

August, 2010



Donn's Desk

Recommended reading:
When Helping Hurts, by
Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert

This book has recently been very helpful to me in understanding how many times efforts to help the materially poor actually have hurt them and ourselves in the process. Corbett and Fikkert, through a solid biblical perspective, help us take a hard look at the ways churches, helping organizations and individual Christians have looked at the materially poor and the methods used in trying to alleviate poverty. The book presents foundational concepts, general principles and practical strategies for “helping without hurting”. I particularly appreciated ideas and concepts that VIA can apply in our programs and service projects.

This book has been thought provoking and inspiring to me. I recommend it to anyone who is serious about “loving your neighbor as yourself” in a truly helpful and healthy way.

—Donn Hansum, Director

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help with roofing project **October 2, 2010**

VIA is organizing a combination service project/fundraising event for Saturday, Oct. 2 to shingle the roof of the Khmer Cambodian Church, 3600 Helena St., Aurora, 80011. We are looking for volunteers who have some experience shingling to work on a number of small crews that will work together to put on a new roof. The roof is not too steep and suitable for volunteers. We also plan to do some painting on the church that day for those who want to help but are not comfortable with shingling. A Cambodian lunch meal will be provided by the members of the Khmer Church. Please call the VIA office to volunteer!

ZEALOUS LOVE: **A Social Justice** **Conference**

Jude Del Hierro, the founder and director of Confluence Ministries, once told me, “I always tell people, whatever you do, do **something!**” Well that stuck with me, and it has been the driving force in the efforts I’ve put into planning the **Zealous Love Social Justice Conference**. The goal of the conference coming up on **September 18th** is to educate people about local injustices, as well as connect you to ways you can fight for justice. There will be breakout sessions on the pressing local issues of **Immigration, Domestic Poverty, Environmental Concern and Human Trafficking**, as well as a **Ministry Fair** where you can see and get connected to over 20 area organizations that are fighting for justice on the above topics.

Come hear Jude Del Hierro as well as many other local leaders speak on issues that are facing our communities here in Denver. All are welcome to this whole-day event that will also include optional service projects in the afternoon, a **Nick O’Connor Band** concert and showing of the film **Call + Response**. Jude challenged me and now I want to challenge you- to do **something** - no matter how big or how small, on behalf of the disempowered and marginalized people in the city of Denver.

Rachel (Miedema) Johnson
Volunteer Coordinator



people helping people

Be the Denver Difference is an initiative of the City and County of Denver that is focusing on one topic each month where you can “Be the Denver Difference.” Volunteers in Action is encouraging churches and individuals to partner with community initiatives like this.

July	Graffiti Removal
August	Support Our Schools
September	National Preparedness Month
October	Fall Clean Up
November	Snow Removal
December	Shop Local Neighborhood Businesses

Helping your neighbor goes a long way in building a better, stronger community. To learn more about the **Be the Denver Difference** outreach program, visit the “Be the Denver Difference” tab on www.denvergov.org.

Current Volunteering Opportunities:

- Grocery Shopping with a blind woman in Aurora once a week.
- Visiting an elderly man in South Denver occasionally.
- Running errands with a blind man in North Aurora twice a month.
- Providing occasional transportation for an elderly woman in Hampden Heights, Denver.

VIA would like to say goodbye and thank you to two out-going board members, Chad Vermeer and Cyndi Berghuis. We appreciate your service! And we would like to welcome new board members Wes Keesen from Eastern Hills and Jim Kok, At-Large board member, from Third CRC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 18th, 7-9 pm *Chair of Deacon Gathering*

Aug. 25th, 7-9 pm *Newly Selected Deacon Workshop*

Sept. 18th , *Zealous Love: A Social Justice Conference*

Oct. 2nd, *Roofing Project at Khmer Church*

Financial Report: Jan-June 2010

Budgeted Income & Expenses:	\$90,283
Actual Income:	67,291
Actual Expenses:	85,935
Shortfall:	(18,644)

VIA relies on church and individual contributions to continue its ministries. Your donations are sincerely appreciated. You can mail your gift to Volunteers in Action, 9185 E. Kenyon Ave., #130, Denver, CO 80237