

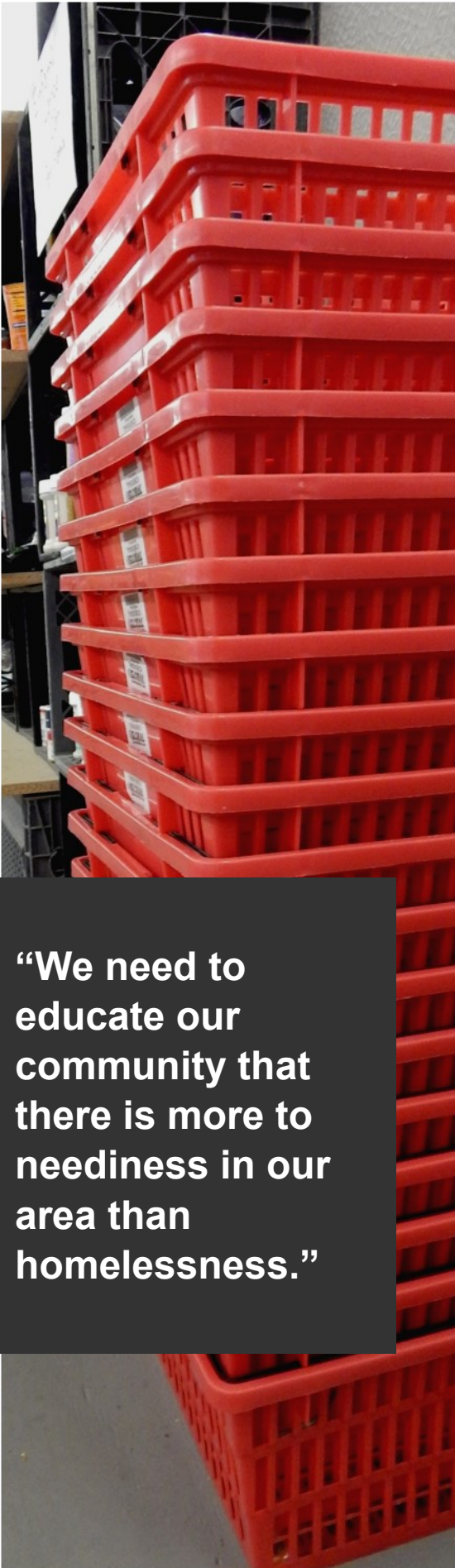


**CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES, INC.**

*Help Us Help Those In Need*



**2015 Annual Report**



## Letter from the Executive Director John A. Miller, II

Scripture says (I Corinthians 3:6) some plant and some water but God gives the increase. This has been true for 23 years. Implementing God's plan for Crossfire to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of widows and orphans (i.e. single parents and grandparents taking care of grandchildren), and bring the good news to the poor, remains the most exciting thing my wife and I have done.

The numbers in 2015 are staggering. Crossfire gave away 1,130,000 pounds of food. Crossfire also gave away free clothing and coats, valued at \$514,758.

We are so grateful for the 40,000 volunteer hours that the community of Colorado Springs has given us. Crossfire Ministries remains an all-volunteer, faith based non-profit organization and we are so grateful for all of our volunteers.

The 2013 Quality of Life Indicators for the Pikes Peak Region report determined there were 85,140 food insecure individuals in El Paso and Teller Counties. That is approximately 28,380 families. Crossfire, in 2015, gave 97,149 individual services.

In the coming year, we plan to implement educational programs for our volunteers, the families that we serve, and our local community.

God has brought us four schools with developmentally challenged young adults to volunteer at Crossfire. We are developing an internship program to prepare them with some basic skills to acquire jobs.

We are developing training programs to better educate the Crossfire leadership team. It is also our goal to better train our volunteers and community service workers to be productive and motivated servants in our faith based ministry.

We need to educate our community that there is more to neediness in our area than homelessness. Crossfire has 3,075 single parents, which is three times greater than the homeless population. A growing need that we are also trying to meet is grandparents taking care of grandchildren.

