



the EXCHANGE

August 2021



JASON CROW

CONGRESSMAN FOR COLORADO'S 6TH DISTRICT

WHAT'S NEW?

*Building
Renovation Project*

\$1,700,000



The Village Exchange Center is proud to announce a \$1.7MM capital improvement grant from the U.S. House of Representatives, through the support of Congressman Crow! This funding will allow us to renovate our offices for our local non-profits and to add classrooms and a much needed commercial kitchen, commissary and restaurant storefront! Stop by and take a tour to see how we plan to utilize our new space for the community!

PROGRAM
HIGHLIGHT

*Governor's Vaccine
Equity Clinic and
Fund*

COVID-19

VACCINE
EQUITY
FUND



Village
Exchange
Center

We are extending our Clinic through our new Vaccine Equity Fund! We have received \$1MM from Adams County to pilot our program and to provide \$250 and up to \$1000 per household to BIPOC individuals that verify residency in Adams County. Our next clinic will be an extended day on August 9 from 10:00 am to 7:30 pm. Please either stop by or reserve a space by calling 720-577-0574. We are administering the Pfizer, J&J and Moderna vaccine for ALL people ages 12 and up and non-Adams County residents will receive a \$100 Walmart card from the State! Follow

us and sign up for August 9th!

Facebook @VECAurora

Instagram @villageexchangecolorado

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Meet Bhim Bhattarai. He was born in Bhutan but he spent his childhood as a refugee in Nepal. "There were lots of challenges and struggles to live a normal life, it was very hard for me to fulfill our daily requirements to live, I spent almost 22 years of my life in poverty, scarcity, and hunger living in refugee camps in Nepal". As time passed, he resettled in the US in Colorado, and it was a big turn in his life. Now he has a job, he just bought a house for himself and his family. He supports his community and says..."I am living happily with my two kids and wife". Bhim is the Food's Pantry Services Coordinator and working with him is such a great experience. He is a warrior and a lovely human being! We love to have him on the Team and congratulations Bhim on your new home purchase!



We are taking applications for Round 2 of our BIPOC Fund! BIPOC owned small businesses in good standing and startups/scaling businesses are encouraged to apply! This grant helps to cover expenses to assist entrepreneurs with

new skills, such as branding, raising capital, finances/budgeting, business plans, and continued education, etc. Click on the this link for the flyer and application link: [BIPOC Startup & Small Biz Fund Application July 2021 \(google.com\)](#)

VEC PARTNER UPDATES

*Recognizing Food
Bank of The Rockies*



The Food Bank of the Rockies is VEC's trusted Village Pantry partner and the largest hunger relief organization in the Rocky Mountain region. That makes them uniquely suited to answer this enormous challenge that affects 1 out of 7 people in our communities. Since 1978 they have put all the power of community to work for our neighbors in need. Since 2018, Village Exchange Center has had the honor to be a partner of this amazing organization that has provided knowledge, growth, abundance, joy, and happiness to our Food Pantry. It is not just about Food it is about dignity and love...the Food Bank of the Rockies knows all about this!! <https://www.foodbankrockies.org/>

SPOTLIGHT

*Look at the awesome
things Focus Points is
doing!*



Focus Points Family Resource Center is having two extraordinary events this month:

August 7th from 10am to 12pm: BACKPACK DISTRIBUTION & OPEN HOUSE FOR THEIR WONDERFUL PROGRAMS (Community Engagement, Adult Education, Family Support Services, Workforce Development, social Enterprises)

August 18 from 6pm to 7:30pm: JOB FAIR. MEET YOUR NEXT EMPLOYER!

All this is happening at 250I E 48th Av. Denver CO 80216

303-292-0770 www.focuspoints.org

"COMMUNITY WITHIN COMMUNITY"

*by José Gómez,
Natural Helpers
Coordinator*



Village Exchange Center Natural Helpers program has been a success this year. How? I am glad you asked.

We have been able to equip and mobilize our wonderful volunteer/community resource navigators to be the eyes and ears for us. They are in their community on a daily basis hearing what are the needs of their communities, then they share those said needs with us and us here at village exchange center we do everything we can to either provide those resources or connect them to those resources.

For example, this year we have been able to equip and mobilize our natural helpers with the information of the covid-19 vaccine. They have done a wonderful job in educating their community members about the vaccine, answering any questions and doubts that they may have and putting to rest any Myths their community may have heard about the vaccine. Because of their amazing hard work, we have been able to give out more than 3000 vaccines.

We are very excited of our new Natural Helpers cohort training coming up towards the ends of August and the beginning of September of this year. Where we will be recruiting equipping and mobilizing more amazing community leaders to assist us with this journey.

At the same time, our Natural Helpers have been a big role with the covid economic assistance that we are able to share with community members that have been impacted because of the back pandemic. They have helped us find family that have been affected by this pandemic and process them in order for them to qualify for this assistance. People in the community and families have come and praised are amazing volunteers because of the hard work that they have done the mentioned programs and other things that are fabulous natural helpers are involved in to better assist their communities. This wonderful team has gone above and beyond they're calling to make sure that people that are very underserved are served.

Sign up for our next NATURAL HELPERS COHORT Starting August 21st 2021

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