

ENSIGHT

Skills Center, Inc.

for visual rehabilitation



Nov./Dec. 2009

Ensign Needs Help

Ensign is facing very major financial challenges in the coming months and we need to make everyone aware of this situation. We are a non-profit organization, and the majority of our funding (about 60%) comes from foundation grants and individual donations, with the remainder coming from professional services and store sales. Although we've been busier than ever, we can't always make up the shortfall in grants and donations.

As a result, we've gone through a round of budget cuts, everything from staff pay cuts, cutbacks on operating hours in Greeley and Fort Collins, even to going bi-monthly on this newsletter. We are determined to keep Ensign open and firmly believe this is a temporary problem. But we need your help. As we enter the holiday season, we ask that you think of Ensign when making your charitable donations.

Senior Vision Seminar Coming in November

The Eye Center of Northern Colorado will be holding its annual senior vision seminar on Saturday, November 7th, from 8-10 a.m., at the Fort Collins Senior Center (1200 Raintree Drive). Surgeons from the Eye Center will present the latest treatments for several age-related eye conditions, including: cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and droopy eyelids. Ensign staff will also be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate assistive aids. This is a free event, but they are asking everyone to RSVP. So, to save a seat, contact the Eye Center at 970-221-2222.

Ensign Skills Center
3307 S. College Ave, #108
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-407-9999
Curtis Strong Center
918 13th Street, Suite 4
Greeley, CO 80631
970-353-9417

“Trinkets and Treasures” to Benefit Enight

The Northern Colorado Delta Gamma Alumnae women’s group will hold its annual “Trinkets and Treasures” fundraiser on Thursday, November 12th, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Fossil Lake Ranch Clubhouse (2062 Brookwater Lane) in Fort Collins. This is a live and silent auction, and a majority of the proceeds will benefit Enight Skills Center. Tickets to the event are \$5 at the door, and wine and appetizers will be served. This has been a highly enjoyable event in past years, and we encourage everyone to attend.

Denver Fundraiser Is Here!

It’s still not too late to sign up to attend Enight’s first fundraising event in Denver. The first annual “Keeping Eyes on the Future” fundraiser breakfast will be held at the historic Denver Athletic Club (1325 Glenarm Place) on Wednesday, November 4th, from 7:15 - 8:30 a.m. This is a unique and free event designed to raise awareness of Enight in the Denver community. If you’d like to attend, just give us a call at 970-407-9999 or 303-757-4500.

Volunteer Reader Service Available

We wanted to highlight a service available to our clients with low vision. Enight has a number of volunteers willing to serve as readers to those who need help with correspondence, bill paying, newspapers, books, etc. If you might be in need of such assistance, give us a call at 970-407-9999.

Changes in Fort Collins/Greeley Office Hours

As we mentioned earlier in this newsletter, budget cuts have forced us to reduce our hours of operation at the Fort Collins and Greeley offices. **The Greeley office is now open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Effective this month, **the Fort Collins office will be open Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** These reduced hours will remain in effect until further notice, but we hope this will be just a temporary change in schedule. Once we reclaim our financial health, we hope to restore the operating days/hours that were cut.

It's Holiday Time, Let's Go to a Play!

If you're looking for a special activity over the holidays for someone with low vision, you might want to check out audio-described theater events in Denver. Audio description is the verbal translation of visual information to make theater events more understandable for people with low or no vision. The describer provides concise descriptions of key visual elements of a performance into the natural pauses of the dialogue. The audio description is delivered through a radio headset that is provided free of charge.

Upcoming audio-described plays for November/December include:

"Wicked" on November 15th (Sunday), 2:00 p.m.

"Tales of Hoffmann" on November 15th (Sunday), 2:00 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol" on December 12th (Saturday), 1:30 p.m.

"Spring Awakening" on December 13th (Sunday), 2:00 p.m.

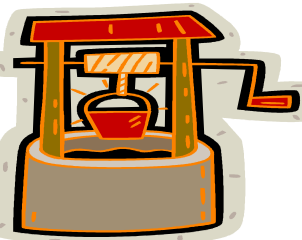
"Absurd Person Singular" on December 19th (Saturday), 1:30 p.m.

"Little House on the Prairie" on December 26th (Sunday), 2:00 p.m.

For more information about audio-described theater, the shows themselves, and ticket prices, call **303-893-4100**.

Our Wish List

We need several items to help run our office but have limited funds. Please consider helping us with these items from our current wish list. Thank you!



- * Batteries (especially the "C" and "AAA" sizes)
- * Kleenex tissues, air freshener
- * Copy paper
- * Postage stamps and envelopes (business-size)

Ensign Skills Center
3307 S. College Ave
Suite 108
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Fort Collins, CO
Permit # 174

Ensign -- Empowering Independent Living

Support Groups for November/December 2009

Greeley - November 16th (Monday) 10-11 a.m. Curtis Strong Center. Richard Peterson from Ski for Light will speak. There will no December support group meeting at Curtis Strong. The Greeley support groups at Good Samaritan have been suspended until April 2010.

Fort Collins - November 19th (Thursday) 10-11:30 a.m. Ensign Skills Center. The topic will be "Holidays - Here They Come Again" (how to prepare and celebrate).

Fort Collins - December 17th (Thursday) 10-11:30 a.m. Ensign Skills Center. Holiday party time, with a \$3 silly gift exchange.

Again, the support groups are open to everyone, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call **970-407-9999**.