2016 is the year to finish our first segment of our video production, educating our families and possibly many others across the nation. Our unique/original concept is using food directly from our pantry. We are teaching families how to use grade D and C food products to make nutritional and useful meals. We are producing cooking helps, computer files on each product and recipes. It is our goal to help families stretch their food dollars and to help improve their overall family budget.

The future for Crossfire is just as exciting as those very first days 23 years ago. Crossfire will continue to be innovative, with God's guidance, in the area of food pantries and helping the needy.

With gratitude and thanks,

*John*

**“We need to educate our community that there is more to neediness in our area than homelessness.”**



# Letter from the Board of Directors

Greetings, in the name of our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ, to our donors, our volunteers and all those interested in the ministry of Crossfire Ministries.

“I will praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.” Psalm 54:6b, NIV

We will indeed praise the name of our LORD for He has again shown Himself good to Crossfire Ministries in 2015. We are eager to share with you our 2015 Annual Report and show you the good and amazing things the LORD has accomplished through Crossfire Ministries because of your faithful and dedicated financial support and prayers.

As you will note, Crossfire Ministries continues to be debt-free for which we praise God. Remaining debt-free is in line with our belief that the LORD leads as He provides. We have always felt if we did not have the money for a project or program, we would wait until the LORD opened the doors of provision.

In so many ways in 2015 God showed us His mighty hand of provision – in the over 40,000 hours of our faithful volunteers; in the hundreds of thousands of pounds of food provided that we are able to give to the needy; and, in the faithful donations of you, our donors, that allowed us to remain debt-free and to press forward.

Our vision for 2016 continues to be to glorify God in all that we do here at Crossfire Ministries and to be faithful witnesses of His Word.

