

The Auraria Pioneer Council had an amazing year in 2023!

We continued to expand our reach on existing projects in several communities, and we explored new community opportunities to serve.

In 2023 the Auraria chapter hosted and supported the following initiatives:

First quarter

Food Pantry Support

Staple food items were delivered to the Mother Lula Beechum Food Pantry located at 3082 Leyden St. Denver, CO. 80207. This local food pantry is located in Northeast Park Hill neighborhood and serves residents from Denver, Aurora, Green Valley Ranch and Stapleton. Auraria is expanding support of local food pantries in 2024.

Second Quarter

Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Visually Impaired



The Legacy West Auraria Council Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the Visually impaired was held on Saturday April 1, 2023, “*no fooling*” !

The event was a huge success! Over seventy plus attendees were present which included sighted, vision impaired and blind children and parents as well as siblings, relatives and friends.

Activities included T- ball and beeping baseball, face painting, clown toss and the infamous beeping easter egg hunt. The team also hosted a hunt for sighted siblings and guest.

We gathered after the festivities to have lunch and talk about ways to increase our outreach for 2024!

Our dedicated team of volunteers included nine members from the Legacy West Pioneer Chapters, Auraria Council and the Blue Spruce Life Member Council. We were supported by 9 volunteers from the Colorado Center for the Blind.

The beeping eggs and beeping balls were provided by The Denver Beepball Group. Legacy West Pioneers, Colorado Chapter Pioneers members are the only volunteering organization that makes the beeping balls, beeping eggs and beeping bases.

We had the honor of being joined by Maureen Nietfeld , Student Services Director at the Colorado Center for the Blind and Chaz Davis Director of Youth Services at the Colorado Center for the Blind. The Colorado Center for the Blind Co-Hosted the event with Auraria, provided the facilities and the students planned and prepared lunch for the guests.

Jessica Beecham the President of the National Federation of the Blind joined us and shared her excitement. NFBCO provides advocacy and support to blind and visually impaired Coloradans across the state.

We were also joined by Jodie and Sydney, members from the Delta Gamma Sorority chapter of Fort Collins, CO. One of Delta Gamma’s philanthropic focuses is service for sight!

Project C.U.R.E.

The team volunteered at project C.U.R.E. June 9, 2023.

Since 1987, Project C.U.R.E has been delivering life-saving medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and clinics throughout the under-resourced world. They are the world's largest distributor of donated medical relief—touching the lives of children and families in more than 135 countries. On average, each week Project C.U.R.E. delivers three to five semi-truck-sized containers packed with the medical equipment and supplies so desperately needed by local hospitals and clinics.

Third quarter

Tabernacle of Grace ~ Food Pantry

Auraria provide food items to the Tabernacle of Grace food Pantry. The Tabernacle of Grace serves families located in Aurora and Denver.

The Pioneers is a network of volunteers who effect immediate, tangible change in local communities. The Auraria local food bank support will be expanded in 2024 to address the needs of additional communities.

Fourth quarter

Urban Peak

The Auraria Pioneers team provided sleeping bags to the youth at Urban Peak.

Annually Auraria works with the staff at Urban Peak to identify current needs and provide supplies and transportation (bus passes) to the youth to support their journey to attaining self-sufficiency.

Urban Peak ignites the potential in youth to exit homelessness and create self-determined, fulfilled lives. The vision of Urban Peak is that all Colorado youth have safe housing, supportive relationships, and the opportunity for self-sufficiency and success.

The Craft Box Senior Holiday Stocking Project



Auraria Team Members Volunteered to sort and pack materials for the annual community stocking project.

Their goal is to give 2500 stockings a year to seniors and people living in nursing or group homes. This is a Community Project (100% Donations & 100% Volunteers) to provide Christmas stocking to low-income seniors and adults with disabilities who receive services from Jefferson County Human Services in Colorado, HIV patients, residents of nursing facilities & group homes, food banks for seniors and Meals on Wheels in Adam, Denver, Larimer, and Weld Counties.

The Legacy West Annual Christmas Stocking Project ~ Hosted by the Auraria Pioneers and supported by the Blue Spruce Council



Our 2023 theme is “Fill Our Lives With Joy”

This event has been held yearly for over 30 years and our councils are proud and honored that we have another opportunity to host this activity and partner with the Family Tree House of Hope and The GOALS project.

Auraria had the privilege of delivering stockings to the Family Tree House of Hope and The GOALS facility. The tenacity and effort displayed from the Auraria team made Christmas day a little brighter for many families at these two facilities.

Residential Facility for Women with Children Experiencing Homelessness:

The Family Tree House of Hope is dedicated to providing safe shelter and supportive services for women with children experiencing homelessness. These families find a safe place to stay while they begin to get back on their feet.

The GOALS program is a Two-Generation (2Gen) housing program for families experiencing homelessness from Aurora and Arapahoe County. GOALS provides families a private room while they develop long-term goals for stability self-reliance. Families are provided a safe space for four to nine months, and one-year of follow-up support.