



# VIA news

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Hebrews 10:24

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## Welcome Emily!

We are happy to welcome Emily Boldenow-Fortna as VIA's new Volunteer Coordinator. Emily has experience working for the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in Nicaragua as well as working with at risk families in Denver. Emily has experience managing volunteers and is fluent in Spanish. We are glad to have her join us!

## Faith in Deed News

While sitting in church last year, Jennifer heard a presentation on Volunteers in Action and decided to apply as a volunteer. Originally Jennifer was a reader for a college student which she enjoyed but found the college textbooks rather boring. When the student decided not to return to school, Volunteers in Action matched Jennifer with Pat. Jennifer says that at first she was hesitant, but Pat had an infectious personality and it was impossible not to like her. Although her official volunteer title is a reader to the blind, Jennifer enjoys helping Pat in many ways. Jennifer and Pat often work in the garden or read magazines together. After 9 months, Jennifer and Pat have become friends and often go out to lunch together after Jennifer finishes reading. Jennifer confessed that sometimes she feels guilty because she feels that she is getting more out of the relationship than Pat. —Emily Fortna, Volunteer Coordinator

## Get Ready for the Second Annual Denver Justice Conference!

Hear from over 20 speakers including professors from DU, CU Denver, Iliff and Denver Seminary, attorneys, pastors and many more local activists. This year we're concentrating on the issues of Youth & Education, Immigration and Homelessness, so if you're interested in any of these topics, be sure not to miss the Denver Justice Conference!

Mark Saturday, November 5th on your calendar now and meet us at Manual High School (1700 E. 28th Ave. in Denver) from 8:30-4:30pm. Tickets are \$25 (\$10 for students) and include lunch. —Rachel Johnson, Denver Justice Conference Coordinator

Register and pay online at: [www.denverjusticeconference.com](http://www.denverjusticeconference.com) **See you there!**

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VIA is grateful for all of you who support us through your prayers, giving and volunteering. At this time, we are behind in our gifts received compared with our expenses and are in need of your financial support. Will you please consider an extra gift to VIA to support our ministry programs. You can mail your financial gift to: Volunteers In Action, 9185 E. Kenyon Ave., #130, Denver CO 80237 or contribute on line through our website at: [www.volunteersinaction.info](http://www.volunteersinaction.info). Thank you for any support you can give.



## Community Serving Community

***“The day was wonderful and my home looks so good. All of the people were friendly and very nice. Everything went very well and the volunteers did a very good job. I am loving every bit of it.”***

This was LaVasta Young’s response to the Community Serving Community Service Day, Sept. 10 where volunteers came together to paint her home.

38 of VIA’s volunteers participated in painting the homes of 3 low-income seniors. This project was 1 of 13 total projects accomplished that day. A total of 186 volunteers served through all of the Community Serving Community projects. There was a wonderful spirit of cooperating together as churches, organizations and caring people during this day of serving our community.

—Donn Hansum, Director

## Disaster Response Services Need Volunteers

The United States has experienced many disasters this spring and summer including tornados, hurricanes and floods. CRWRC/ Disaster Response Services (DRS) is in need of volunteers to do repairs, construction and carry out unmet needs surveys. DRS has work for individuals and groups of high school age and up for lengths of 1, 2 and 3 weeks of work. Please contact CRWRC-DRS at 800-848-5818 or Walt & Carol Ackerman, DRS Area Managers at 303-494-4571 if you can help.

## Building Healthy Communities - What it Takes!

The Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Training that was sponsored by Volunteers in Action on Aug 26<sup>th</sup> presented great concepts for engaging with our communities in a way that promotes healthy long term growth and change. The 28 people who attended the one day training engaged in an energetic discussion on how to apply these principles to our ministries and settings.

The key elements of ABCD, as summarized in the book, When Helping Hurts, by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert include:

- Identify and mobilize the capabilities, skill, and resources of the individual or community. See poor people and communities as full of possibilities, given to them by God.
- As much as possible, look for resources and solutions to come from within the individual or community, not from the outside.
- Seek to build and rebuild the relationships among local individuals, associations, churches, businesses, schools, government, etc. God intended for the various individuals and institutions in communities to be interconnected and complementary.
- Only bring in outside resources when local resources are insufficient to solve pressing needs. Be careful about bringing in resources that are too much or too early. Do this in a manner that does not undermine local capacity or initiative.

These concepts can be applied in both a specific geographical neighborhood or the concepts can be applied to the ways that an organization or a church carries out its programs and outreach. We are excited by what we have learned and are strategizing about how to apply these principles to our ministry. —Donn Hansum, Director



**Help Needed:** We are looking for a volunteer that might be able to help VIA set up a simple data base to better organize our information on volunteers and the clients we serve. Please call Emily at 303-713-9144 if you have this type of experience and would be willing to help us. Thank you!