

Organization Name West Side Cares – updated April 20, 2024



Liaison(s) Steve Shively

Who is served 80% working poor and 20% houseless. El Paso County

Funds used for The grant would be used to fund services to neighbors. Services include: food; clothing, hygiene, mail, health, rent & utilities, seasonal programs, and referrals. Seasonal programs include back-to-school backpacks, adopt-a-family, Thanksgiving gift cards.

Mission of Organization While WestSide CARES can trace its roots back to 1900, today it is located at 2808 W. Colorado Avenue and is a nonprofit collaboration of 22 interfaith communities in El Paso County, united in care and compassion for those in need by providing crisis human services. The only criteria for accessing services is an individual's or family's genuine need and their established residence within the agency's [service area](#). Westside CARES collaborates with agencies throughout the metropolitan area to ensure its neighbors receive adequate crisis intervention services. The goal is an interdependent and complementary network of services between providers. Public service hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

WestSide CARES provides a wide variety of social services on a continuing basis which includes but is not just limited to:

- Rent and Mortgage Assistance
- Housing Assistance
- Utilities Assistance
- Food Pantry Assistance
- Health Services
- Transportation Assistance
- Mail Delivery Service
- Vital Document Retrieval
- Clothing Pantry and Vouchers
- Personal Toiletries

Interesting WestSide CARES Factoids

- Did you know that Westside CARES is a major financial contributor to St. Mike's Laundry Love Ministry? Conveniently located near our Laundry Love laundromat in old Colorado City, many of our Laundry Love neighbors visit Westside CARES for assistance while their clothes are being washed.
- Did you know that you can provide no-cost direct support to WestSide cares by registering your King Soopers loyalty grocery card? It is easy to do and provides a direct benefit to WSC at no cost to you. Simply log into www.kingsoopers.com. Once at the website scroll all the way down the page to the "COMMUNITY" pillar. Click on "KingSoopers Community Rewards." Scroll to paragraph 2 and click the "here" hyperlink. Under "Find an Organization" type in Westside CARES. Click the enroll button and your card will be automatically linked. Be sure to scan your loyalty card every time you shop. Scanning the loyalty card also helps you get the best discounted prices. Westside CARES received \$825.83 the first

quarter of 2024 with 96 households designating Westside CARES as their designated charity for the Community Rewards program. It costs nothing to enroll. It is King Soopers way of recognizing who and what is important to their customers in the communities they serve. If you have any problems, give Penny Bever a shout and she will walk you through the sign up.

- Did you know that in 2023, Westside CARES provided?
 - 586 households rental assistance.
 - 475 neighbors engaged in housing navigation.
 - 56 neighbors were assisted into permanent housing.
 - 279 households were supported in applying for utilities assistance through LEAP or were served through Project COPE.
 - 631 neighbors received IDs, birth certificates, and/or school records.
 - 1,510 neighbors received Goodwill vouchers.
 - 3,350 neighbors were served at the onsite clothing closet.
 - 35,661 neighbors were provided a four-day food supply from one of six pantries, including deliveries.
 - 231 neighbors were assisted with SNAP through a partnership with Care and Share.
 - 11,000 neighbors made visits to the office and engaged with volunteer staff. Many received snack bags, mail, or deeper support.
 - 3,815 neighbors made phone calls to the office and reached a live person who provided help and directed them to resources.
 - 525 children from 21 local schools began the academic year with new backpacks filled with school supplies.
 - 93 families from 16 schools received Thanksgiving Baskets with \$80 gift cards that allowed them to shop for their own holiday meals.
 - 59 families from 17 schools (97 adults and 183 children) experienced holidays enhanced by the kindness of Adopt-a-Family.
 - 509 medical visits were held at the onsite clinic.
 - 33 prescriptions were filled with co-pays.
 - 8 neighbors were helped with dental assistance.
 - 124 eye exams and glasses were offered.
 - 2,900 round trip bus tickets were given to neighbors with medical appointments, job interviews, and work commitments.
 - 676 neighbors received gas cards.
 - 4 neighbors were helped with vehicle insurance/registration and repairs.
 - 20 neighbors were reunited with out-of-state families.
- Did you know that WestSide CARES partners with [Food Trucks Against Homelessness](#) to bring the community together around freshly prepared meals?

How St. Michael's Can Volunteer Westside CARES' greatest need is volunteers who can commit to a 4-hour shift once a week in their central office. They can offer front-of-house (direct service) opportunities, or back-of-house (operational support) opportunities. If you would like information on how you can volunteer, contact Deb Mitguard, Director of Volunteer Engagement, at 719.389.0759. If you would like to learn more about Westside CARES, visit their website at <https://www.westsidecares.org> or contact our St. Mike's liaisons for WestSide CARES, Steve Shively and Penny Bever. Penny can be reached at: pennybever@yahoo.com. Steve can be reached at: steve.shively@comcast.net.

How St. Michael's has Engaged in the past - We support WestSide CARES with grants through our Outreach Program and periodic food drives to benefit the food pantry. Our greatest gift though is through the volunteer hours we can provide with our time and talent. St. Michael's has been supporting WestSide Cares with grant funds since 2023. 5 people directly involved. West Side Cares provides the largest portion of funding for Laundry Love.