### ACS Newsletter

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**ACS Convention Cruise - March 16-23, 2014**

Join us for the Adventist Community Services Convention and enjoy an unforgettable Mexican Riviera Cruise.

The Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is pleased to host the 2014 Adventist Community Services (ACS) Convention. Individuals from all across North America will come together aboard the Norwegian Cruise Line’s Norwegian Star to learn how to better follow Christ's example of meeting the needs of others.

For more information visit: [www.inspirationcruises.com/SDA](http://www.inspirationcruises.com/SDA)

#### STORIES & TIDBITS

- **ACS Participates in Health Fair**
- **Colorado Flood Stories**
  - [Fully Loved](#)
- **Two Weeks after the Flood**
- **A visit to the Colorado relief center**

International institute of Christian Ministries (IICM) Community Services & Urban Ministries Certification Program

The IICM Community Services & Urban Ministries Certification

Program provides a basic foundation and practical tools for equipping church members to be change agents in their communities. Jesus' method of facilitating physical, mental, and spiritual healing and restoration in the lives of the people around the church is emphasized. The 38-contact hour curriculum contains 19 modules that cover the biblical, philosophical, and logistical aspects of effective wholistic ministry. For more information, and a list and content of the modules, click [here](http://www.communityservices.org).

**ACS Newsletter ~ Adventist Community Services**
North American Division
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The Adventist Community Services (ACS) in the Dakota Conference along with the Black Hills Health and Education Center has participated in the Rapid City Health Fair at the local Civic Center in South Dakota over the last few years.


Another outreach ministry was Ministries 10:10 that involves a different class in health each month. Class offered are free and include bread making, stop smoking, child nutrition, vegetarian cooking, and more.

The Black Hills Health and Education Center (BHHEC) gave free massages and osteoporosis screenings. The BHHEC volunteers did approximately 60-70 osteoporosis screenings.

The outreach was accepted by all of the community. "It's a wonderful way to meet the people and get to know them personally. We feel that the Lord is leading us in doing His work. We praise Him for His guidance." ~ Phyllis Alexander, Dakota Conference for ACS Disaster Response and Paul Clark, Public Relations for Black Hills Health and Education Center.
One woman, a sculptor, lived up the Big Thompson river canyon out of Loveland. The river is usually no more than a stream. She got no warning, no phone calls to evacuate, no one knocking on her door. When the water was ankle deep where there should have been no water, she and a friend decided they needed to get out. They could hear trees crashing upstream and the water rose within minutes. She grabbed her wallet and a credit card. She had a coat and rain gear.

She ran for the bank and struggled to get up to the road. She kept slipping in the gravel on the bank. "God, please help me," she called out. The thought came to her that she needed to go up sideways. She did and was finally able to grasp the guard rail and pull herself up onto the road. She sat there for a few minutes. The bridge to her house had collapsed behind her. She watched her gigantic pine trees crash into her house; then the water hit it washing everything downstream.

Suddenly she thought, "This is stupid. I am sitting on the river side of the road." She crossed the road and spent the night sitting on the other side. "I was more afraid of the bears than anything else," she said, "I stayed awake all night."

In the morning some neighbors came and helped her to their house. The road collapsed behind her. Pictures now show a steep, tall cliff.

She lost all the molds for her sculptures. She will be able to re-create molds from the sculptures she has sold. However, she had one sculpture that she had not sold. Amazingly, someone found it, washed downstream, dirty but undamaged.

As she looked through the supplies that people have donated and that we are giving out in a store-like fashion complete with shopping carts, she found two items that meant a lot to her: a glass plate just like the one from her grandmother and a scarf just like the one her mom had given her before she died.

I wonder about those items. Who did God impress to give them? Did they sense that God would use those things in a special way? We simply don’t know the rest of the story.

So much of life is like that. We see “through a glass darkly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12) Someday we will see the great love of a great God who cares about the little things we value. Someday we will hear the rest of the story and in amazement worship more fully the great God who put the details together in the lives of people that He fully knows and fully loves.

Story by: Aletha Gruzensky
Two Weeks after the Colorado Flood Disaster

(From the Loveland Distribution Center)

Yesterday, a man picked up a tent from some items someone had already set aside. When asking him about the other items, I realized that he had mistakenly taken it from someone else's pile. His face fell when I told him the tent had been claimed. He said that he'd been trying for 2 weeks to connect with FEMA. They had just looked at his house and told him he couldn't live there.

"I need a tent," he said. "I have nothing."

Shelters have closed down now and the weather service predicted snow or rain depending on elevation. A search of the back room where donations had not yet been sorted turned up a sleeping bag, but no tent.

With a few questions, I discovered who had originally claimed the tent and went to talk with the man who is handicapped. "Please let him have it," the second man said. "I already have a smaller tent. It's a little hard to get in and out of, so I wanted something a little bigger. But I'm staying with a friend, so let him have the tent."

With the tent, two sleeping bags and a couple of wool blankets for padding, the man assured us that he would be OK. With a hug, he expressed deep appreciation.

He is one of the ones who have lost much of what they owned. Others have everything left but can't get to it until the roads are repaired.

One couple told how someone had loaned them an RV. "We are so grateful that someone believes in us," the man said.

One lady and her 21-year-old daughter stay in their car in the Walmart parking lot. Fortunately, they both have jobs. They store their belongings in the car. At night they set everything outside their car so they can lay the seats down and sleep. She said that about 8 campers and 40 cars share the parking lot with them.

Plastic storage totes don't stay in the donation center very long. They are often requested. Gold's gym and a local Baptist church offer free showers.

Written by: Aletha Gruzensky
"I have spent the day at the relief center here at Loveland, Colo., and am completely overwhelmed with all that is going on here and the stories I have heard – especially from those affected," writes Nancy Lamoreaux, director of NAD ITS Department. The following is from Nancy's message:

"The Adventists are deeply appreciated for what they are doing here and leading out with Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief (ACS DR). Cathy Kissner, ACS DR director from the Rocky Mountain Conference, is doing a spectacular job here with her organization skills and knowledge. Campion Academy students have done many hours of volunteer work and are continuing to help wherever they are needed. Many different church groups are helping including the Latter-day Saints, Presbyterians, and Salvation Army, and everyone is working for one purpose – to help those in need.

Many have lost everything and a huge percentage of the people have no flood insurance. Many cannot go back home and have to go somewhere else. About one-fourth of the state of Colorado have been affected by this flood."

The greatest need is always for financial donations which enable ACS to make large bulk purchases for needs specific to the affected area and that are logistically available via roads open for travel. Donate to flood relief.

Florida Conference Celebrated its 120th anniversary on September 22. The conference began in 1893, with three ordained ministers, two licensed ministers, and 139 members, and a territory comprising all of Florida. The photo on the left is of the first permanent office, also used as a church.

Southwestern Union College in Keene, Texas, is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year. The first students and their families traveled to the 800 acre plot by cart and covered wagons and lived in tents. They helped to clear the land for their classrooms, and grew and preserved their own food. They sold firewood to help make ends meet. In January, 1894, just a few months after they first arrived, they opened the school with 56 students. This year, they have started out with 817 students, including 46 more dorm students than last year. (Photo: North Heritage Hall).

Robert G. Carmen, President and CEO of Adventist Health, has announced his retirement, according to Ricardo Graham, chairman of the board. On April 1, 2014, Carmen will conclude his 44-year career with the health system which spans the states of California, Hawaii, Oregon and...