



Triumph e-news

Community Educational Outreach
Fostering independence through education

CEO Triumph e-news www.ceocolorado.org

Winter, 2010

GED SKILLS



LIFE

This Issue:

Director's Message
Page 2

Len Wheeler Returns
Page 2

CEO Facilities
Page 3

Student Success
Page 4

Summer Event
Page 5

Volunteer Spotlight
Page 6

CEO goes Social
Page 7

Call for Assistance
Page 8

CEO Greeley Site Has a New Home



Sara Garvey
Program Director

CEO's new home in Greeley is an impressive facility providing an inspiring environment for its residents on their transitional journey from corrections back into society and a productive future.

Intervention Community Correction Services (ICCS) oversees the correctional facility and partners with CEO in order to provide clients with on-site access to educational and employment services. Both organizations are private 501c3 non-profits.

Sara Garvey, Program Director, has been with CEO for one-and-a-half years, and is joined by two new instructors, Blair Nyline and Laura Wolf.

Sara reports that she is currently in urgent need of volunteer assistance at the new facility, especially GED tutors to work one-on-one with the students. (see page 8)



Blair Nyline
Instructor



Laura Wolf
Instructor



ICCS Weld Facility—Home of Greeley CEO



CEO Classroom



Resident Bay

Catching Up with CEO!

by Jessica Beckman, Executive Director



CEO Program Expands to Five Sites

In April 2010, at the recommendation of the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), CEO closed their doors to the community at the ICCS-Lakewood site because the program was at capacity. Additionally, the Resource Educational Community Center (RECC) at First Judicial Probation Department was also at capacity and was advised to close its doors to the community. Consequently, Jefferson County lacked available resources for GED preparation.

Since July 2010, CEO is happy to report that we've added two more site locations. The GED program at Jefferson High School (JHS) has been restored and classes are offered Mon-Thu, from 6-8pm. CEO collaborated with JHS to secure new funding after AEFLA

money was cut, and CEO raised funds at the Summer Social fundraiser to match the 21st Century grant award secured by JHS.

CEO also merged with the RECC program which serves probation clients. The RECC has long been a sister program of CEO's; therefore, it made sense for the two agencies to combine their efforts when the RECC was in need of a new fiscal agent. The program will remain housed at First Judicial Probation, CEO's new partner site.

With five site locations, CEO will assist approximately 1400 students each year, helping students improve basic literacy skills, prepare for the official GED test, learn job search strategies, and acquire computer and life skills.

Your Support Is Needed

As we close out the year, CEO would like to request your support as we work to raise money to update our computer lab. New technology is critical to the success of our students and we are raising money to purchase six new computers. Your donation towards new computers will help our students compete in a competitive job market.

CEO Volunteer Len Wheeler Amazes All with Rapid Recovery

Earlier this year in August, CEO volunteer Len Wheeler was involved in a serious biking accident. After some uncertain moments, a Medivac helicopter ride, and stay in the ICU, and just when we were about to report about Len's encouraging progress, Len amazed the entire CEO staff when he "reported back to work" in his volunteer capacity on October 18th.



Len Wheeler

Len Wheeler has been a dedicated CEO volunteer, helping our clients to develop valuable interview skills necessary to make a positive impression in a difficult job market.

He has successfully coached individuals with significant barriers to employment to present themselves professionally, focus on the positive skills and talents they can offer to potential employers, and become more comfortable discussing court involvement or employment gaps.

The work Len has done with CEO has been instrumental in helping clients gain confidence and reach their employment goals.

Now the CEO staff and his fellow volunteers watch in amazement as Len returns to CEO, not just to say hello, but to return to his previous service!

Len—It is great to have you back!

[See Our Program Facilities Page 3](#)

Please consider contributing a tax deductible donation today to help make the JHS program a success! CEO is always seeking volunteers to work with ABE and GED students. If you would like to contribute time or money, please contact:

Jessica at: 303-921-8600 or email CEO at jbeckman@ceocolorado.org.

CEO —Serving Community & Adults-at-Risk

CEO partners with community corrections, probation, and community based agencies to provide adult basic education, GED preparation, job search skills, computer and life skills to adults at risk of incarceration or transitioning out of prison.

