

PARKER TASK FORCE HISTORY AND STATUS

Parker Task Force for Human Services Charitable Trust (PTF) was founded in 1987 by four local women, representing four area churches, and the Parker Fire Safety District. PTF was granted the 501(c)3 charitable designation in July of 1988. PTF was founded as an all volunteer agency and remains so to this day.

PTF's beginnings were humble. Housed in one woman's barn, they served four families in that first year. PTF soon started to grow and the location changed to the Quonset hut on Mainstreet. It was located where O'Brian Park is today. From that time, the Town of Parker has donated the space, maintenance and utilities for PTF which helped allow it to thrive. When the demand meant that PTF needed yet more space, PTF moved to the Mainstreet Center. It remained here until 2001 when PTF moved to the present location of Old Town Hall, 20118 East Mainstreet.

PTF was founded to help indigent travelers. As the program grew, local residents who were struggling to make ends meet, became the focus of the assistance. When the economy started to decline, the client base broadened and the focus become homeless prevention. PTF now conducts business as a homeless prevention agency along with a food bank as well as other specialized services. PTF provides food and limited financial assistance to client families in the Parker, Franktown and Elizabeth areas (by zip code) who are facing financial and personal crisis. It is our mission to bring them back to self-sufficiency within ten visits or less.

In addition to a resource guide that is so well done that many other service agencies, churches, hospitals, and schools utilize it, PTF boasts an amazing job board and a well stocked food bank offering both perishable and non-perishable food items along with personal care products. PTF clients complete an interview at each visit to track progress toward self-sufficiency. PTF enjoys a wonderful relationship with many foundations, area merchants, clubs, churches, schools, police and fire districts, hospitals and individuals. Donations, in-kind services and volunteers come from all of these sources. PTF does a monthly food drive and has for nine consecutive years. This food drive accounts for approximately 80% of the non-perishable food in our food bank and provides the monthly funds needed to keep our doors open. It requires 100+ volunteers to pull this off each month. We thank the local grocery stores who support this effort each month.

Holidays can be a cause of special stress for our client families. PTF does programs at Easter (Easter Baskets for children); Thanksgiving (Meals for Families); and, Christmas (Adopt-A-Family Gift Program).

PTF collaborates with the County Social Services Agencies and serves as a Certified Application Assistance Site for Douglas County.

PTF also provides the opportunity for teens and adults to complete community service programs for school, church, scouting/other clubs and court requirements.

Please review our web site (www.parkertaskforce.org) for detailed information regarding many of these topics or call 303-841-3460 to receive further information or to donate or volunteer. PayPal is also available for donations via the web site. Thank you for your support of our programs and the client families in our community who so desperately need our assistance.