Gratefully,

*Howard “Chip” Shaw*

for the Board of Directors

## 2015 Board Members

Bob Bartlett, President and Trustee

Michelle Dickerson, Trustee

Rev. Tracy Garth, Board Member

Joel Malick, Board Member

Leslie Miller, Treasurer

Debbie O'Toole, Secretary

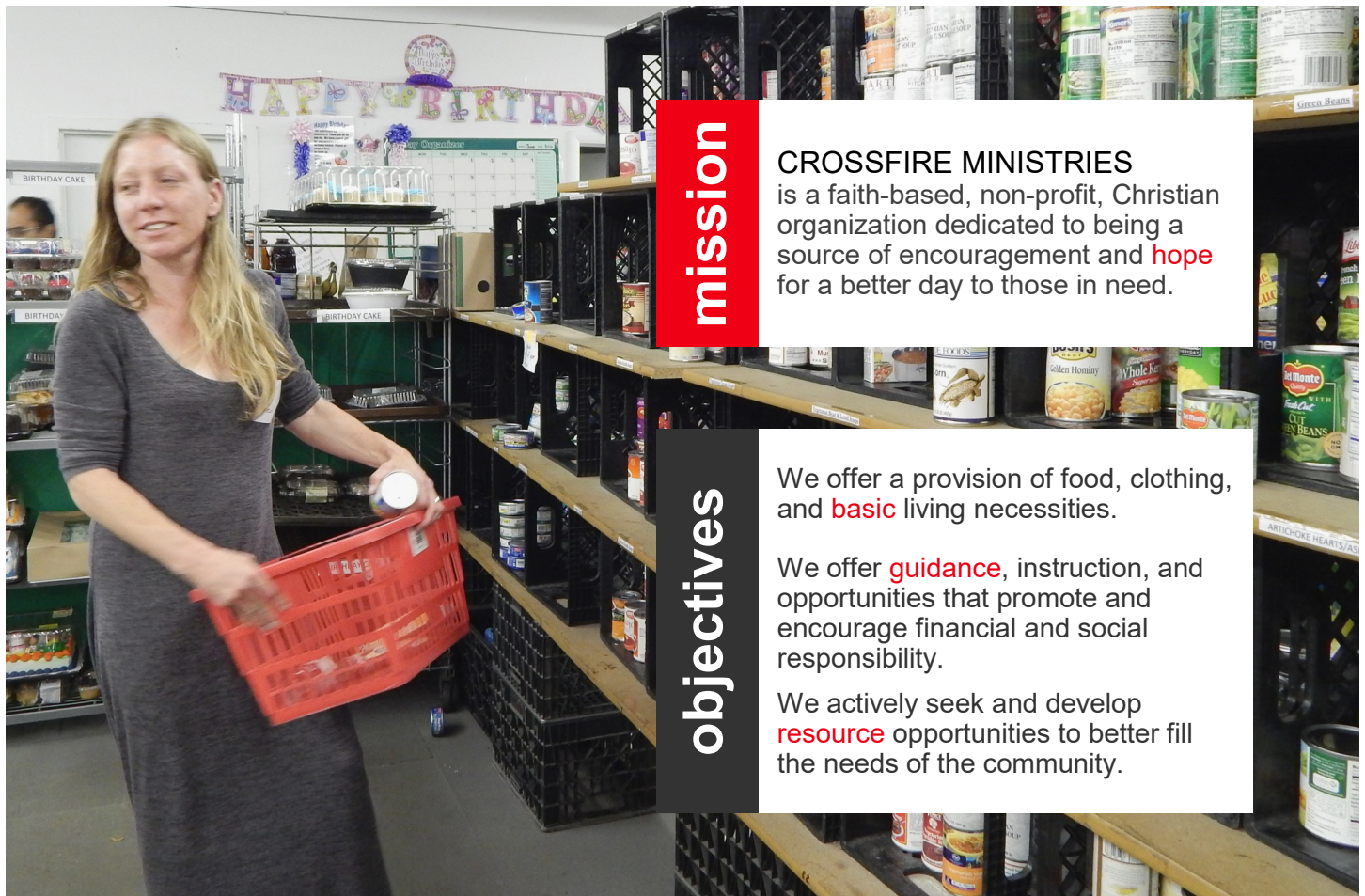
Chip Shaw, Vice President, Trustee

## Non-Voting Board Attendees

John Miller, Executive Director and  
Operations Manager

Dave Goodrich, Accounting and Finance





## mission

**CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES** is a faith-based, non-profit, Christian organization dedicated to being a source of encouragement and **hope** for a better day to those in need.

## objectives

We offer a provision of food, clothing, and **basic** living necessities.

We offer **guidance**, instruction, and opportunities that promote and encourage financial and social responsibility.

We actively seek and develop **resource** opportunities to better fill the needs of the community.

## core values

### Support for the Ministry

We believe God builds the house; as such, we are led by God's provision.

### Service to All

Crossfire strives to serve all who need help. We are to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. We honor the dignity and worth of those we serve and our volunteers. We strive to treat all with respect and kindness, as we would our own family.

### Faith-Based

Crossfire is faith-based and Bible centered, according to II Timothy 3:16-17. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (KJV)

### Accountability, Stewardship, and Transparency

We believe everything belongs to God and comes from God therefore, Crossfire strives to be good stewards of all that God has blessed us with and we strive to operate with integrity, excellence, and transparency.

### Volunteerism

We believe that God wants all to serve. Crossfire, through faith, has open arms to volunteers in order to allow them the opportunity to grow and serve others.

### Collaboration

Crossfire strives to work with other agencies and other non-profit organizations in the community, exemplifying a spirit of cooperation and helpfulness with one another.



# Crossfire's Key Ingredients



Crossfire provides the basic necessities of life. We are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of the widows and orphans (including single parents). We provide food, clothing, household goods and toiletries to those in need in our community.



Crossfire provides helpful guidance to those who choose it. Bible studies are available to help people grow spiritually. Knowledgeable volunteers can provide information on community resources, and one-on-one engagement to deal with the problems of life. In addition, demonstration videos and recipes help people better use the food they receive.



