



URBAN PEAK

Spring UP!

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Safety.
Engagement.
Empowerment.

UP TO DATE

an urban peak newsletter

DROP-IN CENTER NAMED AND DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

As construction continues on Phase One of the new Urban Peak drop-center, progress toward enhancing programs and serving more youth on the streets continues on track. Also, a name for the drop-in center has been selected by a committee overseeing the entire process. The official name is **Urban Peak @ The Spot**. The committee considered input from youth, staff, and

community members in choosing this name. The name signifies that new and existing programs of Urban Peak will reside in a place with a rich history and meaning — The Spot.

When construction is complete on Phase One (Grand Opening currently slated for Summer 2011), Urban Peak @ The Spot will feature a lobby/reception area for youth, a clinic with a waiting area, a commercial kitchen and dining room, showers and laundry facilities, an area for housing computers for youth, and a work area for staff (to conduct intake, provide intervention service, enter data, etc).



The services currently offered at Urban Peak @ The Spot include daily breakfast, weekly BBQ, cooking class, *2-Way Street* healthy relationship class, anger management class, and *Art from Ashes* poetry group made possible by a grant from Colorado Creative Industries. Urban Peak also hired an Expressive Arts Therapist to oversee a curriculum to give youth creative outlets.

Support for Phase One has been secured thanks to generous funding from The Anschutz Foundation, the City of Denver Office of Economic Development, Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation, and the Wyss Peace Foundation. Campaigns for Phase Two and Three are underway.



Check out our
Wish List
@
urbanpeak.org!
One more way to help.

JOIN US FOR A PEEK AT THE PEAK

AN HOUR INTRODUCTION
TO THE YOUTH AND PROGRAMS
OF URBAN PEAK

For those interested in learning more about what we do at Urban Peak, the myths and facts of youth homelessness, and how to get involved with our agency.

MONTHLY TOUR SCHEDULE

Every First Tuesday
@ Noon

Every Third Thursday
@ 4:30pm

Urban Peak Shelter
1630 South Acoma

(one block west of Broadway at Iowa in Denver)

To RSVP or for more information, contact

Jason at 303-974-2954

jason.newcomer@urbanpeak.org

URBAN PEAK @ THE SPOT BY THE NUMBERS

The staff of the Urban Peak @ The Spot drop-in center have been diligently tracking since they began to provide services at the start of the fiscal year (October 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011).

Breakfasts served	1,844
BBQ meals served	1,274
<i>2-Way Street</i> healthy relationship class graduates	24
Youth who have attended at least one <i>2-Way Street</i> class	85
Times a youth attended <i>2-Way Street</i> class (duplicated)	216
Times a youth attended Cooking class (duplicated)	127
Times a youth attended Anger Management class (duplicated)	35
Hygiene supplies or clothing items given out (combined w/ Outreach)	472



Youth and staff in cooking class.

Youth at Friday Fun Day at SkyVenture.



Many youth have also participated in Friday Fun Day, when they have gone rock climbing, touring Red Rocks, and skydiving at SkyVenture.

The outcome of this is youth spending more time engaged in positive activity with peers and helpful staff — and less time on the streets!

WORKING TOGETHER

SERVICES FOR YOUTH FROM FOSTER CARE

The US Department of Health & Human Services reports that there are 8,000 youth in foster care in Colorado (September 2009). Those youth aging out of the foster care system often do not have a support system to help them transition into independent living. According to a recent report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness, 25 percent of former foster youth nationwide reported that they had been homeless at least one night within two-and-a-half to four years after exiting foster care. At Urban Peak a large number of youth in our services have been in the foster care system. Urban Peak has two programs that provide services specifically for these young people.

The **Family Unification Program (FUP)** was created for young people who were in the custody of the Department of Human Services at age 16 or older and who are currently between 18 and 22 years old. It is designed to assist youth with a supportive transitional housing program that bridges the gap between social services and independent living.

The **YES! Academy (Youth Empowerment Systems)** is a self-sufficiency program for homeless, Chafee eligible youth and young adults. The YES! Academy program offers case management, service referrals, incentives, events and other learning opportunities for participants. In the YES! Academy program, participants have access to help with Housing, Life Skills, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Legal Issues, Education, Employment, and Community Support. The YES! Academy program can also provide assistance with obtaining vital documents including birth certificates, social security cards, and identification cards.



