

Post Independent

Event aids Nurses With A Purpose

Nonprofit helped tornado-ravaged Colorado town

Pete Fowler
Glenwood Springs, CO Colorado
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Since the tornado in Holly, people don't describe how to get to houses by using addresses.

They describe places by the types of damage they have.

The signs had all blown

away along with many of the houses. For that matter, there were no cats anywhere to be found. They'd probably all blown away, too.

"Where there was a block of houses, there's nothing now," Barb Bush said.

Bush went to Holly after the March 28 tornado to volunteer for Nurses With A Purpose. She's a traveling nurse, and also does work for the nonprofit organization.

What she did find in Holly were torn up homes. She found insulation from wrecked housing and bits of people's personal lives - wallets, photos and ornaments - scattered miles from town. Medical care wasn't needed when she arrived, so Bush spent some time coordinating volunteers there, cleaning up debris and digging. She said she dug ditches to connect emergency trailers to the infrastructure that once sustained smashed homes.

Rocky Mountain Caring and Sharing Event

What: John Adams performing the music of John Denver, a silent auction, and a sample of food from around the world.
Where: The Church at Carbondale at 110 Snowmass Drive

When: Saturday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person, \$30 per couple, \$40 for a family, \$200 for a corporate table. Tickets at the door cost \$5 more.

Why: To have a fun evening and make a difference by raising money for the nonprofit Nurses With A Purpose Organization to help send nurses around the world to places in need. This also has the added benefit of rejuvenating nurses' attitudes, education and reconnecting them with the reason they began nursing in the first place, the organization says.

- Call 970-945-4888 or visit www.nurseswithpurpose.org for more information.

Barbara Bush went to Holly, Colo., after the March 28 tornado to volunteer for Nurses With A Purpose.

Submitted Photo/ Barbara Bush



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There were also some amazing people who just wanted to help out. She was impressed by the generosity.

A guy named Levi had hitchhiked from the south to volunteer to fix plumbing, Bush said. With a southern twang he said, "I just love Coloradah," which was supposed to explain why he was there.



Barbara Bush
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That's the type of experience Nurses With A Purpose hopes to create, sending nurses to educate and help around the world. Outside the U.S., the organization has been scouting Uganda, Ethiopia and India.

"Nurses With A Purpose delivers nursing services and health care where crisis and disaster exists throughout the world, regardless of race, religion, politics or sex," the organization's Web site says. "We work with local authorities, existing health care workers, and partner organizations at every stage of the project process to ensure a sustainable effect within the local communities we serve. Nurses With A Purpose also participates in U.S. Nursing Scholarships to low income applicants as funds are available.

The mission of the organization is to provide nurses with opportunities for professional training and development; and with participation in programs that educate and improve health care for humanity on a local and international level.

Lynn Jammaron, who works for the organization, said that Alpine Bank has donated a "sizable amount" to sponsor trips for four nurses. But the company is still looking for more funding and is working to develop more sustainable funding strategies other than just asking the Roaring Fork Valley for money, she added.

One option could involve using nurse staffing profits from another company to fund the nonprofit.

Bighorn Toyota, Colorado Ski Country and the City of Glenwood Springs also sponsored an upcoming fundraiser on April 28.

The event includes John Adams performing the music of John Denver, a silent auction and samples of food from around the world. Nurses With A Purpose is accepting items from local businesses to use in the silent auction.

Jammaron and Bush said Adams has an "uncanny" ability to perform just like Denver. Jammaron said she once questioned her sanity when hearing Adams, at first thinking it was John Denver.

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