



# Community Chest, Inc.

*A Center for Resources... A Catalyst for Change.*

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## CCI News

January 2010

Dear Community Member,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read CCI's new quarterly newsletter. This is a great way to keep you updated on some of what we've been up to and how our whole community is striving to grow together.

November and December saw a huge effort from the community in volunteering and donating for the holiday season. This effort helped Community Chest feed 191 people in December and 165 in November.

The Eastern Star of Reno and the Storey County Jeep Posse were especially helpful. There were also dozens of donors who prefer to remain anonymous.

Also, we want to thank the community for their continued support of the Angel Tree (in Virginia City and Lockwood), which enabled 150 young people to receive necessary clothing and gifts for the holiday season.

We are optimistic that 2010 will represent monumental growth in our community. We are grateful for all of the help you have and will continue to offer as we explore all the possibilities for this new year.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who may be interested in CCI's mission in improving social justice in Northern Nevada. Please check our [web site](#) for detailed information on our programs and [principles](#), or to [donate](#).

Happy January!

## Community Chest Empowers Local Communities to Fight Youth Unemployment

### Teen job-seekers get help through Comstock Youth Works

Over 100 teen job seekers dodged the unemployment bullet this summer when they earned entrance to Community Chest's innovative job skills and summer employment program, Comstock Youth Works. The work was especially welcome since U.S. youths had less than a 30 percent chance of finding work this summer due to the recession.

Each youth applicant went through a program application process followed by several weeks of job skills classes on proper attire, punctuality, teamwork, resumé writing and interview tips before going on to interviews with local businesses. Wendy Madson of Community Roots, one of the business owners who employed teens from the program, explained that, "The hard part about being young is that few want to hire you when you have no experience. This program breaks that cycle."

The stimulus funds became available in the spring of 2009 through NevadaWorks, but the catch was that it needed to be implemented immediately and with great efficiency and quality. CCI put their experience to work and called upon their community partners to help and was awarded the grant. Community Chest's Erik Schoen oversaw programs from Yerington to Silver City that not only trained and employed 100 youth in area businesses, but also guided them on community improvement projects such as creating and maintaining community gardens in VC, Silver Springs, Yerington and Dayton, and the hard but rewarding physical labor of clearing dozens of senior yards, public parks, and nonprofits of weeds and other fire hazards.

Community Chest and their partners joined with area business owners who took a chance on not only hiring youths, but on actively training them and involving them in their businesses this summer. In return, the program paid the youth wages and continued to train the young people with classes such as conflict resolution, money management, and business etiquette. The Dayton Chevron owner said, "We had an opportunity handed to us, although we were reluctant at first because we didn't know anything about the program. I'd like to tell business owners that this is a great program and a great way to reach out to youth in our community. We are proud of the work Elica did. She did everything we asked of her and more, and we've offered her a position at Chevron."

Stories like these illustrate the success of empowering local people to meet community adversity head on to make a difference in people's lives.

## CCI's Outstanding Employee for 2009

### Tiffany Harrower and the business of CCI

Running a non-profit is NOT all about the mission; the business side must be run efficiently, ethically, and meet local, state, and federal requirements in accounting and quality management.

CCI does all that with very little bumps, meaning the staff can focus on the mission and the good work. Since a business does not run itself,

the woman behind the mechanics of CCI is Tiffany Harrower, and who the board has selected as an outstanding employee for this year. Few can brag that they have given more than 10 years of volunteer service to CCI before becoming a staff member three years ago. Tiffany's attention to detail and passion to help brace and build CCI's foundation. The board could not be more thrilled with her dedication.

Tiffany does all this while raising six children. She enjoys working with the people of CCI best and sums it all up with, "I just love it". Thank goodness, because the board loves her and hopes to continue to closely work with Tiffany for many years to come.



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