By helping youth coming out of the foster care system, Urban Peak continues to fulfill its mission to empower youth to become self-sufficient adults!

Urban Peak @ The Spot is Cooking UP!

Cooking Up Better Lives (formerly The Excell Foundation) was formed to create a new level of social responsibility and community fulfillment in the food service industry by arranging no- or low-cost donations of kitchen equipment and supplies to shelters, schools, hospitals, group homes, orphanages and other worthy organizations.

UP is partnering with Cooking Up Better Lives in the collaboration of the procurement, donation and anticipated installation of more than \$100,000 in kitchen equipment and supplies to the drop-in center. Through the partnership we will build an industrial kitchen at Urban Peak @ The Spot complete with everything necessary to serve more than 6,000 youth in a 12 month period.

How it works:

1. Urban Peak submits "wish list" items related to Cooking Up Better Lives for food service equipment and supplies.
2. A running list of the wishes will be sent to dealers and vendors to review and see if they could fulfill the wish.
3. Dealers and vendors will coordinate the gifting of the item(s) with Cooking Up Better Lives.

For details visit: www.cookingupbetterlives.org



Spring 2011

TELK IS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR URBAN PEAK COLORADO SPRINGS

Chris Telk has been named Executive Director for Urban Peak Colorado Springs. Chris has been dedicated to serving homeless youth at Urban Peak since 1999 where he has held the positions of Case Manager, Housing Coordinator, and Property Manager. A fourth generation native of Colorado, Chris has 25 years of experience serving at-risk youth and has an in-depth organizational knowledge and experience in the field. Chris has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame and he has served youth in the community as a Special Needs Teacher, Outdoor Education Specialist, Inner-City Youth Counselor, and Board Member.



"I'm very proud to continue my service to Urban Peak and homeless youth in Colorado Springs," says Telk. "I'm looking forward to helping lead this incredible organization into the future, and becoming part of the Colorado Springs community."

UPCS Board Chair Pam Osterhouse says, "The Urban Peak Colorado Springs Board of Directors and I are pleased to have Chris Telk on staff. With Chris' extensive experience and long-term relationship with Urban Peak, we look forward to strong leadership and continued positive momentum for the organization and the vital services it provides to our youth."

Chris Telk succeeds John McIlwee, who recently retired from UPCS after ten years of outstanding service and leadership.

HUNDREDS OF YOUTH
ARE HOMELESS IN
DENVER EVERY NIGHT.
YOU CAN HELP.



To donate, use the enclosed envelope
or donate online @ www.urbanpeak.org

LOOKING TO HIRE SUMMER EMPLOYEES WHO ARE "JOB READY"?

Consider Hiring Youth from Urban Peak's
JOB READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

Job Readiness Training at Urban Peak helps participants build upon their skills and develop new abilities through:

Career Exploration • Communication Skills
Time Management • Computer Skills
Conflict Resolution • Goal Setting

Plus, Urban Peak staff provides ongoing support and job coaching for those who are hired!

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact:
Sarah Hoogendyk, Urban Peak Job Development Specialist
303-974-2953 or sarah.hoogendyk@urbanpeak.org

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

MAVERICK THINKERS HONORS COMMUNITY LEADER AND OUTSTANDING YOUTH

In April, Urban Peak held its largest fundraiser of the year and awarded two people — Caz Matthews and Michael Condon. Caz was UP's 2011 Maverick Thinker and honored for her amazing contribution to our community and for embodying the spirit of hope, inspiration, and change. Michael was UP's Youth Maverick Thinker and honored for his incredible journey from the streets and a troubled life, through the programs of Urban Peak, and into self-sufficient and successful adulthood.

The event welcomed 560 guests, including longtime friends of Urban Peak and many new to supporting the organization. Thanks to the many sponsors, ticket buyers, and donors, the fundraising effort was a success and provided much needed support for the youth and programs of Urban Peak.

THANKS TO THE SPONSORS OF MAVERICK THINKERS!