CEO in Lakewood at Intervention Community Corrections Services



CEO's GED Class in Parker at the Parker Library



CEO's Resource Educational Community Center (RECC) at First Judicial Probation Dept



CEO in Greeley at Intervention Community Corrections Services (Weld)



CEO's Community-based GED Class in Lakewood at Jefferson High School

A CEO Student Success Story—meet Len Walcott

By Erica Lindberg—CEO Instructor



When given the option of writing a student success story, one student immediately jumped to my mind. This particular student named Len had been coming to CEO for over a year and had impressed instructors with his dedication and hard work in attempting to complete his GED.



Normally our students struggle to get five hours of study in each week, but Len, with perseverance that few can muster, had been averaging twelve hours a week of GED study. His quiet presence in the classroom was a consistent reminder of the character traits that are necessary to successfully complete the GED.

In approaching Len to ask him to share his story, I was a bit apprehensive. On numerous occasions, I had asked Len if he would like to write out some of his story to help inspire others, but Len, in his quiet shy manner, had always said no. His reluctance never really came as a surprise to me because when Len first came to CEO it didn't take long to realize that he was plagued by pessimism and self doubt.

"I've been negative all my life," Len admitted, and instructors knew from experience that even this statement might be a bit of an understatement.

Len had been struggling with depression and alcohol since he was thirteen, and as an adult, Len had come face to face with the fact that much of his life had been damaged by these perennial influences. Len admitted that the thought of starting over and going after his GED was daunting. "I just didn't feel like I was smart," Len observed.

However, as Len began to make progress on his GED studies, a gradual change in Len's demeanor began to emerge. Instructors teased smiles and laughter from Len's often downcast face, and Len worked on focusing on his successes rather than his failures. Over time Len began to joke about his pessimism, and

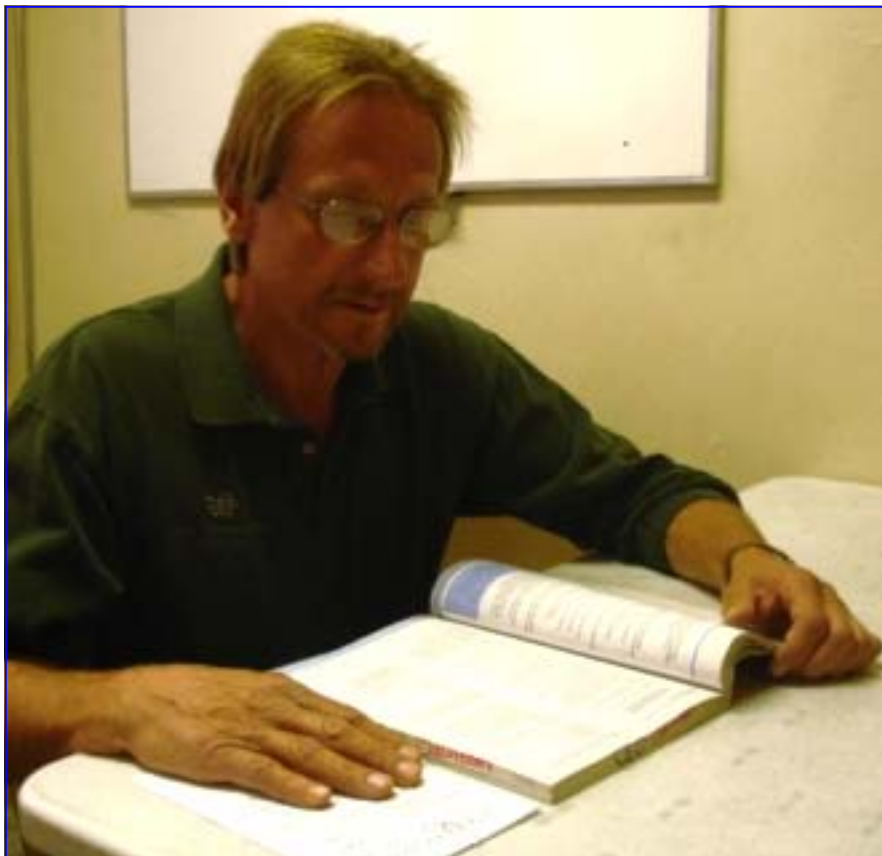
he began to admit that he had overcome some pretty big challenges to get where he was.

