



URBAN PEAK

Happy Holidays!

IN THIS ISSUE...

2008-2009 Program Report

Maverick Thinkers 2010

Thanksgiving at Urban Peak

Images of Homelessness

Youth Poetry

PLUS...

Holiday Giving

Urban Peak Outdoor

**Real Life.
Real Change.**

UP TO DATE

an urban peak newsletter

URBAN PEAK CREATES IMPACT IN 2008/2009

In total, **2,269 youth** were served across all program areas in Fiscal Year 2009. A high number of youth access multiple program areas within the organization. Specific programs accomplished the following:

SHELTER

413 homeless and runaway youth received shelter, while 547 received day services such as case management, meals, medical care, or educational services. On average, 37 youth per night stayed at the shelter. A total of **23,157** meals were served by caring staff and community volunteers. 44% exited to safe and stable housing: family reunification, independent living, or appropriate placement.

STREET OUTREACH

The Street Outreach team served **1,058** youth through street outreach, drop-in services, Streets Smart classes, and community fairs. 132 of those youth received HIV and/or sexually transmitted infection counseling and testing, while 57 attended Street Smart classes. Team members also helped 81 youth to obtain vital documents (State ID, social security card, birth certificate) since these are required for gaining employment and housing. Last, the Street Outreach team sheltered 122 youth with temporary shelter and helped 55 to exit the streets permanently through family reunification or transitional/permanent housing.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

388 youth attended GED preparation classes at the shelter and downtown locations. 95 youth graduated with a GED. In total, **317** youth attended Job Readiness Training, while 100 obtained employment.

DROP IN CENTER

5,420 duplicated youth attended The Spot for breakfast, BBQs, medical care, poetry, and case management services.

HOUSING

160 youth received housing in Urban Peak's four programs and 75% who exited our programs did so safe and stable housing.

Other Accomplishments

Urban Peak's enhanced mental health and substance abuse services allowed for the following services to be provided in Fiscal Year 2009: 55 youth received group or individual mental health treatment; 68 youth received psychiatric treatment and medication/monitoring through our on-site psychiatrist; and 46 took part in group substance abuse treatment in collaboration with The Council.



Holiday Giving Opportunities

We appreciate your time, talent & treasure this season and beyond!

Volunteer

Giving Drives

(for socks, underwear, hygiene products, school & art supplies)

Create-your-own Youth Activity

Gift Certificates

Donate

Wish List Items

See our wish list and other ways to help www.urbanpeak.org/getinvolved.html

Or just come visit us and connect with our programs and youth! Call Anne or Robert at 303.974.2900

WORKING TOGETHER



IMAGES OF HOMELESSNESS

These photographs were among many taken by Urban Peak youth as part of the Homeless Youth Awareness Month Creative Project in November. To see more, visit urbanpeak.org.



(L) Urban Peak youth before they perform at an Art from Ashes public event. (Below) Youth writing in class at UP. "Using the creative power of words for hope and healing" is the foundation of Art from Ashes.



Colorado Homeless Youth Awareness Month

Urban Peak and other organizations throughout the state helped create awareness of youth homelessness during Homeless Youth Awareness Month in November. The month began in the Denver metro area with a kick-off celebration featuring more than 30 service organizations demonstrating their work with homeless youth. Several other Colorado agencies had similar kick-offs in their region.

The month also saw several other events including the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference when school officials and service providers came to Denver from across the nation to discuss challenges, strategies and best practices. Urban Peak was also part of a provider summit which was focused on the issue of mentorship for the homeless youth population.

For more information on the Awareness Month and on youth homelessness in Colorado, visit www.coloradohomelessyouth.org.



YOUTH POETRY

These poems are among many developed during class through UP's partnership with Art from Ashes. Each poem is written in three minutes or less. For more on AFA, visit www.artfromashes.org.

BY THE RIVER

Now the rock that was holding
me down is gone.
I am a free woman.
I can buy my business
without stopping.
I'm free to be with my family,
I'm free to be with my friends.
I am a better person than I was before
because the evil rock is gone.
I'm doing something better with my life,
I'm in school, getting good grades
and this is just the beginning.