“Family” is how Crossfire treats both clients and volunteers. One-on-one prayer is offered to everyone who would like it, each time they visit. Crossfire also offers the opportunity for parents and children to serve together. Physically and mentally challenged young adults and five homeschool families have enjoyed serving at Crossfire.



**James “Pops” - a beloved Crossfire “family member”**



# Provision

## The Core Programs

of Crossfire Ministries are food, clothing, toiletries and household items. In 2015, we gave away:



### Other ways we provide for needs in our community:



#### Christmas Store

959 children received new and used toys.



#### Thanksgiving Food Boxes & Meals

1,415 families received Thanksgiving food.



#### Summer & Winter Coats

796 coats were distributed.



#### Quilting, Knitting, Crocheting

2,000 handmade hats, as well as many afghans and quilts were given at Christmas and during cold weather.



#### School Backpacks

799 children received school supply-filled backpacks in partnership with **Discovery Church** and the



#### Baby Bags

Bags of baby necessities were provided to new and expectant mothers.



#### Books for Inmates

The library at the El Paso County Jail was blessed with books donated by Crossfire.



# Guidance



## Guidance from the Word

Crossfire believes that supplying the physical needs of our clients opens the door to minister to their spiritual needs.

Crossfire Ministries and the Gideons gave away **2,666 Bibles** in 2015, with the Gideons giving away approximately 750 Bibles at our Thanksgiving give-away.

Weekly **bible studies** are open to all who want to discover the guidance available in the word of God.

Anyone who desires **prayer** can also find it at Crossfire. Many clients have expressed how meaningful praying with a Crossfire Volunteer was to them. Clients and volunteers can also leave prayer requests in the prayer box that will be prayed over by Crossfire Volunteers.

Inspiration

Education

Information



## What Can I Do with a Squash?

Crossfire helps clients make the most of the food they receive through a creative new initiative. In 2015 we began producing cooking videos, demonstrating delicious ways to prepare the donated foods they receive from our pantry, and providing clients with samples and recipes.

*Thrifty Tips for Trying Times* are also published regularly on our website and provided as fliers to our client families.



## Shared Experience

Knowledgeable Crossfire volunteers can provide clients with direction to other agencies and resources in the community.

In addition, founders John and Leslie and other leadership team members often spend one-on-one time with clients offering guidance, instruction and opportunities for participation in activities that promote financial and social responsibility.





# Community

## “Where’s Pam?”

It was the question asked again and again on a Tuesday morning as clients checked in for services. Our faithful front desk volunteer, out for a few days for shoulder surgery, was instantly missed by hundreds of clients. To them, Pam is more than someone who checks them in on the computer. She is a friend who greets them warmly, knows them by name, and welcomes them as family.

A sense of community is vitally important, especially when people find themselves in unstable circumstances. They need more than food –they need to know that someone notices them, cares, and is willing to listen.

Some of our clients become volunteers, and the word “family” comes up again and again as they speak about their Crossfire experience. This is reinforced by the sight of parents and children serving together.

Through events like our Women’s Fellowship Luncheon (below), Christmas Tea and Annual Picnic, Crossfire leadership intentionally fosters this atmosphere of family.

And sometimes it’s as simple as remembering a name, and offering a prayer.



*There are so many times I can't wait to  
get here and pray with these ladies.*

- Friedle (Crossfire Client)





# Volunteers



Since 1992, Crossfire Ministries has been 100% volunteer-operated; we cannot function without our volunteers. Volunteers serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in this community and we praise God for each of them.

In 2015, we received approximately 40,000 volunteer hours from people from all walks of life. We are humbly grateful for the individuals, the families and the organizations who joined together with Crossfire to help serve our needy neighbors.



Using the *Independent Sector for the State of Colorado* figures, the value given for a volunteer hour in 2015 is \$25.96. With this figure in mind, we tried to extrapolate the various jobs performed here at Crossfire Ministries from skilled, semi-skilled and un-skilled volunteers. We estimate we received the equivalent of **\$1,038,400 in donated volunteer hours** in 2015.

