



Summertime!

IN THIS ISSUE...

- GED Graduation
- UP Benefits from HGTV Green Home
- Keeping Youth Healthy
- Grand Opening UP @ The Spot
- Summertime Youth Activities
- Plates for the Peak
- Annual Community Breakfast
- Colfax Marathon
- Macy's Shop for a Cause!

**Safety.  
Engagement.  
Empowerment.**



@macy's  
and help  
Urban Peak  
**See Inside!**

**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

# UP TO DATE

an urban peak newsletter

## A MOVING CEREMONY

In June, Urban Peak youth who obtained their GED this past year walked across the stage of St. Cajetan's on the Auraria Campus to receive their diplomas. In a moving ceremony, 32 of 84 youth in the Class of 2011 donned their caps and gowns and gave testimony on what getting their GED means.

Said one youth, "It gives me a great sense of completion. Something I can say I did and be proud." And another, "This meant so much to me, words can barely describe. This is one of the best things I accomplished in my lifetime."

Each graduate at the ceremony also expressed what their plans for the future are. From broadcasting to nursing, culinary arts to law, these youth have high hopes for a better life. The majority say they are headed to college, some want to buy a house, and others aren't quite sure. But all agree that getting their GED is one of the most important steps they have taken on their path to self-sufficiency.

Ashley B., who received the first ever Abby Modesitt Youth Achievement Award, said, "I never thought I would get this far. I'm so happy I'm finally going to college!" Youth speaker Patrick L. said to the grads, "You know that this is just the next step. Let's take that next step together. You know in your heart that you want to be someone."



Youth from the Class of 2011 GED Graduates on the steps of St. Cajetan's after receiving their diplomas.  
Photo by juliatimmerphotography.com

## Urban Peak Benefits from 2011 HGTV Green Home Tour at Stapleton

Forest City Stapleton, Inc. recently made a \$54,600 contribution to Urban Peak, which represents the gross proceeds of Forest City's ticket sales for the recent tours of the 2011 HGTV Green Home at Stapleton.



"We are pleased to provide this financial support for the important work Urban Peak does to serve homeless young people in the Metro Denver area," said John Lehigh, president of Forest City Stapleton, Inc., the master developer for Denver's former international airport. "Tours of the HGTV Green Home not only brought the national spotlight to Denver, they also produced funding that will make a difference in the lives of so many young people who benefit from the services provided by one of Denver's most worthwhile nonprofit organizations."

"Our partnership with Forest City Stapleton through the HGTV Green Home effort has been very unique," said Urban Peak CEO Kay Ramachandran, "because having a home symbolizes self-sufficiency for our youth. Forest City's amazing generosity has directly affected our ability to help youth achieve this success through our programs. We are privileged to have worked with such an incredible team and look forward to a long lasting relationship with Forest City."

Employees of Forest City Stapleton also participated in a volunteer project at the Urban Peak Shelter, where they helped with our storage units and hosted a barbecue for the youth. For more about Stapleton, visit [www.stapletondenver.com](http://www.stapletondenver.com).



On "Forest City Gives Day," employees from Stapleton FC hosted a bbq at the Shelter, including an ice cream bar.

## Keeping Youth Healthy

Urban Peak is dedicated to providing essential services for all the youth that come through our doors. Of these services, making sure that the youths' medical health needs are met is critical.

UP Medical Assistant Michael Masse, Dr. Christine Gilroy, Dr. Jenny Burns, and others, work together and with several partners in the community, to keep youth healthy. From colds to minor injuries, infections to more serious issues like Type I Diabetes, genetic problems, and Hepatitis-C, the Urban Peak medical team is truly making a difference.

"One of our basic human rights is receiving health care when we need it," says Masse. "We want to partner with the youth and show them how important it is to stay on top of their health."

Among his many duties, Masse helps with the initial assessment given to all youth who enter the Shelter. He also assists youth in verifying and procuring appropriate medical insurance, getting necessary tests (STD, HIV, tuberculosis), and with general health concerns. Masse is very familiar with the unique needs of this population. While he has been at Urban Peak for ten months, he also worked six years with the Stout Street Clinic Health Outreach Program, which would visit Urban Peak on a regular basis.

"Healthcare is such an intricate piece," says Masse, "It's a basic need that plays an ongoing role in getting them out of homelessness and on track."



Michael Masse (l) and Dr. Christine Gilroy (c) consult with youth on health care.

Masse has also coordinated several preventative measures including smoking cessation support groups, birth control consultation and use, and health education classes like personal hygiene, drug use and abuse, exercise, and nutrition. For these hot summer days, he also held a class on dehydration. Moreover, he continues to reach out and work with partners for the best care and services, such as Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Stout Street Clinic, Denver Health, Rocky Mountain Youth, and Children's Hospital Colorado.

Dr. Christine Gilroy has been working with Urban Peak since 1996 and recognizes the challenges in serving homeless youth.

"First, from a social justice standpoint these youth have never had access to proper care because they come from broken homes where their needs aren't met," says Gilroy. "This lack of access can derail a youth from achieving success. It is crucial that we provide the support and use health care as a motivational tool. Teaching them to take care of themselves can help them see they are worthwhile and deserve that care."

