



URBAN PEAK

Peak of Winter!

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**Safety.
Engagement.
Empowerment.**

UP TO DATE

an urban peak newsletter

"STATE OF HOMELESSNESS" REPORT ADMITS CHALLENGES IN COUNTING HOMELESS YOUTH

"It is widely agreed upon that there is a vast undercount of the number of young people experiencing homelessness. Underscoring this is the fact that 35 percent of all communities reported that there were no homeless youth in their communities in 2009." This is one of the key findings in the "State of Homelessness in America" report released in mid-January by the National Alliance to End Homelessness (The Alliance), a leading voice on this issue. The report features national and state level homeless counts and shows the changes in homelessness from 2008 to 2009.



According to the report, overall homelessness in America increased 3% from 2008 to 2009. By analyzing economic indicators, demographic drivers, and risk factors for becoming homeless, the report demonstrates the effect of the recession on homelessness and how it has contributed to the increase. The report also studies states that have multiple risk factors for increased homelessness.

As for the state of homelessness among youth, the report does have a section titled, "Young Adults Aged Out of Foster Care by the State." The section examines "aging out" as a risk factor, however the data only includes the change in young adults aged out of foster care from 2008 to 2009, not the number of youth experiencing homelessness. A subsection notes that the estimates of homeless youth vary widely, and that, "Despite these disparities, what is consistently recognized is the dearth of information about this population and the likely undercount of homeless youth during point-in-time counts."

Still, The Alliance and organizations like Urban Peak are out there trying. On January 25, Urban Peak was part of a statewide Point-in-Time Study, when staff and volunteers take one full day to survey the homeless population of our community, including youth. The Alliance was actively involved with encouraging agencies to participate in these counts and even provided guides on counting homeless youth. Details of the Point-in-Time Study will be available later this year.

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Urban Peak by the Numbers

Impact Report 2009-2010

In total, **1,903 youth** were served across all program areas in Fiscal Year 2010 (Sept 09-Oct 10). A high number of youth access multiple program areas within the organization. Specific programs accomplished the following:

SHELTER

390 homeless and runaway youth received shelter, while 495 received day services such as case management, meals, medical care, or educational services. On average, 35 youth per night stayed at the shelter. A total of **22,255** meals were served by caring staff and community volunteers. 55% exited to safe and stable housing: family reunification, independent living, or appropriate placement.

STREET OUTREACH

The Street Outreach team served **1,331** youth through street outreach, drop-in services, classes, and community fairs. 232 of those youth received HIV and/or sexually transmitted infection counseling and testing, while 50 attended Street Smart classes. Team members also helped 124 youth to obtain vital documents (State ID, social security card, birth certificate) since these are required for gaining employment and housing. Last year, the Street Outreach team made 11,109 contacts with youth on the streets, and helped 89 to exit the streets permanently through family reunification or transitional/permanent housing.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

392 youth attended GED preparation classes at the shelter and downtown locations. 74 youth graduated with a GED. 87 youth received college prep assistance. In total, **303** youth attended Job Readiness Training, while 150 obtained employment.

(continued on next page)

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

WORKING TOGETHER

DROP IN CENTER

1,156 youth received food at The Spot at either breakfast, BBQ, or other means. Other drop-in services, such as life skills, cooking and healthy relationship classes, began at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2011 and will develop even more in the coming months with the renovation of the Drop-In Center.

HOUSING

145 youth received housing in Urban Peak's Rocky Mountain, Rowan Gardens, STAR, Family Unification, and Community Housing programs and **87% who exited our programs did so safe and stable housing.**

MENTAL HEALTH/CASE MANAGEMENT

Through Urban Peak's mental health and substance abuse services 196 youth had clinical assessments and 104 youth received mental health, psychiatric, or substance abuse treatment. Urban Peak also provided 10,032 hours of case management services for youth.

**HUNDREDS OF YOUTH
ARE HOMELESS
IN DENVER EVERY NIGHT.**

YOU CAN HELP.

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

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



SUPPORT "TEAM UP"!



Urban Peak currently has four Team UP relay teams, plus 40 other friends of UP, running in the Kaiser Permanente Colfax Marathon and raising money for homeless youth. The event is May 15, and we appreciate all the time and hard work put into our second year as a Marathon Charity Partner.

You can help us meet our fundraising goal of \$12,000 by going to www.active.com/donate/urbanpeak2011 and making a donation to our runners. **OR** if you're running already, or planning to run, please choose Urban Peak as your charity partner.

For more info, contact Robert at 303-974-2947.

Go Team UP!



URBAN PEAK Winter 2011

SAVE THE DATE!