Crossfire also provides **community service opportunities** for individuals to complete their work-hour requirements to earn their food stamps; for teens to complete their hours for teen court; and for adults to complete their hours for the court system. Many individuals receiving food stamp assistance SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and CWEP (Community Work Experience Program) perform their community service work requirements with Crossfire.







## Where Does Our Food Come From?

Approximately 65% comes from Care and Share and approximately 35% comes from the community. Of the 65% from Care and Share, we purchase some and receive some as an allotment. We also purchase large quantities of beans and rice in 50 pound bags from farmers and local distributors, which we put into smaller bags for distribution.

We are fortunate to be able to glean approximately 60,000 to 80,000 pounds of fresh produce from the Farmer's Market during the summer from the Miller Farm (no relation to John and Leslie Miller), located in Platteville. God was so gracious to provide us with walk-in freezers and a walk-in cooler where we store perishable foods. In addition, we have two semi-trailers, one converted to a freezer and one to a refrigerator, as well as two refrigerated trucks.





# The Year at a Glance

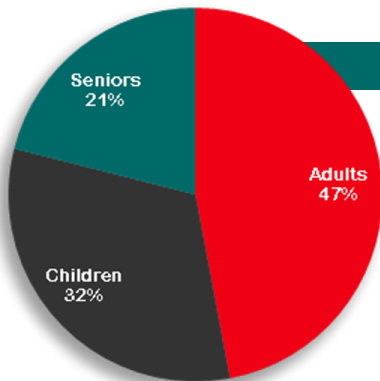


In 2015 we served:

**97,149 individuals\* | 30,848 families\***

Crossfire Ministries was started in 1992 and 23 years later continues to serve all who come through our doors. Our mission is to treat those God sends as children of God and as family. This is a snapshot of our family:

\* Families and individuals are counted per visit, including repeat visits by the same family/individual.

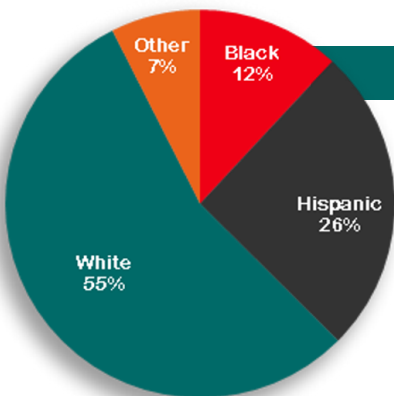
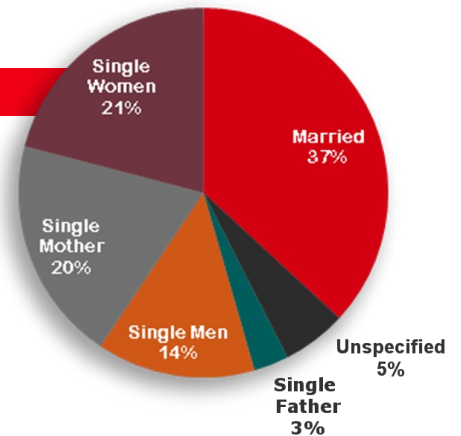


## Individuals

Adults	45,701	47.00%
Children	31,001	31.90%
Seniors	20,435	21.00%

## Families

Married	11,371	36.90%
Single Father	939	3.00%
Single Men	4,277	13.90%
Single Mother	6,060	19.60%
Single Women	6,459	20.90%
Unspecified	1,738	5.6%