After months of hard work studying, Len has now completed three of his GED tests; he only has two more to go. He also has completed his program at ICCS, and is transitioning back into the community with the hopes of working his way up in the auto body business.

Len eventually would like to complete his GED, take business classes, and start his own muscle car restoration shop. Although Len knows he still has obstacles to overcome, he now feels a sense of accomplishment and pride regarding his life and studies, and best of all his negative mindset is slowly giving way to new feelings of empowerment and self-confidence.

Nowhere is this shift in perspective more evident than when I asked Len for the final time to let me write out a bit of his life story. Without hesitation and to my surprise, Len smiled and said he would be glad to do it.

He finished our interview by saying, "You gotta have a goal if you are going to get there. You gotta have a dream." And for Len, working toward completing his GED has been an integral part of reaching for that dream.



CEO Summer Event!

On August 14th, 2010, Community Educational Outreach staff, volunteers, and supporters came together to celebrate another successful year and to help raise funds for the Jefferson High School (JHS) GED program. Once again, the CEO Summer Social was held at the Meadowlark Bar and featured wonderful food, drinks, and entertainment. It was a beautiful summer evening. Attendees enjoyed great music and performances on the outdoor patio.

We would especially like to thank our emcee, Sara Walter, for her work throughout the night informing our guests of our cause and how your support helps our clients. A special thanks to our amazing sponsors for their support and contributions. All totaled, we raised over \$6,000 to assist at-risk adults to earn a G.E.D.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us celebrate our mission at our Summer Social, and once again, to all the donors who made it such a fun evening! We hope to see you all at future CEO Events!

CLICK ON OUR SPONSORS LOGOS TO VISIT THEIR WEB SITES



Sara Walter Emcee



Team Fire Fox



Faceman



Ridgemoor Realty



Biko





CEO Volunteer Spotlight: Jason Pranaitis

In this issue of Triumph we visit with Jason Pranaitis, volunteer now joining the CEO professional staff.

Triumph: How did you get involved with volunteering and specifically with Community Educational Outreach?

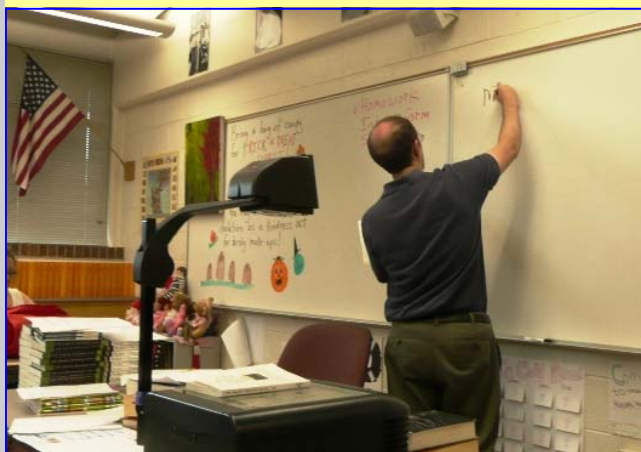
Jason: I started volunteering many years ago with the Denver Rescue Mission. This work eventually led into a staff position with the Rescue Mission as a GED instructor.

After three years working there, I made the decision to return to school to further my own education in the technological and mathematical areas. Because of my varying school schedule, I decided to seek out volunteer opportunities, and found several programs listed on the Colorado Department of Education website. Visit their web site at www.cde.state.co.us.

I inquired and received a call from Jessica Beckman detailing the opportunities with CEO.

Triumph: What do you find is the greatest reward working with CEO students?

Jason: I am able to do what I enjoy most in the teaching arena: instill a love of learning. When I encounter a person who has struggled, but because of our work together, has come to see learning not just as a possible endeavor, but as a meaningful activity, this is when I experience the biggest reward as an educator.



GED Class is In Session—Jefferson High School



Jason Pranaitis

Finding ways to make education relevant to each individual student's life, and witnessing a student's realization that their life can actually become better through education has become my personal passion.

Triumph: What would you say is your biggest challenge?

