

**Urban
Voices**



**ROP
EAST COLFAX**

RESTORATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Out with the Old, In with the New!

ROP is changing the way it communicates with its supporters and champions!

Some of you might remember the days when you received a monthly e-Newsletter from Prodigal, and a quarterly hard-copy newsletter from ROP. Over this last year of reorganization and growth, we've been prayerfully considering changes in the ways we communicate that are more engaging and more cost effective.

Introducing ROP's new e-Newsletter - "*Urban Voices*"! The old quarterly, 4-page, hard-copy newsletter is now history. In its place, we will be posting a fresh 2-page edition of *Urban Voices* on our website every other month. Each edition will feature (1) SHORT articles and stories about our ministry and the people we serve, and (2) updates on special needs and upcoming events. Posting our e-Newsletters on the website will allow us to keep our emails short, including brief descriptions with links to the full articles and other information on the website.

This first edition of *Urban Voices* is being sent digitally to everyone for whom we have an email address. If you received a hard copy in the mail, that means we do not have a current email address for you. Just send us your email and we will be happy to start communicating with you digitally. On the other hand, if you prefer a hard-copy, just let us know and we will send one to you by regular mail beginning with our next edition.

We believe *Urban Voices* is a step in the right direction in our communications with most of our constituents, but please give us your comments and let us know what you think. Comments and email addresses should be sent to Vicki@RestorationOutreachPrograms.org

Save the Date—*Shine Like A Star*

You are invited to ROP's 4th Annual Celebration and Fund-raising Banquet on Saturday, October 1st, at Colorado Community Church's Englewood Campus. The theme of this year's banquet is *Shine Like A Star*. Attendees will be encouraged and moved as they hear from several of the Stars in ROP's galaxy about how God is shining His light in and through the lives of volunteers and clients alike to make a difference for His Kingdom in our community along East Colfax.

This year's banquet will also feature a message from keynote speaker, David Warren, the Executive Director of Open Door Ministries. David has a great heart for the people ROP serves and a unique perspective as the leader of the ministry that incubated ROP and launched it as an independent ministry in January 2008.

We encourage you to not only mark your calendars and plan to attend, but to invite your friends and even consider sponsoring and/or hosting a table. Bringing people to the banquet is a great way to partner with ROP in getting the word out about how God is using this ministry to touch lives and bring people into relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. For more information about the banquet, please go to www.RestorationOutreachPrograms.org. Hope to see you there!

**BIG
NEWS!**



Back2School Outreach - Hot but very Cool

Did you know that when you sign your kid up for school, the school gives you a list of items to buy for the class your child will attend? I didn't! At least, not until I became a missionary with ROP.

ROP's Resource Ministry - in partnership with Foothills Bible Church's Inner-City Outreach Team (ICOT) and many more volunteers from other churches - held our 5th Back2School Outreach on July 23rd. It was a very warm day, but it was also a very cool day as we served over 1200 meals and put 700 backpacks filled with school supplies into the hands of needy children and teens living along East Colfax.

One of the coolest things about this year's event was our partnership with the City of Aurora Police Department (APD). The APD actually came to us and asked to combine their Safety Fair with our outreach! The partnership worked great. "Dunk a Cop" was among the most popular activities and the APD had no problem with our desire to openly share the Gospel message. We hope this was just the beginning of ROP and the APD partnering together in reaching out to our community together.

Interning by Faith

As my time at Restoration Outreach is coming to a close and I begin to relay stories of the summer to my friends and family, many people comment on what a challenge this summer must have been. Yes, this summer has been full of its challenges. Between becoming familiar with all that ROP has to offer, forming relationships with all those—young and old—that are involved in our programs, and simply getting oriented with the culture of East Colfax itself, challenges have arisen from all angles. When this internship first began and these challenges were wearing me down day after day, I was struggling to see God's faithfulness. However, now as I reflect on the summer, I cannot help but proclaim how faithful God has been. At first, I began to wonder why it took me so long to see His faithfulness, but this thought was immediately transformed as 2 Cor. 5:7 came to mind, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Whether we have actually been able to see it at the very moment we are longing to see it, or whether it has taken a full two months to begin to see the evidence of His faithfulness, God has proven to be faithful this summer not only to me, but to all of ROP. Through every challenge, every outreach, every week of kid's summer camp, and even every mundane office task, God has given me a reason to rejoice in faith.

By Karalee Angus

How big is your life? Is your life big enough to let others fit into it? These are just a few of the questions that I have asked throughout my internship with ROP. Clayton is the one who made me ask some of those questions. Clayton is unlike anyone I've ever met before, unlike anyone I'd naturally gravitate towards. He smelled of alcohol with every word that he said, and it was hard to tell if he was drunk, high, or delusional. The things that he was telling me were impossible to believe and yet, all he wanted was to tell his story. So is my life big enough to let Clayton in? I found out that the answer to this question is no. As much as I wanted to let him in, he wouldn't fit. Indeed, he does not fit into my life because my life is not "mine." However, he does fit into Life. Jesus said that he is the Life, and Life is a bigger reality than our own individual experiences and expectations. Life is bigger than us because God is doing things beyond what we can even comprehend or imagine. Yet by his grace, we are allowed to participate in this Life. Being at ROP, I have seen incredible people, people in need, people with little hope of their own. Now, leaving Denver behind, though I cannot bring people with me, I can remember that I have had the opportunity to participate in Life with them. And I continue to participate in a Life that is full and abundant and big enough to fit all of us.

By Gabe Lowe