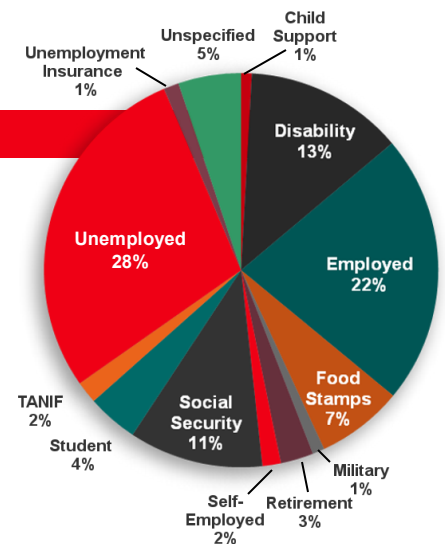


## Ethnicities

Black	11,580	11.90%
Hispanic	24,795	25.50%
White	53,531	55.10%
Other	7,243	7.50%

## Family Income Source

Child Support	550	0.86%
Disability	8,279	13%
Employed	14,082	22.12%
Food Stamps	4,520	7.10%
Military	628	1.00%
Retirement	1,710	2.69%
Self-Employed	968	1.52%
Social Security	7,003	11%
Student	2,652	4.17%
TANIF	1,160	1.82%
Unemployed	18,038	28.33%
Unemployment Ins	796	1.25%
Unspecified	3,279	5.15%



**CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES, INC.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2015 and 2014**

**ASSETS**



<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$151,810	\$122,514
Marketable securities, available for sale	57,338	39,823
Current portion Note Receivable 307 N. Union	6,165	4,784
Current portion Note Receivable 311 ½ N. Union	2,903	2,714
Due from El Paso County	15,758	13,711
Food Inventory	69,200	22,500
Clothing Inventory	9,000	15,000
Toiletries Inventory	7,200	2,400
Household Inventory	21,000	22,770
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>340,374</b>	<b>246,216</b>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Buildings	245,725	245,725
Land	228,250	228,250
Equipment and fixed assets	120,347	132,976
Vehicles	38,500	41,697
Less accumulated depreciation	(133,794)	(127,779)
<b>Property and equipment – net</b>	<b>499,028</b>	<b>520,869</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
Note Receivable – 307 N. Union	138,970	143,924
Note Receivable – 311 ½ N. Union	40,377	43,279
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>179,347</b>	<b>187,203</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,018,749</b>	<b>\$ 954,288</b>

*We are grateful that Crossfire remains completely debt-free. The board of directors and our Operations Manager strive to provide the best possible services while operating within our annual budget, limiting overhead costs and maximizing the effective use of donations. We value your confidence in the stewardship of Crossfire Ministries and your faithful support, and we are deeply grateful for your prayers, which are the life-blood of the ministry.*



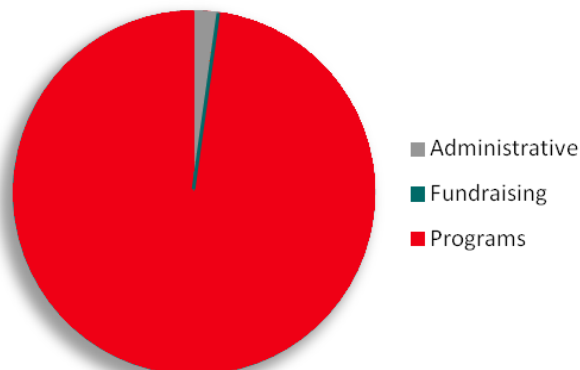
**CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES, INC.**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**December 15, 2015 and 2014**

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Accounts Payable	\$4,400	\$1,569
Credit cards payable	4,666	651
Sales tax payable	310	376
Due to Restricted Fund	3,785	350
Unused Gift Card Revenue	<u>—</u>	<u>1,276</u>
 Total current liabilities	 13,161	 4,222
 <b>NET ASSETS:</b>		
Unrestricted	927,506	907,206
Unrestricted-Unrealized loss on Investments	(5,264)	(945)
Temporarily restricted	<u>83,346</u>	<u>43,805</u>
 Total net assets	 <u>1,005,588</u>	 <u>950,066</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	 <u><u>\$1,018,749</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 954,288</u></u>

**EXPENDITURES**

Administrative	\$55,383.00	2.22%
Fundraising	\$660.00	0.03%
Programs	\$2,437,508.00	97.75%



*WEICHMANN BOYCE & ASSOCIATES, LLP performs our annual review and Form 990. The Form 990 may be viewed on our website at [www.crossfireministries.com](http://www.crossfireministries.com). A copy of the Form 990 is on file, available for review, during our normal business hours.*

*Crossfire Ministries is accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.*



# Boutique & Online Stores

Crossfire is committed to putting all our resources to good use. Donated goods that are not used to meet core needs (food, clothing, toiletries and basic living necessities) are offered for sale through our Boutique or one of our online stores, helping to fund the ministry.