Linda, Urban Peak Youth

KEYS

I dream—
I have a dream.
July 26, 2009 @ UPD Shelter.
Stop...think...react.
I dream keys
unlocking the door:
My future.
My education.
My new beginning.
My career.
My family.
My own home.
I dream the ultimate KEYS.
Unlocking my path. My destiny.
My own of my own.
I own mine. Leaving the past,
building the future.
Gone and new.
Keys to everything.

Michael, Urban Peak Youth



BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

SAVE THE DATE!

The 10th Annual Urban Peak

MAVERICK THINKERS AWARDS DINNER

2010 Maverick Thinkers Honorees

Rich Rainaldi & Martha Records

For more information on our honorees, sponsorships, and other event details, visit www.urbanpeak.org



February 25, 2010

6pm - 8:30pm

Seawell Ballroom of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts

TICKETS: \$150

With Special Guest Emcee
State Senator
Michael Johnston



MT 2010 Committee

Nancy Accetta
US Senator Michael Bennet and Susan Daggett
Steve and Elaine Berman
Bruce and Marcy Benson
Rusty and Sarah Brown
Steve and Wendy Cohen
Bill and Bei Lee Gold
Neil and Sarah Goldblatt
Josie and Rollie Heath
Mayor John Hickenlooper and Helen Thorpe
State Senator Michael Johnston
Dean Prina
Blair and Kristin Richardson
Governor Bill Ritter, Jr.
Dave and Christy Ryan
George Sparks
Dave and Debbie Younggren

HUNDREDS OF YOUTH ARE HOMELESS IN DENVER EVERY NIGHT.



YOU CAN HELP.

Each dollar you give could help change the life of a young person living on the streets. Thank you for your generosity and kindness!

Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at www.urbanpeak.org

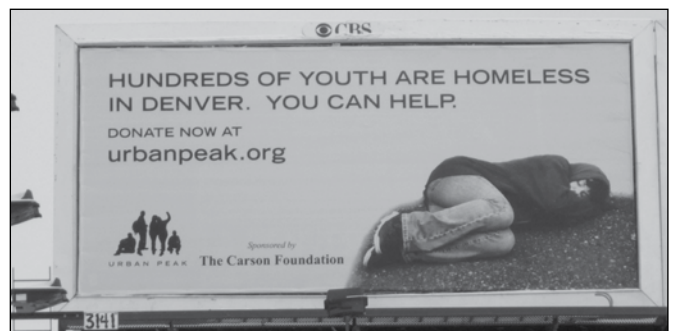
THANKSGIVING AT URBAN PEAK

We are so grateful to the many volunteers who gave their time and donations during the Thanksgiving holiday. Many people helped create an atmosphere of caring and community support for our youth!



Thank you to **ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR**, who once again sponsored a Thanksgiving feast for the youth of Urban Peak. Above, volunteers from Enterprise Rent-a-Car dish out turkey and all the trimmings to more than 100 youth at our drop-in center.

URBAN PEAK OUTDOOR



Thank you very much to **THE CARSON FOUNDATION** for their generous support of our billboard campaign! 20 boards can be seen across metro Denver throughout December. Also watch for the Urban Peak Public Service Announcement coming soon.

Winter 2009



**URBAN PEAK
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE OUTSTANDING
FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS THAT
HAVE SO GENEROUSLY GIVEN TO OUR
ORGANIZATION IN RECENT MONTHS:**

The Colorado Health Foundation
Oprah's Angel Network
Wal-Mart Foundation
The Carson Foundation
The Denver Foundation
The Nord Family Foundation
Larrk Foundation
The Louis and Harold Price Foundation Inc.
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE TO
URBAN PEAK, VISIT www.urbanpeak.org**



URBAN PEAK

Real life. Real change.

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INSIDE

**MAVERICK THINKERS
Awards Dinner**

Save the Date!

February 25, 2010

6:00p to 8:30p

(and much more!)

Happy Holidays!