

# ENSIGHT

Skills Center, Inc.

for visual rehabilitation



## July 2009

### Ensign Celebrates Its 8th Birthday in July

The Ensign Skills Center was created by a few visually impaired people (among them our director Denny Bettenhausen and long-time occupational therapist Lila Bartmann). They envisioned creating a place where people with low vision would be provided with training and support to maintain an independent lifestyle. That dream became a reality on July 7th, 2001, when the doors opened to the first low vision training center in northern Colorado (granted, it was in the basement of the Elderhaus, but it was a start).

Since then, we've taken over operation of the Curtis Strong Center in Greeley (September 2007), opened a satellite clinic in Longmont (December 2008), and opened our new office in Denver (January 2009). To all our staff and supporters, thank you for making Ensign a success story!

### Curtis Strong Operating Hours to Change

These are difficult financial times for everyone, and non-profit organizations like Ensign are no exception. Because of some major reductions in our foundation grant support for the Curtis Strong Center in Greeley, we've had to make some cuts in our operating expenses.

Beginning on July 1st, our hours of operation in Greeley will be Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This reduced schedule will remain in effect until further notice. Our offices in Fort Collins and Denver will keep their regular schedules (Monday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

**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

## **It's Time to Think About Fundraising**

As we mentioned earlier, these are challenging times for non-profit groups like Ensign. As a result, our fundraising activities are taking on increased emphasis. Ensign's annual fundraiser breakfasts in Fort Collins, Greeley, and now Denver, are tremendously important to our overall operations.

Our Denver office will be holding its first fundraiser breakfast on Wednesday, November 4th, from 7:15 - 8:30 a.m., at the Denver Athletic Club. This is a free event, and we're hoping to raise awareness of Ensign's services in the Denver area.

The third annual Fort Collins fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th at the Fort Collins Marriott. The date for the second annual Greeley fundraiser has not yet been set, but it will most likely be held in the spring at the Greeley Country Club.

The reason we're bringing all of this up now is to request your help. The most important people at these events are table captains. These folks are responsible for inviting eight to ten people to their table at the breakfast. Getting as many new faces as possible to attend our breakfasts is the best way for us to increase awareness of Ensign in the community, and to raise funding in the process.

For the past two years, we have relied very heavily on a core group of 25-30 table captains, who have worked miracles. But now, we need to increase this number to reach more people who might not have been invited to our events in the past. If you might be interested in volunteering, please give us a call 970-407-9999.

## **Senior Law Day at CSU**

The 5th Annual Senior Law Day will be held on Saturday, August 8th, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the CSU Lory Student Center. This annual free educational seminar provides information specifically for seniors in northern Colorado. There will be seminars on Medicaid, grandparenting rights, planning for incapacity, and housing options. This is a free event, but you do need to register by July 27th. For more information and to register, contact the Elder Care Network at 970-495-3442.

## **“Co-Pilots” Tandem Bike Ride for July**

The next ride for the “Co-Pilots” tandem biking program will be held in Fort Collins on Monday, July 13th, beginning at 5 p.m., at the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) on East Drake Road.

If you’d like to sign up as a “back-seater” for one of these rides, just contact Joe Bagley at New World Sports (970-224-5857).

## **Orientation and Mobility Assistance Available at Ensignt**

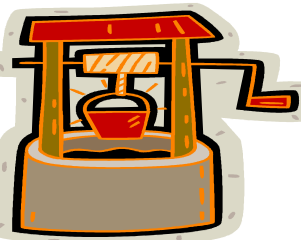
Vicki Pearson has joined Ensignt as our new orientation and mobility specialist. Vicki is a teacher of the visually impaired (TVI) for the Poudre School District and a certified orientation and mobility specialist (COMS). A COMS provides sequential instruction to those folks with visual impairment in the use of their remaining senses to determine their position within the environment, and in techniques for safe movement from one place to another. If you’re interested in learning more about these services, please give us a call at 970-407-9999.

## **“Thank You” Corner**

Many thanks go out to the Gills Lions Club and the Denver Public Library for greatly expanding our free lending library of books on tape and CD, and large-print books. Between the two groups, we’ve managed to add more than 100 new titles to our collection. Stop by the Fort Collins office and check out our new additions.

## **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” size)
- \* Kleenex tissues
- \* Copier paper
- \* Postage stamps and envelopes (business-size)

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

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

## *Enight -- Empowering Independent Living*

### **Support Groups for July 2009 (There are Changes!)**

**Greeley** - The support group meeting that would have been held on Thursday, July 16th at Bonnell Good Samaritan, has been cancelled for July. It will return in August.

**Greeley** - July 27th (Monday) 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Curtis Strong Center. The topic will be "Self-Esteem and Vision Impairment."

**Fort Collins** - The support group meeting that would have been held on Thursday, July 23rd at Enight, has also been cancelled. It will most definitely return in August.

The Fort Collins Tuesday evening support group has been discontinued for the time being, as we try to increase attendance. Again, the support groups are open to everyone, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call **970-407-9999**.