov. 1 – April 30.
- Project COPE offers emergency utilities payment assistance regardless of income. Funded by the people and businesses in our community, Project COPE is the only local organization that donates 100% of its funding to utilities payment assistance year-round.
- Home Efficiency Assistance Program (HEAP) offers energy and water efficiency improvements for qualifying homeowners.

Visit csu.org or call 719-448-4800 to learn more.

Also, Pikes Peak United Way's 211 (just dial 211 on your phone) provides referrals to a partner agency for utilities bill assistance and other essential services.



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

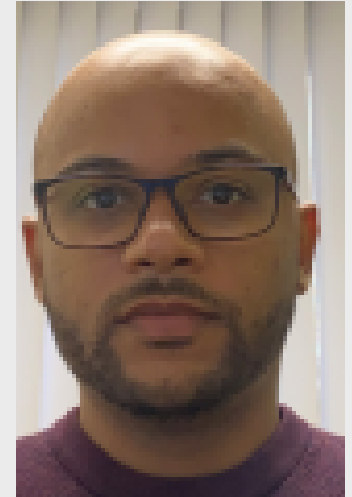
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JEFFERSON CAMPOS JOINS THE SCHN PREVENTION TEAM IN PUEBLO

Jefferson comes to SCHN with more than ten years of experience working in the health sector in the Brazilian government. Before joining the SCHN team, Jefferson worked for Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as a Research Assistant and a Logistics Coordinator. Most of his job was promoting health education for schools throughout the Brazilian territory.

A brief statement from Jefferson:

I am a Social Scientist with a Master's Degree in Health, Information, and Communication, and I have been working since my Bachelor's Degree with a broad perception of the communication field. Working at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, one of the most important academic institutions in the health field for Brazil and Latin America, allowed me to work with a multidisciplinary team focused on social engagement in science and health, especially within schools. At this new challenge, in a new country with some cultural differences, I am glad to be part of an organization with public and social missions that put great energy into assuring citizenship and granting healthy conditions to the people.



National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Observance is Feb. 7

February 7 is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD). The first NBHAAD was marked in 1999 as a grassroots education effort to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in communities of color.

Black communities have made great progress in reducing HIV. Yet racism, discrimination, and mistrust in the health care system still may affect whether Black people seek or receive HIV prevention services. These issues may also reduce the likelihood of engaging in HIV treatment and care.

To continue to reduce the burden of HIV and other health risks, people need adequate housing and transportation, employment, access to culturally competent health services that are free of stigma and discrimination, and more. Together, when we work to overcome structural barriers to HIV testing, prevention, and treatment, and to stop HIV stigma, we help reduce HIV-related disparities and health inequities in Black communities.



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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SCHN CS: 1301 S. 8th St. Colorado Springs, CO 80905
SCHN Pueblo: 807 North Greenwood St., Suite 200, Pueblo, CO 81003
www.coloradohealthnetwork.org

Phone: 719.578.9092
Phone: 719.621.1105