



# Butterfly Hope

*A Creative Arts, Science and Gardening Program*

Denver, Colorado

Winter/spring 2007

## News from Butterfly Hope

The end of 2006 brought new (but familiar) faces to staffing for Butterfly Hope. Two people who have long histories with the program are now leading the organization. Esther Ann Griswold assumed the position of executive director in October. She first became involved with Butterfly Hope in 1997, when she evaluated the Summer Enrichment Program. She brings to the organization experience in policy research and evaluation of local programs and small non-profit agencies. Meghan O'Brien will be the first program director for Butterfly Hope. She has been teaching in the Summer Enrichment Program for ten years, and is a kindergarten teacher at Cheltenham Elementary School. She has a strong background in teaching expressive arts and is working on her Spanish language skills. Esther and Meghan are vocal advocates for the basic mission and goals of Butterfly Hope, and are committed to keeping the program "as is, only better!"

## Fun in the Fall Program

During one week in October, twenty children, grades K-5, had the opportunity to learn new art and interpersonal skills from an outstanding artist and instructor. Cory Gilstrap, who is a key member of The Other Side Arts (TOSA), led the children in a workshop on making puppets out of paper mache and staging a puppet show. Each day started with the children learning new games that required eye contact, following complicated sequences of interactions, and team effort. Under Mr. Gilstrap's direction, the students read the story ***The Great Kapok Tree*** by Lynn Cherry, and made puppets representing the characters in the story. On the night of January 12, 2007, despite the freezing weather, program participants and their families were taken by bus to view "An Art Show by Kids for Kids" at the opening in the TOSA gallery, at 1644 Platte Street. The puppets were displayed in a dazzling installation. When the exhibit closes in February, Butterfly Hope and the young puppeteers plan to perform the story at Cheltenham.



## *2007 Volunteer Opportunities*

We could not exist without volunteers to help us. Check this list for the things you enjoy doing, and contact Esther or Meaghan at 303.455.0684 or by email at [ed@butterflyhope.org](mailto:ed@butterflyhope.org).

- ***Like plants and the outdoors?*** Garden helpers are needed for the Summer Enrichment Program, Mondays through Fridays, June 11 – July 6, 8:00 AM to noon, to work with teachers and students in planting, watering, and weeding the gardens. Sign up for one day a week or several days each week. Beginning in April, we also need people who will come throughout the spring and summer to nurture the gardens at times other than when the programs are operating. Form a garden group, or come by yourself. Days and times are flexible.
- ***Tap into your creative self!*** Helpers willing to interact with children in science and creative arts projects are needed for the Spring Into Art and Science Program (March 19-23, 8-12) and for the Summer Enrichment Program (Mondays through Fridays, 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon, June 11 – July 6).
- ***Do you like to work behind the scenes?*** We need volunteers to help us plan and coordinate things during the Summer Enrichment Program, by running errands, setting up and cleaning up, preparing snacks, and working in the office. Or become a board member! We promise a satisfying experience for people who enjoy helping out, or who have energy to burn!



### **An Award for** **Butterfly Hope**

Butterfly Hope and Julie Dale Carr were given a Community Partner Award by the Hispanic Education Advisory Council of Denver Public Schools in May, 2006 in recognition of our “significant support and commitment to student success.”

### **:-) your email address can help us save money (-:**

Butterfly Hope wants to save paper, postage and time by sending newsletters electronically rather than through the mail. Please help us by sending your email address to [ed@butterflyhope.org](mailto:ed@butterflyhope.org) with the phrase “BH newsletter” in the subject line. Butterfly Hope does not share, sell or rent the names and email addresses of our supporters.

## From the desk of Meaghan O'Brien.....

### Planning, planning, planning-- Butterfly Hope is preparing for a great year

During the week of March 19 – 23, 2007, we will once again hold the ***Spring into Art and Science Program***, hosting 60 children grades K-5 for a week filled with science and gardening projects, focusing on Mexico's rich history. The children will dive into science experiments that focus on how certain plants and animals flourish in the desert. They will also dance and act their way through Mexican tales and legends. The students have been begging for the spring program to come since the fall program ended!

The students will share their science experiments, art, and performances about Mexico at the ***Art and Author Night*** on Thursday, May 17th, 2007 at Cheltenham Elementary School.

In collaboration with Denver Botanic Gardens, Butterfly Hope will sponsor 15-20 students to attend the ***Sacred Earth Garden Club***, where weekly they plant and tend food crops of Native Americans, while also learning about Native American agricultural practices and traditions.

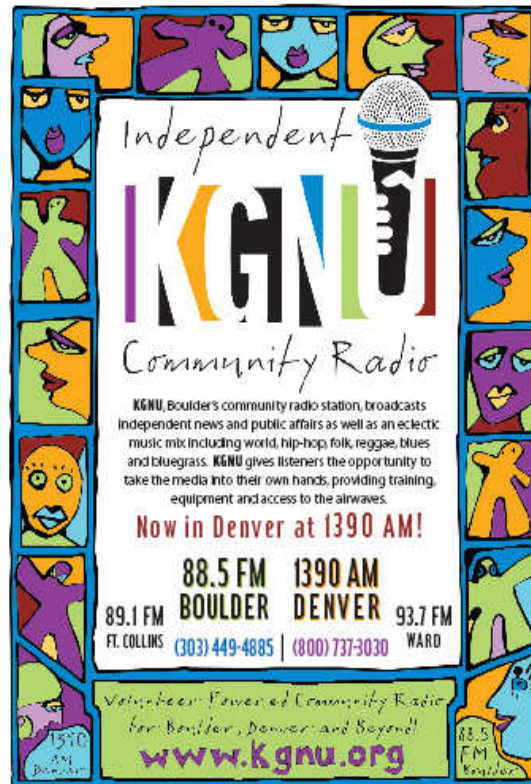
Butterfly Hope's ***Summer Enrichment Program*** is scheduled for June 11 – July 6, 2007, and we will continue to discover Mexican culture and its natural wonders throughout the four week program. Approximately 100 students will create, dig, dance, sing, write, and grow while learning about Mexico.

## RTD Project Completed!

In 2004, Butterfly Hope 5<sup>th</sup> grade students worked with artist Bob Luna and the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to design mosaic tiles for a public art installation. The tiles were incorporated into benches, and placed in a new RTD transfer station located at West Colfax and Federal Boulevard. Julie Dale Carr, Barbara Whitehead and roughly 30 Butterfly Hope children, including a number of those who worked on the original design, attended the dedication ceremonies September 20, 2006.

## The Latest Buzz is Bunko!!

Butterfly Hope was the winner when Meaghan O'Brien organized a fundraising event for Cheltenham staff members and their friends and relatives on November 4, 2006. 35 people gathered at the home of Claudia Beck, principal of Cheltenham Elementary School, to play bunko for fun. The event brought in close to \$1,000 for Butterfly Hope, and participants went away with light hearts and amazing door prizes. People had such fun that they are asking when we will do it again.



### HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND SPONSORS:

- ♥ Tony Grampas Youth Services Fund (CDPHE)
- ♥ Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
- ♥ The Denver Foundation
- ♥ Sheila Fortune Foundation
- ♥ Anschutz Family Foundation
- ♥ Cheltenham Elementary School
- ♥ The Other Side Arts (TOSA)
- ♥ Denver Botanic Gardens
- ♥ Colorado State University, Denver Cooperative Extension Office, Master Gardeners Program
- ♥ Front Range Organic Gardeners
- ♥ Denver Urban Gardens
- ♥ KGNU Community Radio
- ♥ **And the many individual donors ♥ ♥ ♥**