



DECC Weekly Update: Wednesday, October 14, 2015

TEAM DECC presents: Shivaugn de Marrais, Public Works – Wastewater Management

Featured Nonprofit: Extreme Community Makeover

As a military veteran, I take my civic responsibilities very seriously, and have great pride in my country and my community. When I came to work for the City of Denver last year, my quality of life improved so drastically that I decided it was time to give back to the City that was giving so much to me. I searched for a program that would allow me to volunteer my time and skills to provide a valuable contribution to my community, and found Extreme Community Makeover. In their own words, “Extreme Community Makeover is designed to invite volunteers into a partnership with residents of specific Denver neighborhoods to complete home and neighborhood improvement projects. These projects include graffiti removal, landscaping, painting, yard work, or other projects identified by the residents. Groups such as churches, companies, families, and schools may participate, or individuals can take part. Equally important as fences that are built are the relationships being built – between the volunteers and community members, among the neighbors on a block, and between the community and resources in their neighborhood.”



I have found Extreme Community Makeover is a wonderful and rewarding opportunity for me to give back to my City.

This week’s featured agency: **Extreme Community Makeover**



Mission Statement

Extreme Community Makeover coordinates volunteer teams to partner with underserved people to improve their own homes and neighborhoods. These projects build safer environments; cultivate community among residents,

neighborhoods, and networks of local resource providers; and connect residents to a permanent path towards healthy, hopeful, and stable lives.

Extreme Community Makeover currently works in eight neighborhoods in Denver: Barnum, Elyria, Globeville, La Alma/Lincoln Park, Swansea, Villa Park, West Colfax, and Westwood. Volunteer projects are scheduled on EMC Work Days every other weekend (approximately) from April-October. Work Days begin at 9:00 am. The location is determined by our neighborhood partner for that day. An orientation is provided where leaders share the vision for ECM and the partners organization involved. Each group splits up into their respective groups and the group leaders will give their team specific instructions about the projects identified on their targeted blocks and the work begins, usually around 9:30 am. Lunch is at 12:30 pm and is a time for volunteers and residents to share a meal and get to know one another. After lunch, groups continue working on the projects, which usually finish up around 4:00ish, but the expectation is to complete whatever projects were started so everyone feels good about what they accomplished and can see the project completed at the end of the day.

Since Extreme Community Makeover began in 2008, over 23,000 volunteers have been mobilized to partner with over 1,850 residents in eight target neighborhoods in Denver to complete projects that improve their home or neighborhood, while cleaning hundreds of alleys and removing graffiti as well. More importantly through, relationships are being built and connections formed that did not previously exist.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Extreme Community Makeover.