



## WHO WE ARE:

Volunteers of America - Colorado Branch operates approximately 30 different programs in the state of Colorado to help those that need a hand up which include, in part, Meals on Wheels, a Head-Start program, low-income senior housing, nursing homes, low-income housing for families, transitional housing, transformational housing, mission, homeless family motel, a day care center for children affected by AIDS, and shelters for women, women and children, and men. The Guild of Volunteers of America currently helps to support the following women's shelters.

- **Brandon Center /Theodora House** - two facilities with 117 beds for abused and homeless single women, woman and children, and now single homeless women Veterans. Residents receive counseling; help in obtaining their GED; assistance with job placement, help finding transitional housing. Parenting and Budgeting classes are also provided.

## WHAT WE DO:

The Guild of Volunteers of America was formed fifteen years ago and is an all-volunteer auxiliary that raises funds to help support Brandon Center and Theodora House - "Women Helping Women". Besides fundraising events, The Guild has several yearly events at Brandon and Theodora for the residents.

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

**Red Wine and Seafood - of Course!** Hosted by McCormick's Seafood Restaurant and the Oxford Hotel, this yearly event is a fun evening for sampling different seafoods and wine. Approximately 300 guests per year attend and this event gives The Guild the opportunity to let those in the community learn about The Guild of Volunteers of America.

**Annual Signature Event** - Our main fundraising event is held in the spring each year. Attendees to this luncheon or dinner event sponsor tables or purchase tickets with friends. Our goals at this event are to both educate the community on domestic violence and the scope of homelessness that affects women and their children, and provide a stimulating and fun program. Proceeds from both fundraising events go towards the operation expenses of Brandon and Theodora House.

## **RESIDENT SUPPORT:**

**Adopt-A-Room** –over 1,200 women and children use the Brandon/Theodora facilities yearly. Needless to say, the rooms require restoration on a periodic basis. Volunteers are assigned a room and may paint, decorate, provide linens and accessories as their budgets and Brandon Center guidelines allow.

**Brandon Brigade** – The Guild provides supplies needed by the residents. These items can include alarm clocks, toiletries, diapers, over-the-counter medicines, and towels, to name a few.

**Brandon Closet** – Since many residents arrive with little or no clothing, the Closet allows them to find everyday clothes for themselves, as well as outfits to wear when looking for employment or to wear to work.

**Dinners at Theodora** – Theodora House relies on volunteers to cook and serve meals for 30 women daily. Volunteers can sign up as often as they choose, once or once a month.

**Mother's Day in December** – Held the first Sunday in December, this event is an opportunity for the women of The Guild to give the residents of Brandon Center and Theodora House a day of pampering ~ a day of women (and men!) helping women. Holidays can be a stressful time for any of us. Can you imagine having to stay in a shelter, with your children, for your safety at this time of the year? Not having your own home to decorate, or the funds to buy those presents that your children have their hearts set upon? At a time when so much is going on in their personal lives, holiday stress just adds to the resident's depression and feelings of inadequacy. Mother's Day in December gives the women a lift as the Guild provides stylists, manicurists, cosmeticians, clothing, holiday treats, and childcare.

**Back-to-School Bar-b-que** – Every August, Guild volunteers organize a picnic to help the children at Brandon get ready to go to back to school. Guild members provide and cook the food and festively decorate the outside common area at Brandon. Entertainment is provided for the children, as well as backpacks filled with back-to-school supplies. Those not old enough to attend school are not forgotten and also receive a present. Women from both Brandon and Theodora are welcome to attend. It's a fun afternoon for all and gives the children some confidence for that first day of school.

## **WHAT WE NEED:**

**Volunteers** are always needed and welcomed for either hands-on projects or to provide supplies for the projects listed previously.

**New Sponsors and Supporters** for our fundraising events. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in sponsoring a table or buying tickets to any of our events, please let us know. We can work with you, however you deem best, to contact them.