

## A Special Time for Giving

As President of the Telluride Association of REALTORS®, I realize that 2009 has been a difficult year for not only REALTORS®, but people in many other professions in addition but not limited to bankers, government employees and administrative positions -- not just locally, but on a global scale. Despite these hard economic times, local REALTORS® have been unwavering in their commitment to the surrounding Telluride Community. Overall the Telluride Association of REALTORS® has added monthly food donations to the San Miguel County Food Bank in addition to contributing to its many current programs, for example; the First Time Home Buyers Assistance Program and the Hoot Brown Memorial School Scholarship Fund.

The Telluride Association of REALTORS® generously granted quarterly contributions of dry cereal to the new San Miguel County Food Bank beginning in July of 2009. As of late, the Food Bank is specifically looking for supplies such as pasta, spaghetti, canned sauce, canned tuna and chicken, top ramen noodles as well as meat. So far, the Food Bank has proven to be a vital asset to the community. The San Miguel County Food Bank is open year-round on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4:00 to 6:00pm, located at 335 W. Colorado Ave, (side entrance behind Needle Rock Fiber Arts) donations are tax deductible and may be dropped off on site during those hours. You may have also noticed that the Angel Baskets Holiday & REALTOR® Food Drive just wrapped up for the season. Since the inception of the REALTOR® drive back in 1994, the community has been continually donating their time, canned goods and monies. This year, volunteers helped with wrapping, pick-ups and deliveries while the local police departments, the Wilkinson Public Library and the Elks Lodge continued their Angel Baskets fundraiser programs again this season. Remarkably, Angel Baskets was able to deliver 160 local families oversized holiday baskets filled with food, toys, gifts and other necessary items. I would like to personally thank everyone involved for their continued support.

I also continue to see local REALTORS® volunteer their time as firemen, coaches, mentors in the One to One program, EMT's, Search and Rescue, Habitat For Humanity, Adopt-A-Highway, and sitting on local boards among many, many others. Bottom line is our volunteer community contributions are better than ever. What even makes me more proud is the Colorado Association of REALTORS® current President, George Harvey, from right here in Telluride, has echoed this same sentiment on the state level and is encouraging all REALTORS® to give back to their respective communities in a similar fashion. On behalf of our entire organization I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Holiday and New Year. Oh yeah -- enjoy the skiing as well!

By Line: Teddy Errico, President of the Telluride Association of REALTORS®