On the medical team wish list? A certified CPR/AED instructor who could help train staff and youth on a continual and consistent basis, and an ongoing supply of long-lasting birth control Implanons.



## Keeping Youth Active



Youth display mural they created for the annual Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods' People's Fair,

Several youth created posters for the Underground Music Showcase during a screenprinting workshop hosted by Stewart and Nicky Alden of Ink Lounge Gallery/ Idaho Stew.



UP's Education & Employment team took youth on a hike to Dinosaur Ridge as part of experiential learning process.

## 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](mailto:sarah.hoogendyk@urbanpeak.org)

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



To donate, use the enclosed envelope or donate online @ [www.urbanpeak.org](http://www.urbanpeak.org)

# GET READY FOR FALL AND BACK TO SCHOOL @ MACY'S (And help Urban Peak)



## Saturday August 27 Northfield Stapleton

Purchase a \$5 Shopping Pass from Urban Peak and receive 25% off of regular, sale, and clearance items ALL DAY!



Since 2006, Macy's Shop For A Cause Event has partnered with non-profit organizations nationwide to raise more than \$38 million for their ongoing charitable efforts. This is your chance to be part of this monumental event on Saturday, August 27, 2011.

Shop For A Cause gives you the opportunity to give back to your community and to help our organization. Purchase a \$5 Shopping Pass\* for exclusive savings in Northfield Stapleton Macy's or every Macy's store and online at macys.com on Saturday, August 27th, and we keep 100% of the proceeds. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card.

Find the magic of giving back, as Macy's celebrates a national day of support for Urban Peak!

to purchase your \$5 shopping pass, contact  
Robert Ham at 303-974-2947  
robert.ham@urbanpeak.org

\*Good at all Macy's and online. Some exclusion and restrictions apply.



Join us for the

## GRAND OPENING

OF THE NEWLY RENOVATED

# urban peak@the spot DROP-IN CENTER!

Monday, October 3

5:30pm to 7:30pm

Urban Peak@The Spot

2801 Stout Street (NE Corner of 21st and Stout in Denver)

Tours • Food • Entertainment • Guest Speakers

**Purchase a "Donor Display" and be a part of the center!**

Your name will be etched on super-cool displays that will be mounted on walls throughout Urban Peak@The Spot. Limited supply - contact us for costs!

RSVP by September 26 and get info with Robert at 303-974-2947 or email at robert.ham@urbanpeak.org

You are invited to

Urban Peak's Annual

# Community Breakfast

## A Free One-Hour Fundraiser

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 • 7:30am to 8:30am

Four Season Hotel • 1111 14th Street in Downtown Denver

Learn about Urban Peak, our youth and our programs, have a delicious breakfast, meet friends, and make a difference in the lives of our youth - all before 9am!

For more info, contact Robert @ 303-974-2947  
or visit urbanpeak.org

Special Guest Speaker  
COUNCILMAN PAUL LOPEZ



## Want to volunteer?

For an application:  
visit [www.urbanpeak.org](http://www.urbanpeak.org)

For more information and opportunities:  
Contact Steve at 303-974-2910



*RUN, UP, RUN!* Just some of the 60-plus runners who braved a cold and rainy May morning to support Urban Peak at the Kaiser Permanente Colfax Marathon. Teams included staff, board, donors, and friends in the community. Runners raised \$8,000 and a great deal of awareness for homeless youth. Thanks to all who participated!



Sponsored in part by Adco General and CoWest Insurance

Summer 2011 URBAN PEAK

**URBAN PEAK  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Todd Fredrickson, *Chair*

Ron Barber, *Treasurer*

Chris Burckhardt, *Chair Elect*

Dick Thomas, *Secretary*

Stefan Stein, *Past Chair*

Amy Argo

Sarah Burgamy

Rick Ericksen

Amy Hansen

Leslie Herod

Allison Johnson

Gerald Moore

Martha Nachman

Susan Noble

Pam Osterhouse, *UPCS Chair*

Joanne Reilly

Mary Jane Rogers

Hamid Taha

Terri Taylor

Lisa Tessarowicz, *UPCS*

Ann Van Horne

Katie Wells

Kay Ramachandran, *CEO Urban Peak*

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE OUTSTANDING SUPPORTERS THAT HAVE SO GENEROUSLY GIVEN TO HELP DENVER'S HOMELESS YOUTH IN RECENT MONTHS:

A.V. Hunter Trust, Inc.

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation

Concern For Others Fund

Denver Post Season To Share,

a fund of the McCormick

Tribune Foundation

ECA Foundation, Inc.

Fox Family Foundation

H Van Ameringen Foundation

Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson

Foundation, Denver

John D. Abernathy

John J. King, Jr.

MaggieGeorge Foundation

Nationwide Foundation

Rose Community Foundation

Schlessman Family Foundation, Inc.

St. Andrew United Methodist Church

Violet M. Johnson Family Foundation

...and many many more!



Available online  
[urbanpeak.org](http://urbanpeak.org)



**URBAN PEAK**

Real life. Real change.

730 21st Street  
Denver CO 80205

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Denver CO  
Permit No.  
5332

***INSIDE***

**GED Graduation**

**HGTV Green Home**

**Keeping Youth Healthy**

**Community Breakfast**

**...and more!**