



Mayors Report January 2020

The Lakewood Faith Coalition (LFC) is building collaborative alliances between faith communities and other organizational groups with the desired outcome that all these groups work together to achieve an outcome wherein all residents thrive in the City of Lakewood. This model describes what we are striving to achieve:



The LFC is partnering with the Lakewood Service Organization Coalition and the Lakewood Council to End Hunger along with local businesses, such as Thrivent Financial and Adventure Dental – Vision – Orthodontics and city and county government leaders, school district leaders and area non-profit agencies.

The Lakewood Thrive Alliance is connecting Title 1 elementary schools with their surrounding community. The goal is to develop a “Hub” within each school that supports thriving for students and the surrounding community. The “Hub” concept is identified by the following enhancement to our model:

School Community Connects

Connecting Title 1 Schools With the Surrounding Community



- Bring together collaborative partnerships and facilitate connections to community resources to:
- Increase access to food, clothing and other household commodities
 - Render needed health care – medical, dental, vision, hearing and mental health
 - Develop affordable housing opportunities
 - Maximize childhood education – school supplies, tutoring, mentoring and extracurricular opportunities
 - Provide family skills training
 - Encourage more efficient support systems
 - Help bridge cultural gaps

Some examples of the progress made in 2019 include:

Title 1 Elementary Schools:

- Foothills Elementary: We supported the development of their Hub, called “*Foothills Foodies*”. It provides food, clothing and medical supplies to members of the Green Mountain/Foothills neighborhood. We support a Whiz Kids Tutoring program which has helped to significantly raise the school’s academic performance scores from 49% to 67.6%.
- Westgate Elementary: Their Hub is in its second year of operation and is now expanding to double its size. Faith Coalition volunteers will help them clean and prep the new space and will build partnerships with other organizations to “fill” the new space with food and clothing. The bigger Hub will allow for additional services and commodities needed in the community. The LFC supported their Christmas toy drive. Below is a picture of food received from a recently held food drive conducted by LFC volunteers (food on and under the table) and the Hub shelves filled to be used in the community!



- Deane Elementary: The LFC supports Deane’s food pantry, assists with fundraising breakfasts to help fund outdoor lab, supports a parent/teacher dinner, provides food boxes for needy families during the holidays and provides six tutors for reading and math.
- Rose Stein Elementary: The LFC supports a community resource room, which includes a food pantry as well as personal and household items, teacher appreciation events and with student extracurricular school activities including choir, band, robotics club, track team, soccer for success and a community garden.
- Emory Elementary: LFC members are in the process of implementing a Hub. We have identified a location within the school and are working with various organizational groups to provide the commodities and services for the Hub. We currently support a weekend “backpack” food program and help keep the food pantry stocked with items needed during the school week.
- Lasley Elementary: We have had preliminary discussions with the principal and family liaison representative about implementing a Hub.

“Together we can” is more than a slogan; it IS what we do! Together, we are striving to build a diverse, thriving Lakewood community that is considered one of the top 100 places to live in the United States!

In order to develop the health and vitality of Lakewood’s faith community the LFC hosted two well attended large group training luncheon meetings facilitated by professional business coach and LFC Steering Committee member, Carrie Ellis. Each large group LFC meeting fosters relationships between different faith traditions in Lakewood. We also developed an email newsletter providing updates on projects and pertinent information helpful to build collaboration that lead to a thriving Lakewood.

In 2020 the LFC plans to continue moving forward with our mission, vision, goals and strategies enabling us to contribute to a thriving Lakewood. We have recently added new LFC Steering Committee members, below is a list of the current members of the LFC Steering Committee:

Lakewood Faith Coalition Steering Committee				
ORGANIZATION	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT INFO	SCHOOL
The Bridge Church at Bear Creek	Nate Ullrich, Executive Pastor	3101 S Kipling St Lakewood CO 80227	303-986-5511 nullrich@bridgebc.org	
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Perry Richards, Stake President	14337 W Exposition Dr Lakewood CO 80228	303-775-0642 perry.richards3@gmail.com	
Green Mtn Presbyterian	Gretchen Wilson Sr Pastor	12900 W Alameda Pkwy Lakewood CO 80228	303-985-8733 pastor@gmpc.net	
Lakewood Connects	Reg Cox, City Connector	1880 S Pierce St, 16C Lakewood CO	303-981-3412 reg@lakewoodconnects.org	
Mile Hi Church	Dr. Patty Luckenbach, Executive Director of Growth & Development	9077 W Alameda Ave Lakewood CO 80226	303-915-0799 pluckenbach@milehichurch.org	
Phillips United Methodist Church	Joyce DeToni-Hill, Pastor	1450 S Pierce St Lakewood CO 80232	303-934-5549 revsdh@comcast.net	
United Momentum Consultant	Carrie Ellis, Professional Coach		303-618-6808 Carrie@getunitedmomentum.com	
Jeffco School District Liaison	Susan Kimes-Demboski, Family Engagement Coordinator	1829 Denver West Dr, #27 Golden, CO 80401	303-982-5183 susan.kimes-demboski@jeffco.k12.co.us	
City of Lakewood Liaison	Mary Ruther, Strategic Initiatives Manager	480 South Allison Pkwy Lakewood CO 80226	303-987-7050 marmas@lakewood.org	

The LFC Steering Committee will be holding a planning meeting in early March to discuss some specific objectives we want to implement in 2020 and into the future. Some of those objectives will include the following:

- Identify additional Title 1 elementary schools to approach about implementing a Hub within the school to support the community
- What are the “next steps” associated with the current Title 1 elementary school Hubs and how do we implement them
- Develop strategies for enlarging and enhancing the Lakewood Thrive Alliance
- Continue to strengthen the greater Lakewood faith community by hosting large group LFC meetings
- Enhance communication through development of a newsletter and website