

Benchmark

A PUBLICATION BY TRUCKEE MEADOWS TOMORROW

Summer 2006

Education, teachers and quality of life – *Washoe Education Association*

by Elaine Lancaster, WEA UniServ Director

The Washoe Education Association (WEA) was a founding member of Truckee Meadows Tomorrow and has been an involved member through the years. As a **visionary** member of TMT, our most recent endeavor has been the *Parental Involvement Compact* entered into with the Washoe County School District and TMT.

Increasing parental involvement was one of TMT's original quality of life indicators. The association and school district laid out a plan to train teams of administrators, teachers and parents from each site in new and innovative ways to get parents involved in their child's school. We had over two-thirds of the sites involved. At the same time, the school district compiled a compendium of best practices and distributed one to each site. We also encouraged sites to participate in the National PTA's online certification of exemplary schools.

The WEA is constantly working with its members and the school district to address the dropout rate through professional development. And with the advent of *No Child Left Behind*, the need for cooperation in all aspects of the education field has never been at a higher level. Our members work with the Nevada Department of Education and local university members on every subject from test scores to the latest development in federal legislation. We are constantly working to improve the quality of our classrooms with the end result of improving the quality of life in the Truckee Meadows.



Looking ahead to the upcoming months, WEA will become heavily involved in TMT's new updated indicator: community-wide involvement in education. We are working with our national affiliate to bring a community conversation to the Truckee Meadows centered on **Closing the Achievement Gap** in our public schools. This conversation will bring together folks from all walks of life in the community to discuss this important issue. We hope to have the beginning stages in the works this summer.

Join us for TMT's September 28th general membership meeting here at the WEA office and find out how YOU can become involved.

☆☆☆☆☆

TMT Membership Meeting NEW LOCATION & TIME

Thursday, September 28, 2006 • 4:00 – 5:30 PM
Washoe Education Association (WEA)
1890 Donald St., Reno, NV 89502

Agenda

- WEA activities impacting education & lifelong learning indicators
- Quality of life indicators roll-out

TMT 2006 members free / non-members \$10

Directions: East on Peckham, cross Kietzke, cross Neil, turn north on Pamela (just before the runway), 2-story building just off Peckham, parking lot on your immediate left

Annual meeting: December 14, 2006
Location to be announced

Updated quality of life indicators

The Quality of Life Task Force Steering Committee wishes to thank the thousands of citizens who provided input to the 18-month process to update the quality of life indicators, as well as the sponsors who made the community-engaging process possible: Reno Gazette-Journal Foundation, Washoe Medical Center, and Wells Fargo Bank.

TMT's board recently approved the following 33 updated community indicators that you told the task force were *the most important to your quality of life—both living and working in the Truckee Meadows*. Now we're in the final stage to identify the most relevant data measures per indicator in order to continue highlighting community improvement or decline in TMT's next Community Wellbeing Report.

See **INDICATORS** on page 2

Indicators/ New and revised categories, indicators and measures

From page 1

Below are the updated indicators (19 of the 33 are new indicators) within 10 categories (4 new categories were added). Categories and indicators with an asterisk [*] were part of TMT's prior community indicators or metrics.

ARTS & CULTURAL VITALITY

1. Expression of cultural life through the arts
2. Participation in the arts & cultural activities

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

3. *Voter turnout
4. Effective government engagement
5. Civility & neighborhood pride
6. Emergency preparedness

***ECONOMIC WELLBEING**

7. *Individual & family economic wellbeing
8. *Economic vitality
9. Workforce development
10. Entrepreneurship

***EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING**

11. Educational infrastructure to meet community needs
12. *Educational success
13. *Community-wide involvement in education
14. Literate community

ENRICHMENT

15. Recreation
16. Philanthropy and volunteerism
17. Access to faith communities & spiritual wellbeing

***HEALTH & WELLNESS**

18. *Access to healthcare
19. *Wellness & preventative healthcare
20. Mental health & social wellbeing

INNOVATION

21. Renewable energy

22. Technology infrastructure & engagement
23. Transformative community initiatives

***LAND USE & INFRASTRUCTURE**

24. *Affordable housing
25. Land use balance & sensitivity
26. *Mobility & convenience
27. Development that encourages healthy lifestyles & neighborhood livability

***NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

28. *Air quality
29. *Clean & available water
30. *Open space access & connectivity

***PUBLIC WELLBEING**

31. *Perception of safety
32. *Secure families
33. Community responsiveness to its most vulnerable populations

TMT will announce these new indicators and data measures this fall and encourages participation from members, individuals, organizations, and companies in community compacts that improve quality of life in our community. If you, your neighborhood, your employer, or group is interested in adopting an indicator or collaborating with others to form a community compact, please bring your ideas and enthusiasm to the next membership meeting. We plan to discuss innovative opportunities to increase community awareness and recognition of the successes, challenges, and opportunities to influence quality of life in the Truckee Meadows and beyond.

Also, your successes may be showcased at the 2007 *Accentuate the Positive* celebration. Successful nominations must demonstrate significant influence within the indicators, supported by corresponding data measures. Your efforts to improve quality of life may be recognized in 2007. Don't wait!

Join us at Washoe Education Association on September 28th to learn more about the new categories and updated indicators (see page 1 for details).

MEMBERS/ TMT supporters as of May 1st

From page 4

- ☆ Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, Lisa Erquiaga
- ☆ Northern Nevada Literacy Council, Vicki Newell
- ☆ Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Willis Allen
- ☆ Reno Chamber Orchestra, Scott Faulkner
- ☆ Ronald McDonald House Charities, Mary O'Brien
- ☆ RSCVA, Ellen Oppenheim
- ☆ Sanford Center for Aging, Zanny Marsh
- ☆ Sierra Arts Foundation, Jill Berryman
- ☆ Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency, Dave Zeigler
- ☆ Washoe ARC, James Meyer

- ☆ Washoe County District Health, Tracy Douglas
- ☆ Washoe County Medical Society, Jeanie Catterson
- ☆ Washoe County School District, Mary Coffman
- ☆ YMCA of the Sierra, Mark Lieske

Individual

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ☆ Lynn Atcheson | ☆ James & Loni Bonar |
| ☆ Paul Chalekian | ☆ Joyce Decker |
| ☆ Jim Dunning | ☆ Philip Gillette |
| ☆ Martha Gould | ☆ Marla Hummel |
| ☆ Charlotte McConnell | ☆ Steve Mulvenon |
| ☆ Paul & Mary Nakayu | ☆ Kelsey Piechocki |
| ☆ William Raggio | ☆ Alicia Reban |
| ☆ Barbara Vucanovich | ☆ Kris Wells |

The Green House – a new way to think about nursing homes

Part 2 in our series: *Aging in the Truckee Meadows and our quality of life*

by Philip D. Shapiro, M.H.A.

I recently had the pleasure of listening to a speech by Bill Thomas, M.D., a Harvard-trained geriatric physician. Dr. Thomas has been pioneering innovative changes to long-term care physical environments (skilled nursing facilities or nursing homes) and staffing methodologies that de-institutionalize this very challenging part of our health care system. We have not done a very good job of providing dignified physical spaces for our Elders that require 24-hour chronic care.

Nursing homes simply are not chic and, therefore, cannot compete with the technology that has been thrust towards the hospital sector -- CT scans, MRI's, organ transplants, etc... At the skilled nursing facility level we are dealing with bedpans, med-carts, and portable oxygen tanks, combined with patient beds, wheelchairs, and walkers. At hospitals, doctors perform life-saving surgeries, while at nursing homes, doctors control medications.

Dr. Thomas' recent presentation at UNR provided a venue for him to introduce the **Green House** project to the State of Nevada. The Green House is, well, a house that has 10 separate bedrooms (fully equipped with private bathrooms) for 10 nursing patient/residents in each house. Instead of a 120 bed freestanding nursing home, there may be multiple Green Houses on a distinct campus. There's centralized access to a kitchen, laundry, living room, and outdoor garden. Each Green House is home to 10

residents and one to two staff that are specific to their one Green House. The staff and patients (Green House residents) become a family -- what a concept!

Family visitation at Green Houses improves dramatically as a function of visiting a pleasant place and surroundings. Staff retention miraculously improves (for the same reason that visitation does) which enhances the care provided to each patient/resident as continuity of the care plan is shored-up.

