

Quarterly Newsletter

April 2023



COLORADO SAFE PARKING INITIATIVE

Notes from the Executive Director

Here at CSPI, we're glad that Spring is around the corner! This winter saw many nights that were extraordinarily dangerous for people who had to shelter in their vehicles. When CSPI has funds, we can offer guests a hotel room on dangerously cold nights or for health-related reasons. Thanks to community partners and individual donations, we were able to provide 253 hotel stays through February, some for multiple nights. But there were still SafeLot guests left outside because the need continues to exceed the available resources. [Donate now](#) for future hotel stays or check the Current Needs list to purchase items to meet guest current requests. Your continued support is always greatly appreciated.



SafeLot Guest Spotlight: Michael

Michael, married for 36 years and a father of three, has always been a hard worker, even throughout the pandemic. However, after contracting COVID, he was diagnosed with COPD and eventually Long COVID. The unpaid leave and mounting bills, treatments and medicines for he and his wife were more than their bank account could handle and left them unable to pay their rent. After staying with one daughter for a while, they eventually had to move out and shelter in their vehicle. For months they were shuttling from store parking lots, encampments, and quiet streets until they found out about safe parking. Finding CSPI ended up providing a source of income as well as a place to sleep at night.

Click [here](#) to read Michael's full story.

CSPI Program Update

Our first quarter of 2023 is off to an amazing start. We began 2022 with 7 CSPI SafeLots and now operate 13 across 5 Denver metro counties, with an ability to accommodate 110 households per night.



However, in 2022, we also had almost double the number of calls for assistance, meaning CSPI still has a long way to go to meet the need. CSPI's focus in 2023 is working to ensure sustainability of our current SafeLots and planning future expansion. CSPI receives many calls from communities and municipalities around the state asking for technical assistance and instruction on what it would take to start a *(cont'd next page)*

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CSPI Funder Spotlight: The Barton Institute for Community Action

CSPI's earliest and most critical supporter has been, and continues to be, The Barton Institute for Community Action. Due to Barton Institute's commitment to tackle major social issues in partnership with the very people involved in those issues, they supported us through our early incubation. From the start, the Institute served many important roles at CSPI, and continues to perform critical financial duties as CSPI grows. The Barton Institute and its donors also continue to be an important financial supporter of CSPI's work. We are grateful for the vision of The Barton Institute, and their commitment to engaging in work with respect for diverse voices and opinions and with a measurable impact. With their help and guidance, CSPI is off to a strong start.

CSPI still relies on The Barton Institute as our fiscal agent, helping us navigate the budgetary and accounting processes necessary to maintain a healthy and transparent management of the funds used to do our work in the field and behind the scenes for the unhoused people of Denver.

Current Needs

- **Solar Chargers and Lights**

Order these through CSPI's [Amazon Wish List here](#).

- **Gift Cards**

- King Soopers
- Grease Monkey
- Big O Tires

Purchase cards then mail to:
CSPI
c/o Barton Institute
1114 W 7th Avenue, Suite 215
Denver, CO 80204

Program Update (cont'd):

safe parking program in their area. CSPI is considering creating a training module to assist these communities and jump start services for people sheltering in vehicles throughout the state. Linda Barringer, CSPI's Program Director has participated in several meetings, panels and calls discussing how to ease the plight of the unhoused in Jefferson County, Fort Collins, Loveland, and Colorado Springs. In those conversations she shares her expertise in meeting the needs of individuals and families sheltering in their vehicle.

If you need a safe place to park overnight, please complete the request form at

<https://www.colosafeparking.org/if-you-need-help>

In the News:

To listen: Colorado Matters – an enlightening interview with our ED and SafeLot guests, that touches on CSPI services and guest stories but also what both want the public to know about who the people are who sheltering in vehicles and why you should care. Click [here](#) to listen now.

To read: [Pipe Dreams and Picket Fences](#), a survey of 1000 unhoused people on their thoughts and ideas for addressing the housing and human issues related to homelessness in Denver.