

CORDERA & WOLF RANCH

NEIGHBORS

NOVEMBER 2022



Moments of
Thanksgiving,
The Burke
Family

Photo by CasaBay Photography



Best Version Media



E's Explorations: *Blessed to be a Blessing*

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We all have our Thanksgiving favorites, which may be food or traditions or spending time with family. But not everyone within our community can celebrate holidays to the fullest. Although we may drop the can of peaches or the container of pasta in the donation box, do we really know who or how we are helping? I never knew how my can of food was going to help someone, but I recently got to tour Crossfire Ministries, one of Care and Share's food pantries, and learned how they help the community.

Thirty-one years ago, John and Leslie Miller, (Leslie Miller is a fifth generation Colorado Springs resident) the founders and directors of Crossfire dedicated their lives to serve our community while sharing their faith, and all that God has done for them. The Miller's used to own a florist and book shop, but they felt God was calling them to something more, something like Crossfire.

They trusted God, and gave up everything they had known to start Crossfire within their own home. With the help of God, family, friends and our community, Crossfire Ministries grew into what it is today, the largest local food pantry, partnering with Care and Share Food Bank. Crossfire Ministries is almost entirely volunteer run, averaging 60 volunteers a day, but the need for more help is constant.

Crossfire feeds about 900 families a week with no-cost groceries, along with supplying toiletries. One of my favorite parts of Crossfire's outreach is the fact that they have basic business classes along with cooking classes, and they hope to have educational classes in the near future. Crossfire Ministries recently relocated, into a 25,000 square foot building, in order to help more people within our community. Crossfire Ministries partners with several different local organizations, in order to reach out to all of Colorado Springs. One of the coolest things about Crossfire is that they are a non-profit that doesn't have specifications for service. When someone expresses a need, Crossfire Ministries does their best to fulfill it.

Crossfire clients have a steady need for food, clothes and



toiletries, and we can help fill them. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, frozen meats such as turkey, chicken, and ham along with your favorite shelf-life items can be the light in the dark time for these people. Not only can food be helpful, but so can clothes for adults and children along with sleeping bags and other household appliances. Beyond goods, volunteering your time to help organize and transport goods within Crossfire Ministries is a simple way to help those in need.

Because Crossfire is almost entirely volunteer run, the organization is very dependent on able-bodied volunteers. Some companies have lengthy training courses, lots of paperwork and difficult



requirements for volunteers, but Crossfire's volunteer program is very straightforward, making it easy to volunteer with them. While touring the facility, I met with the Millers. On the tour, I got to see how Crossfire works, and what they need most. Toiletries, canned foods along with men and children's clothes are the most pressing needs within Crossfire. The amount of families visiting Crossfire tends to rise as the holiday season begins, leading to a need for "holiday foods".

We are blessed to be a blessing to others. Not only through goods, but also through actions and words. By helping through organizations like Crossfire Ministries, Care and Share, West Side Cares, and other local businesses, we are directly helping those in our community who need it most.

This holiday season, I encourage you to find ways to donate time and resources back to the community. That may be through Crossfire Ministries, or it may be doing something with your family to help a neighbor in need.