**The Crossfire Boutique** is open every Thursday to the general public, as well as clients, offering high quality second-hand goods and books at thrifty prices. In addition, Benefit sales are held the first Friday and Saturday of the month.



Select items are offered for sale on Crossfire's Ebay store at [www.ebay.com/usr/Crossfire\\_ministries](http://www.ebay.com/usr/Crossfire_ministries)

We also maintain an online bookstore in addition to the books sold in the Boutique.



## The Comforters and the Yarn Spinners

of Crossfire Ministries make warm comforters, afghans, hats, gloves and slippers for the needy. They also make beautifully hand crafted items to sell for benefit. They often use fabric and materials that have been donated to Crossfire Ministries, such as un-wearable blue jeans and flannel that are made into lovely denim quilts. 100 hours or more can go into one of these made-with-prayer, rag quilts.

Over 2,000 handmade hats are given to families and children in need during the winter months and Christmas. In addition, 1,500 potholders are given during the Thanksgiving food box distribution. The generous ladies' knitting and crochet group at Holy Cross Lutheran Church partners with us in this effort.



# The Road Ahead



While keeping our focus firmly on our core values and ministries in the year ahead, we continue to look for new ways to help our Crossfire “family” gain stability and hope. With this in mind, we expect to expand our educational efforts, such as the recipes and instructional videos, helping clients make the best use of every food item. We are also creating internship programs, equipping developmentally challenged young adult volunteers with job skills; and offering training programs to better educate our volunteer leaders.

We are also actively seeking to expand our social media team, tapping this powerful means to help Colorado Springs better understand the nature of need in our community, including the unique challenges of single parents and grandparents raising grandchildren. In this way we will continue to invite our neighbors to **help us help those in need.**

# Thank You

**to the businesses, churches, and organizations who supported us in 2015.** We are grateful for the following business donors, our individual private donors, and for anyone we may have inadvertently left off the list.

Acacia Project  
Academy Christian Church  
Air Tech HVAC  
All Smiles Dental Group  
Bob Hellem Auto Repair  
Calvary Fellowship Church  
Calvary Worship Center  
Care and Share  
Center for Nonprofit Excellence  
Chipotle  
Circle Drive Baptist  
Comfort Dental, York Street, Dr. Natalie Jones  
CSCS - Colorado Springs Christian School  
Curves at Carefree  
Dawning Light Ministries  
Discovery Christian Church  
ECA – Evangelical Christian Academy  
Focus on the Family  
Gethsemane Christian Fellowship  
Great Harvest Bread Company  
Highland Park Baptist Church

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Just Between Friends  
King Soopers  
KTLF Radio  
Marcos Pizza  
Masterservice Company LLC  
Miller Farms, Platteville, Colorado  
Natural Foods  
Navigators  
North Springs Alliance Church  
Northeast Community Church  
Olive Garden (Darden)– Citadel Crossing  
Panera Bread  
Passionate Hope Church  
Pepperidge Farm  
Radiant Church  
Rocks Family Foundation  
REO Foundation  
Safeway - Rockrimmon  
Sonshine Orchards, Washington  
Springs Life Fellowship (SDB)

Sprouts  
Starbucks  
Sunnyside Christian Church  
Trader Joe's  
Vanguard Church  
Ventimiglia Foundation  
Village Christian Church  
Walmart  
Wiechman Boyce & Associates LLP  
Wells Fargo Bank  
Whole Foods  
Woodmen Valley Church – ACTS Mobile Ministry  
Word in Life Ministries  
Yarn Outlet  
Your Way Handyman's Service



CROSSFIRE MINISTRIES, INC.   
*Help Us Help Those In Need*

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