The 11th Annual Urban Peak **MAVERICK THINKERS AWARDS DINNER**

2011 Maverick Thinkers Honoree

**Caroline "Caz"
Matthews**



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

Thursday, April 14, 2011
6pm - 8:30pm

Seawell Ballroom of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts

TICKETS: \$150

Call 303-974-2935 or online at urbanpeak.org

URBAN PEAK SUPPORTS SENATE BILL ON HATE CRIMES AGAINST THE HOMELESS

From The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless SB11004 - Fact Sheet:
"National reports have documented over a thousand crimes committed with prejudice against America's homeless community over the past decade. Homeless people appear to face a rate of victimization that far exceeds that of traditionally covered groups targeted for bias-motivated acts. During the eleven-year period between 1999 and 2009, there were more than double the amount of homeless hate crime DEATHS than there were for all current protected classes combined (race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity) - homeless mortality crimes totaled 288, all other groups totaled 103.

For this reason, Senator Lucia Guzman and Representative Dan Pabon are sponsoring SB11-004 in order to add homeless persons to Colorado's Bias Motivated Crimes statute (more commonly referred to as the Hate Crimes statute).

The intent of adding homeless persons to the protections created under this law and raising the criminal penalties against those who intentionally target a person because of their homeless status is to deter those who commit these crimes - and ultimately, to eliminate the incidence of the attacks.

HATE CRIMES IN COLORADO

Analysis of data...shows that between 1999 and 2009, **Colorado was ranked 5th in the number of hate crimes and acts of violence committed against the homeless...**Between 1999 and 2009, there were a total of 47 acts of violence committed against the homeless in four Colorado cities, Denver, Colorado Springs, Aspen and Lakewood. 22 of those crimes resulted in the death of a homeless individual."

On January 27, the Urban Peak Board of Directors voted unanimously to support this bill. For more information on the bill, please visit: www.coloradocoalition.org/advocate/hatecrimes2011.aspx

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Volunteers Shine and Generosity Abounds: A Holiday Wrap-Up

So often, the holidays can be a challenging time for youth living on the streets. Without family or a place to call home, the need and want of these youth is even more acutely felt.

But WOW! What an incredible holiday season at UP! From Thanksgiving into the New Year, so many groups and individuals stepped up and played a big part in making the season enjoyable for the youth at Urban Peak.



Waiting to serve Thanksgiving Dinner for the three year in a row at UP, volunteers from **Enterprise Rent-A-Car** listen as youth tell what they're thankful for.



Snooze Eatery donated and served Thanksgiving Breakfast at the Shelter.



Adam Foote and Milan Hejduk (center) of the **Colorado Avalanche** visited Urban Peak to serve lunch and bring donations to youth in partnership with Denver Inner City Parish food donation program *We Don't Waste*.

For KSE Holiday Day of Service, volunteers from **Kroenke Sports Charities** decorated the UP Shelter and made holiday treats with the youth.



So Many to Thank!

We are so grateful for all the support this past holiday. Along with those pictured, these are just some of groups who gave so generously of their time, talent, and treasure to help homeless youth.

Bethany Lutheran Church
The BrownCouch Group
~ RE/MAX Northwest
Chipper and Family
The Chop House
Christ Body Ministries
Ciao Bella Day Spa
City Ministry
Colorado Academy
Fusion Ministry
Dawn Goodrich
Hanger, Inc
Life Source Adventist
Sue Massey
Mici Italian
Natural Resources Revenue
Matt Padilla and Friends

ProjectMMH.org
Lorii Rabinowitz & Friends
Ritz-Carlton Denver
Rocky Mountain Fan Force
Room & Board
Roper Western Wear
Mary Jo Ross and Friends
Sage Hospitality
Vicky Stafford
Statera
Joanne Taylor
Cathy Tocher & Friends
UMB Bank
Underawareness
We Don't Waste
Whole Foods
Zumiez, Inc
...and many more!



Right after the holidays, volunteers from **Kaiser Permanente** sorted through donations at The Drop-In Center @ The Spot as part of MLK Volunteer Day.

Thank you all very much!

Interested in volunteering at Urban Peak?
For an application, visit www.urbanpeak.org
And for more information and opportunities, contact: Karen at 303-974-2909



**URBAN PEAK
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Todd Fredrickson, *Chair*

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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:

Adco General Corporation

Anonymous

The Anschutz Foundation

The CarMax Foundation

Caz Matthews

Charles A. Micale Foundation

The Colorado Health Foundation

Dave and Deborah Younggren

Dennis Hughes

Fulcrum Foundation

Great-West Life & Annuity
Insurance Co.

The Jay and Rose Phillips
Family Foundation

Jeannette Smith Eppler

Charitable Remainder Trust

John Buckley

Julie and Mike Bock

The Louis and Harold Price
Foundation Inc.

The Nord Family Foundation

Richard and Susan Ericksen

TWC Foundation, Inc

Venoco, Inc.

Vodafone Americas Foundation

...and many many more!

**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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Denver CO 80205

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INSIDE

State of Homelessness

Maverick Thinkers 2011

Holiday Wrap-UP

UP by the Numbers

Hate Crimes Bill