OUT OF THE BOX SPONSORS

Caz Matthews



Mile High United Way



MATCHING SPONSOR

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Martha Records & Rich Rainaldi

Betsy Searle

Stefan and Andrea Stein

Suncor Energy (U.S.A.) Inc

Judi & Joe Wagner

Western Union Foundation

THANK YOU!

2011 HGTV Green Home Tour at Stapleton to Benefit Urban Peak

Net proceeds from the public tours of the 2011 HGTV Green Home at Stapleton will benefit Urban Peak!

Stapleton's reputation as one of the most sustainable new urban neighborhoods in the nation prompted the HGTV cable network to select it as the location to build the fully furnished 2011 HGTV Green Home that will be given away in a promotion this August expected to draw entries from viewers across the nation. Constructed by Infinity Home Collection, one of Stapleton's most successful builders, the nearly 2,400 square foot home has achieved a Platinum LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and an Energy Star rating from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that attest to its energy efficiency, indoor air quality and careful selection of recycled materials. Recycled material from the former Stapleton International Airport used in the landscape for the HGTV Green Home includes a portion of the airport's "blast fence" and runway concrete known as "StapleStone." "We are very pleased to help support vital services for the homeless youth of Denver by contributing the net proceeds from the tours of the HGTV Green Home at Stapleton to Urban Peak," said John Lehigh, president of Forest City Stapleton, Inc, master developer of the former airport. "Because interest in the 2011 HGTV Green Home Giveaway has placed Stapleton in the national spotlight, we will be able to turn the tremendous interest in this fabulous new home into an opportunity to raise funds for an important cause in Metropolitan Denver." "Sustainability is the perfect theme for this partnership," said Kay Ramachandran, CEO of Urban Peak. "Much as HGTV, Forest City Stapleton and Infinity Home Collection have prioritized sustainability in building this exceptional home, Urban Peak focuses on sustainability and self-sufficiency in all its programs and services to help homeless youth overcome real life challenges and find a safe place to live."

TOURS OF THE HGTV GREEN HOME

May 5th – July 3rd

Thursdays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sundays, from Noon – 5 p.m.

Memorial Day, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

July 3rd, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

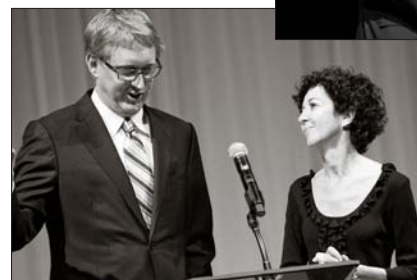
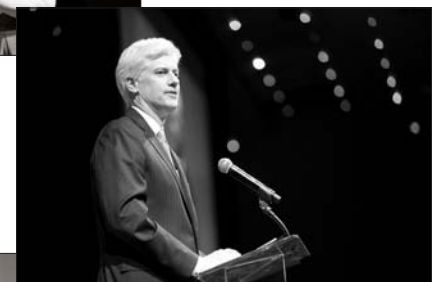
Tour tickets must be picked up at Will Call, in the Stapleton Discovery Center located at Syracuse Street and Martin Luther King Blvd. Parking is available and timed tours will depart every 20-30 minutes via shuttles.

For details and tickets, visit www.stapletondenver.com
OR CALL 1-855-go4tour



Urban Peak's 2011 Maverick Thinker Caz Matthews and Youth Maverick Thinker Michael Condon.

Jim Polsfut, once board chair of Urban Peak and creator of the Maverick Thinkers event, reads comments and letters from U.S. Congress honoring Caz Matthews.



Jamie Van Leeuwen (r) and Christine Benero recite their original "Ode to Caz."

Photos by juliatimmerphotography.com



Spring 2011 URBAN PEAK

URBAN PEAK
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VOTE FOR URBAN PEAK!

Urban Peak is eligible to win major two prizes:

Pepsi Refresh Project
(Vote once every day)

and

Schwab Gives Contest
(Vote once)

Both will help support our youth and programs!

Go to www.urbanpeak.org
and vote today!



**THANK
YOU!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DONATE TO
URBAN PEAK ONLINE, VISIT urbanpeak.org



URBAN PEAK

Real life. Real change.

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INSIDE

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Maverick Thinkers 2011

Cooking UP!

HGTV Green Home

...and more!