

# REAL LIFE:

- 85% of youth participating in services at Urban Peak Colorado Springs are from El Paso County.
- 50% of Urban Peak youth reported experiencing some form of abuse - physical, sexual or mental. *Urban Peak 2007*
- Between 1.6 and 2.8 million young people run away in a year. *National Runaway Switchboard*
- A young adult would have to make \$17.10 an hour in a 40-hour work week to afford an \$889 fair-market value unit. *Colorado Coalition for the Homeless*
- One in every seven youth will run away before they are 18. *National Runaway Switchboard*
- One of ten students from low income families will drop out before completing high school. *US Department of Education*
- 5,000 unaccompanied young people die as a result of assault, illness, or suicide. *National Alliance to End Homelessness*

*"I was brought up rich. I was kicked out when I came out of the closet. I had no idea what to do."*

*"Most of us didn't decide, 'I'll just go to the streets.' Most of us have had to learn to be on our own. I didn't have any options; foster care couldn't help any longer. Home was unsafe."*

*"It's hard on the streets. Without an address, you can't get a job. Employers know you're homeless; it's a Catch-22. You can't take a shower. I just don't want to look homeless. People look down on you and it lowers your self-esteem."*



**GET INVOLVED!**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US @**  
**urbanpeak.org**

**OR CALL**  
**719-630-3223**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

*"Walking through Urban Peak is a journey. Coming out is a discovery of new ideas of life."*

**URBAN PEAK**  
**COLORADO SPRINGS**

423 East Cucharras Street • Colorado Springs, CO 80903

## ENTERPRISE ZONE TAX CREDIT

A donation of \$500 or more to Urban Peak Colorado Springs qualifies you for an Enterprise Zone Tax Credit. Simply make your check payable to El Paso County Enterprise Zone and send it directly to Urban Peak Colorado Springs. For more information, please call us at 719.630.3223.



**URBAN PEAK**  
**COLORADO SPRINGS**

**Urban Peak helps young people overcome homelessness and other real life challenges by providing safety, respect, essential services and a supportive community, empowering them to become self-reliant adults.**





## HISTORY

Urban Peak Colorado Springs (UPCS) was incorporated in 2000 in response to an identified need for services supporting runaway and homeless youth in the Pikes Peak region. Initially located at Catholic Charities Marian House, UPCS began offering services

ranging from street outreach to case management. These services expanded to meet the changing needs of homeless youth as the agency matured. From its inception, UPCS identified a need to provide shelter services to its clients due to the extremely limited availability of emergency shelter or housing options in the Pikes Peak region appropriate for homeless and runaway youth. In 2003, UPCS purchased a property southeast of downtown Colorado Springs that would allow for the expansion of UPCS' programs. This new facility (named THE Place) was licensed as a youth shelter in December 2004, and serves as a 20-bed transitional housing facility, consolidated services site, and administrative offices for UPCS.

In November of 2004, UPCS was honored to receive the Award for Excellence in Youth Development from the El Pomar Foundation. UPCS remains the only organization in the Pikes Peak region that provides outreach and case management services exclusively to homeless and runaway youth ages 15 to 21.

*Urban Peak Colorado Springs provided 3,476 nights of shelter last year.*

## ORGANIZATION CAPACITY

Urban Peak Colorado Springs is overseen by an Executive Director with 40+ years of experience in serving at-risk youth and managing public/non-profit sector programs. UPCS is governed by a board of directors. At least one board seat is reserved for a former client, ensuring that youth have a voice in the agency's administration and have the opportunity to assist their peers in accessing resources; youth are also among the agency's most powerful spokespeople. Urban Peak Colorado Springs operates under Colorado House Bill 97-1079, which provides the legal basis for services to homeless and runaway minors.



## REAL CHANGE:

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Urban Peak Colorado Springs offers the following pro bono services to homeless and runaway youth ages 15 to 21.



## HOUSING

**TRANSITIONAL HOUSING:**  
THE Place is a licensed 20-bed transitional housing facility for homeless and runaway youth. THE Place features separate dormitory-style sleeping quarters for male and female clients, showers, a complete industrial-grade kitchen, and large dining space. Services offered for residents include three meals each day,

active case management, educational and employment assistance, health services, and recreational activities

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OPTIONS:**  
UPCS provides independent living support to youth facing barriers who reside in 12 apartment units through the HUD Supportive Housing Program.

*Urban Peak Colorado Springs provides 12 units of supportive housing to homeless youth.*

## STREET OUTREACH

Street Outreach is conducted by UPCS staff and trained outreach volunteers, who seek out homeless and runaway youth on the streets of Colorado Springs to encourage youth to access resources available through UPCS.



## HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

THE Place includes a medical clinic staffed by a nurse practitioner and physician assistant, on Tuesday mornings, through Peak Vista Community Health. Services range from general medical treatment of colds and infections to general preventive care.

## INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

Case Managers assist youth by coordinating services in four primary areas. The first being physical wellness which includes health care services, mental health referrals and substance abuse prevention, treatment and awareness. The second area involves helping youth further their education. Including on-site GED classes or assistance with high school enrollment and college planning. The third area addressed is employment, helping youth locate jobs, and maintain jobs. The fourth area offers youth assistance with locating affordable housing options which includes having the youth design a budget and understand the financial obligations of living self sufficiently.



*In 2007, 109 youth accessed transitional housing and case management services.*

## EDUCATION

THE Place offers GED instruction to youth clients. The on-site classes are staffed by a certified teacher in partnership with School District 11 Adult Education Program. An on-site computer lab provides youth with a means to access educational web sites and complete computerized GED practice tests.



*Last year at Urban Peak Colorado Springs, 21 youth attended on-site GED program and 76 youth obtained employment.*

## EMPLOYMENT

UPCS works in partnership with the Pikes Peak Workforce Center to offer employment placement to its clients. Residents of THE Place also have the opportunity to participate in a life skills program during which they learn basic skills such as resume development, job application completion, and interview skills.