Jason: I still continue to struggle with identifying and understanding the available resources to assist the students who suffer with severe learning disabilities. These students face extreme challenges, and my hope is that they, too, will come to a place where learning makes a difference in their lives.

Triumph: What advice would you give to someone who is considering volunteering with CEO?

Jason: You can't sit back and wait for student to figure out they need you. I learned early on that I had to be the one to take the initiative, because in this relationship, the student is the vulnerable one. A tutor must be willing to step in and engage with the student.

Triumph: What else should we know about you?

Jason: After earning my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education, I began my early career as a Preschool Teacher with the Head Start program. Not only am I currently in the process of furthering my education at Metro State, but I also sing in their choir.

On the weekends, you'll find me on the sidelines of the local soccer fields, working as a youth soccer referee. I continue to be active in my church. And, as a result of my dedicated volunteer work with CEO, I now am a CEO staff member, teaching GED students two evenings a week at the Jefferson High School location.

CEO engaging the Denver Community..... through.....

SOCIAL MEDIA!



Click on the image to visit the Community Educational Outreach Blog



Click on the image to visit our Facebook Community Page



Click on the image to visit the CEO Photo Album



Coming Soon: CEO walks the Red Carpet on YouTube



www.ceocolorado.org

**Lakewood/Jefferson County
Intervention Community
Correction Services (ICCS)***

1651 Kendall Street
Lakewood, CO 80214
* ICCS client only

Jefferson High School

2305 Pecos Street
Lakewood, CO 80214
GED Class Times:
6-8pm Mon & Wed, Tue & Thu
New Student Orientation:
Tue, 6pm sharp, Room 55

**Resource Educational
Community Center (RECC)***

Karen Bowen 720-497-7758
11011 W. 6th Ave., 2nd Floor
Lakewood, CO 80215
*Probation client only

Parker/Douglas County

Parker Library
10851 S. Crossroads Dr.
Parker, CO 80134
GED Class Times:
Mon & Wed, 6pm-8:30pm
New Student Orientation:
Mon, 6pm sharp

**Greeley/Weld County
Intervention Community
Correction Services (ICCS)***

1101 H Street
Greeley, CO 80631
*ICCS clients only

General Contact Information

Phone: 303-921-8600
E-mail: info@ceocolorado.org

Our Mission:

Community Educational Outreach (CEO) is devoted to providing educational resources for people incarcerated or at-risk of being institutionalized. CEO outreaches to local community correction, drug rehabilitation, and community based facilities in an effort to decrease the likelihood that the clients will return to their former lifestyle or go to prison. Through student-centered, individual and small-group instruction, our students and volunteers identify and pursue the following goals:

- Improving basic and secondary skills and literacy (grade levels 0 -12.9)
- Completing the GED test and obtaining high school equivalency
- Obtaining employment or improving job prospects
- Improving computer skills
- Achieving life and family goals

Clothing Closet Call!

Our CEO Clothing Bank in Lakewood is running low on inventory. We are in need of business and professional clothing, as well as items that would enable residents to dress casually in an appropriate manner while on job search or at work. Including:

- Business attire clothing
- Khaki or black slacks
- Sweaters
- Nice jeans
- Shirts and blouses
- Shoes
- Winter coats
- Socks
- Gloves, mittens, hats
- Warm walking shoes

Contact Dory:
Phone: 720-544-5548
Email: dory@ceocolorado.org



Clothes Closet CEO Lakewood

Volunteer Call in Greeley!

Are you looking for a rewarding volunteer experience, one in which you can work directly with people and make a huge positive difference in their lives?

The CEO Greeley staff needs YOU!

Our Northern Colorado program is in urgent need for volunteers in many areas of program assistance including one-on-one student GED tutoring, employment preparation assistance and more.

CEO Greeley Program Director Sara Garvey states, "Our volunteers gain a high degree of satisfaction



CEO Greeley

working closely with at-risk community corrections adults." Sara adds, "We have a place here in Greeley for all volunteers, whether they be current college students, retired seniors—anyone with an interest in making a difference.!"

To learn more about volunteering with CEO (in Greeley or in Lakewood), visit our website at www.ceocolorado.org and visit the Volunteer page.

In Greeley, contact:

Sara Garvey:
Email: sara@ceocolorado.org
Phone: 970-584-2773