



Media Advisory

Media Contacts:

Stacy Haskell, Mile High United Way; 303-561-2252, stacy.haskell@unitedwaydenver.org

Ruben Valdillez, Denver Department of Human Services; 720-944-1422,
ruben.valdillez@dhs.co.denver.co.us

Sue Cobb, Denver Department of Human Services; 720-944-2932,
susan.cobb@dhs.co.denver.co.us

Denver part of National Project Homeless Connect Day taking place in 21 cities across the country today

Project Homeless Connect Denver: Local volunteers fill need in the community with unique opportunity for homeless citizens to access a full array of services

What: Volunteer-driven event to introduce homeless citizens to a full array of services

When: Media are invited from 1-3 p.m.

Where: Colorado Convention Center, Exhibit Hall B, 700 14th Street (14th and California Street)

More than 300 volunteers are teaming up in one location to provide services for homeless individuals in a supportive community setting on Thursday, Dec. 8, at the Colorado Convention Center. Homeless individuals will have access to benefit information like food stamps, employment and legal resources, food, medical specialists, housing information, personal care and other community-wide resources.

According to the 2005 Point in Time Study for the metro Denver area, 10,000 individuals reported being without housing on the night of January 24, 2005. Many of these individuals are members of families with children and many who are homeless for the first time may not be aware of the network of local services available to them and this event will act as a first entry point into the number of resources available.

“As a community, we are looking at innovative ways to help local citizens. This one-stop setting has a proven track record of success in other communities and illustrates the philosophy that when people are approached in a respectful and kind manner, they will take the steps towards self-sufficiency,” said Michael Durkin, president of Mile High United Way.

Denver's event is part of a national effort called National Project Homeless Connect Day; a project commissioned by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to remedy homelessness and is modeled after a successful program in San Francisco where the latest one-day event served more than 1,100 homeless individuals. For a list of cities participating in National Project Homeless Connect Day, visit www.usich.gov/slocal/connect.html.

Project Homeless Connect Denver is a partnership of **Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper**, **Denver's Department of Human Services** and **Mile High United Way**. Numerous government offices, nonprofit agencies, businesses and many committed volunteers are expected to participate in this grassroots program. Homeless citizens will be bussed in from various locations throughout the city to participate.

Mile High United Way, the Colorado Nurses Foundation and Rainbow Rewards will also launch Operation Underwear to encourage the community to fulfill a need in the homeless community...new underwear, socks and t-shirts. Go to www.rainbowrewards.com and click on the Operation Underwear logo to find locations where you can drop off new, packaged underwear, sock and t-shirts of all sizes and styles.

The following spokespeople will be available the day of the event:

Ruben Valdillez, Denver Department of Human Services; 720-944-1422,
ruben.valdillez@dhs.co.denver.co.us

Stacy Haskell, Mile High United Way; 303-561-2252, stacy.haskell@unitedwaydenver.org

Doug Wayland, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; 303-285-5223,
dwayland@coloradocoalition.org

Greta Ritchey, Denver Rescue Mission; 303-313-2410, gritchey@denrescue.org

Jamie Van Leeuwen, Urban Peak; 303-777-9198 x247, Jamie.Vanleeuwen@urbanpeak.org

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Project Homeless Connect Denver participating organizations

Organizations providing donations

Valero - Diamond Shamrock	\$15,000
Karen and Steve Laeffer	\$4,000
Liberty Global	\$1,000
Colorado Convention Center	Space, Internet connections
Denver Department of Theatres and Arenas	
Denver Health	Flu shots
Big Lots	Discount for socks/snacks
Target	\$150 gift cards

Elite Expo
Metro Denver Dental Society

Organizations providing volunteers

17th Judicial District Probation Adams County
Acknowledge
AIMCO
CH2M HILL
City and County of Denver
Colorado Business Bank
Colorado Christian University
CONNECT: The Knowledge Network
Deloitte
Denver Department of Human Services
Denver Division of Workforce Development
Denver Office of Housing and Neighborhood Development
DHMC
Downtown Denver Partnership
DualDraw, LLC
Enterprise (previously Enterprise Foundation)
Health One Alliance
HETTERICH, INC/REMAX CHERRY CREEK
Housing Justice!
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Jefferson County
Kaiser
KPMG LLP
Legal Center for People with Disabilities
Lockton Companies
Mental Health Center of Denver
Metro CareRing
Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
Metro Volunteers
Mile High United Way
Namaste Comfort Care
Pinnacle Assurance
Presbyterian/St Luke's
Prudential Preferred Real Estate
Qwest
Regis University
Regis University School of Nursing
Salvation Army
St. Francis Center
The Fox Company, LLC

University of Colorado School of Nursing
University of Denver
Urban Peak Denver
Valero
Wells Fargo
Xcel Energy

Participating agencies

Alcoholics Anonymous
Arapahoe House
Briarwood Health Care
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Denver Urban Ministries
Denver Department of Human Services
Denver Health - Colorado Indigent Care Program
Denver Public Health
Denver Rescue Mission
Denver Voice
The Gathering Place
Hepatitis C
Interfaith Hospitality Network
Legal Center for People with Disabilities
Mental Health Association of Colorado
Mile High United Way
Sacred Heart House
Samaritan House
Senior Support Services
Shalom
Social Security Administration
St Francis Center
University of Colorado
Urban Peak
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
US Interagency Council on Homelessness
US Veterans Administration
Volunteers of America
Warren Village