The Truckee Meadows and Nevada have now been introduced to a model that has been endorsed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and is flourishing throughout the United States. As the state with the greatest growth rate of the 65+ population in the country, Nevada needs to follow suit with innovations such as the Green House project and should become the innovator of best practices in Elder Care designs that other States will benefit from.

Green House developments are an innovative approach to healthcare and social wellbeing, land use, and a smart way to expand the economy while improving the quality of life for everyone in the Truckee Meadows!

To be continued in the next Benchmark...

Philip D. Shapiro, M.H.A., M.S.P.H. (a "Sandwich Generationer"), is the Developer and Managing Member of Promenade on the River www.promendaeren.com, an active senior living community and the President of Senior Traditions www.seniortraditions.com, a senior living consulting firm, both based in Reno. He was recently appointed to the Nevada Commission on Aging, and conducts regular speaking engagements (775.345.6941 or seniortraditions@charter.net).

TMT news and more—email us: info@quality-of-life.org

- *Accentuate the Positive 2007* is around the corner. If you want to give back to the community, **volunteer** to help plan the next event.
- TMT is also looking for **sponsors for its next Community Wellbeing Report**, as well as partner contributions toward the research, design, printing and distribution of the community-wide report. Help TMT catalyze action and drive community improvement.
- TMT will have a number of board vacancies at the end of this year. If you wish to be considered for possible candidacy, please email us. The Nominating Committee will be reviewing possible candidates this fall to be placed on the ballot and voted on by TMT members at the annual membership meeting, December 14, 2006. Stay tuned for the time and location to be announced.
- It's not too late. **Join today:** <http://www.quality-of-life.org/main.php?choice=about>. Look for TMT's new interactive website later this year. It's our way

of providing you with timely, actionable information for greater community response to quality of life issues.



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Platinum

- ☆ City of Reno, Charles McNeely

Gold

- ☆ IGT, Chrissy Lane
- ☆ Saint Mary's, Michael Johnson
- ☆ Washoe County School District, Paul Dugan
- ☆ Wells Fargo Bank, Chad Osorno

Silver

- ☆ City of Sparks, Shaun Carey
- ☆ High Sierra Industries, LaVonne Brooks
- ☆ Kiley Ranch Communities, Megan Kiley

Small Business

- ☆ Accountants Inc., Chuck Burr
- ☆ CFA, Anjela Fuss
- ☆ DP Partners, Amanda May
- ☆ Kohn Colodny CPA's, Connie Christiansen
- ☆ KPS/3, Inc., Stephanie Kruse
- ☆ Long & Chybik, John Long
- ☆ Rose/Glenn Group, Kerri Garcia
- ☆ Sharon & Van Ness Hansen
- ☆ Sparks Florist, Tony Fiannaca

Nonprofit

- ☆ American Red Cross No. Nevada Chapter, Caroline Panches
- ☆ A.V.A. Ballet Theatre, Alexander Van Alstyne
- ☆ Bruka Theatre of the Sierra, Scott Beers
- ☆ Builders Association of Northern Nevada, Teri Scharosch
- ☆ C*A*R*E Chest of Northern Nevada, Patti Meals
- ☆ Catholic Community Services, Michael Ford
- ☆ Children's Cabinet, Mary-Ann Brown
- ☆ City of Sparks – Cityworks, George Graham
- ☆ Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, Chris Askin
- ☆ Community Services Agency, Cloyd Phillips
- ☆ Food Bank of Northern Nevada, Cherie Jamason
- ☆ Friends of Washoe County Library, Sharon Honig-Bear
- ☆ Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada, Linda Reed
- ☆ Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, Christi Cakiroglu
- ☆ KNPB Channel 5 Public Broadcasting, Patricia Miller
- ☆ Leadership Reno-Sparks, Jane Bessette
- ☆ The Natural Conservancy, Kathryn Landreth
- ☆ Nevada Humanities Committee, Judith Winzeler
- ☆ Nevada Museum of Art, Steven High
- ☆ Nevada Small Business Development Center, Dick Bartholet

See **MEMBERS** on page 2

Editor's note: Thanks to TMT Platinum member Washoe County for printing this issue of the Benchmark