



URBAN PEAK

IT'S SUMMERTIME!

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OUR MISSION

Urban Peak helps homeless youth and youth at risk of becoming homeless overcome real life challenges by providing essential services and a supportive community, empowering them to become self-sufficient adults.

**Safety.
 Engagement.
 Empowerment.**

NEW AT UP!

**JOIN US FOR
 A PEEK
 AT THE PEAK**

**AN HOUR INTRODUCTION
 TO THE YOUTH AND PROGRAMS
 OF URBAN PEAK**

We are launching a new series of events 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. The events are one hour long and will be held at our shelter location in Denver.

EVENT SCHEDULE

JULY 20, AUG 17, or SEPT 14
 @ Noon
 AUG 5 or SEPT 2
 @ 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

UP TO DATE
 an urban peak newsletter

THE SEVENTH PRESENTATION OF "PLATES FOR THE PEAK"

For the seventh time, we partnered with Vesta Dipping Grill to present PLATES FOR THE PEAK, a delicious fundraiser benefiting the youth and programs of Urban Peak. The event welcomed more than 200 guests and featured incredible food from Denver's hottest chefs, youth entertainment, specialty beverages from Ketel One, grooves by DJ K-Nee, and a silent auction. We raised much-needed funds and everyone had an amazing time!

We are so grateful to Vesta for their continuing support and outstanding partnership!



Photos courtesy of juliatimmerphotography.com

Clockwise: Denver's hottest chefs created unique small dishes for the event. (l to r) Paul Reilly (Encore), Matt Selby (Vesta and Steuben's), Wade Kirwan (Vesta); UP youth "Frost" entertains the crowd; Guests enjoy a delicious creation at the Vesta bar; The Steuben's Food Service truck makes its debut at Plates for the Peak.

POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE AT UP'S GED GRADUATION

In the past several months, Urban Peak's Education Program helped more than 50 students receive their GED. In May, twenty graduates put on cap and gown and walked across the stage in a moving ceremony held at St. Cajetan's Center on Auraria Campus.

During the ceremony, UP Education and Employment Supervisor Jeff Romero read statements from each youth about the importance of receiving their GED and their plans for the future. Many stated how their GED will allow them to go to college, get better jobs, and pursue the careers they desire. "It's one more step to my becoming part of society," said one student. Another proclaimed, "I accomplished something very important in life."

"Once I got my GED, the flood gates opened," said Braxton W., the Urban Peak youth speaker for the evening. "I'm actually excited about what my future has for me."

The event featured special guest speaker Colorado State Senator Pat Steadman, and the presentation of two scholarships to Urban Peak youth from CollegeInvest.



Urban Peak GED Grads toss their caps after a ceremony held in May at Auraria Campus. Photo by Diana Odem.

WORKING TOGETHER

Urban Peak Plans New Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth in Denver

Recently, Urban Peak used funds obtained from the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation to conduct a Needs Assessment to guide Urban Peak through its program and capital planning process for the next decade. Among other recommendations, what emerged from this study was a clear indication that there is a strong need in Denver for a well-located Drop-In Center for runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of becoming homeless.

“We listened to the community and responded,” said Kay Ramachandran, CEO of Urban Peak. “This new Drop-In Center is one of the most important developments for the homeless youth of Denver in more than a decade.”

A team of board and staff members began work early this year to plan for the Drop-In Center. The Center will focus on providing quality services for runaway and homeless youth and youth at risk of becoming homeless. The vision for the Center is to serve as a flagship for Urban Peak and as a gateway for Urban Peak’s other services and community referrals. The Center will provide varied opportunities for youth as they work their way to self-sufficiency.

The Drop-In Center programming will have three main areas of focus with the ultimate goal of assisting youth in becoming self sufficient: **Safety, Engagement and Empowerment.**

Urban Peak has a track record of working with other non-profits to provide a wide spectrum of client services, to leverage funding, to complement our services, and to ensure that we do not duplicate services in the community. This tradition of collaboration will continue as we provide seamless services to the youth.

Final plans for the Drop-In Center are slated for the Fall of 2010.



Members of UP’s marathon relay teams pose after the Colorado Colfax Marathon in May. In our first year effort, 31 runners supported Urban Peak and raised nearly \$9,000. THANK YOU to the runners and their contributors!

FLUID COFFEE Partners with Urban Peak Again

Fluid Community Partners are selected each quarter and are beneficiaries of the Fluid Coffee Bar Sustainability Menu. **Fluid Coffee Bar donates 5 cents for every item selected off the Fluid Coffee Bar Sustainability Menu to URBAN PEAK and other community partners.**

The FCB Sustainability Menu is a menu of items (5) that when selected have a positive environmental, social and/or economic impact on the business and community. Visit Fluid at 19th & Pearl in Denver today!

Current Fluid Coffee Bar Sustainability Menu Items

- 1) Use “In House Mug”
- 2) Use Travel Mug
- 3) Reuse Whole Bean Bag
- 4) Recycle Bottled Beverage
- 5) Reuse/Recycle Eco Grip Cup Sleeve



19th & Pearl in Denver

Summer 2010

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

CONSIDER THIS:

\$70 helps cover the cost of one night of care and shelter for a youth.

\$150 can provide food for a meal at the shelter for 40 youth.

\$2,000 helps support a youth through GED graduation.

\$6,500 is the cost for a youth to permanently exit street life.

LOOKING TO HIRE ENTRY LEVEL EMPLOYEES WHO ARE “JOB READY”?

Consider Youth from Urban Peak’s JOB READINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

Job Readiness Training (JRT) 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**

JRT emphasizes

Punctuality, Attentiveness, and Quality of Work

Potential employees from Urban Peak have developed skills that empower them to be **JOB READY!**

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

For more information and to schedule an appointment, please contact: Chris Venable, Urban Peak Job Developer 303-974-2953 or chris.venable@urbanpeak.org

BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

THE COMMUNITY STEPS UP FOR UP YOUTH

This summer, members of the community are stepping up to help our youth by exposing them to new experiences. From music, to hairdos, to screen printing, and much more, we greatly appreciate the efforts of these amazing people to share their lives with our youth. THANK YOU!

Stu Alden of IDAHO STEW and INK LOUNGE demonstrates the art of screen printing for youth in UP Education and Employment's Job Readiness program as part of a summer long workshop series.



Stylists from BABOOSHKA got together at their shop on Colfax to give a group of UP youth a gift of self-confidence through free haircuts and styles.

Award-winning Nashville songwriter ANDY HACKBARTH works with youth at the UP Shelter in a songwriting workshop. Hackbarth also collected donations for Urban Peak at his recent CD release party.



CONCERTS FOR KIDS AND URBAN PEAK



Concerts For Kids
Supporting the Children of our Community

Concerts For Kids is a Denver based not-for-profit foundation that raises funds for and awareness of local children's charities. Each year, Concerts For Kids' Community Day brings 800 volunteers together to complete over 4,800 hours of work in one, six-hour day. On May 22, volunteers worked at Urban Peak's Shelter helping repair and paint the dorms. Thank you to Concerts For Kids for their ongoing support of our youth and programs!

AND...TIRI'S GARDEN IS NOW OPEN FOR THE SUMMER!

Tiri's Garden is more than just another Denver farmers market. Through our partnership with Concerts For Kids and in collaboration with Denver Urban Gardens and Europa Landscaping, Urban Peak youth will help maintain the garden, in the process learning about horticulture and gardening. And they'll have some fun along the way!

Tiri's Garden Farmers Market is now open:
WEDNESDAYS
11 AM - 4 PM
15th & California
Downtown Denver



Last year, youth from Urban Peak helped grow food for the shelter from Tiri's Garden.

Tiri's Garden occupies 8,000 square feet in the heart of downtown Denver. Located in a former parking lot at 15th and California, the vegetable garden is an organic oasis surrounded by a 37-story hotel and the Colorado Convention Center.

A program of Concerts For Kids, the urban garden was made possible by a generous donation of land by Shames Makovsky Realty and Europa Landscaping's labor and solicitation of additional donations.

At Tiri's Garden, you'll find fresh food, fun crafts, and live music. For more details on upcoming events and vendors at Tiri's Garden, visit www.concertsforkids.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Urban Peak's Annual

Community Breakfast

A Free One-Hour Fundraiser

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2010 • 7:30am to 8:30am

Mile High Station • 2027 West Lower Colfax Avenue in 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!

BE A TABLE CAPTAIN AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

For more info, contact Scott @ 303-974-2935

or visit urbanpeak.org



Youth Speaker Chelsie R. receives a standing ovation at Urban Peak's Annual Community Breakfast in 2009. Last year, the Breakfast welcomed more than 300 guests and featured guest speakers Mayor John Hickenlooper and Rosemarie Rodriguez. Photo by Brian Gadbery.

FIND OUT MORE @ URBANPEAK.ORG

Summer 2010 URBAN PEAK



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

A.V. Hunter Trust, Inc.

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...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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and much, much more!