



COLORADO

Office of the Governor

Community Partnerships

2015 Annual Report





December 17, 2015

In the first year of Governor Hickenlooper's second term, the Office of Community Partnerships found remarkable success assisting communities across Colorado implement exciting new projects, increase local capacity to meet basic human needs, establish productive new relationships, and engage dynamic new partners in our efforts. As we highlight our achievements and share our collective successes, we thank you, our broad coalition of colleagues and supporters, for all that you do to make Colorado a great State.

This year 30,000 people traveled from around the world for the Biennial of the Americas, 282 new units of permanent supportive housing for our most vulnerable were funded, 75,000 books were distributed in literacy rich environments, 1,000 riders saddled up to ride Pedal The Plains, 70 emerging leaders participated in our executive internship program, and over 10,000 random acts of kindness were performed! Assessing our accomplishments and learning from our challenges helps us set our priorities moving forward and serves as a reminder that there is still a great deal of work to be done!

From a simple act of kindness to volunteering for one of our community initiatives, we hope that this report motivates you to find new ways to be part of the positive change that is happening in Colorado.

Jamie Van Leeuwen
Senior Advisor to Gov. Hickenlooper

Karla Maraccini
Former Director of
Community Partnerships

The Community
Partnerships Team

Celebrating Colorado's Frontier Heritage: Pedal The Plains



Pedal The Plains, fondly described by Governor John Hickenlooper as “a ride for the rest of us,” engaged over 1,000 riders from all over the world in a unique, educational, and healthy recreational experience over the weekend of September 18-20, 2015. Launched in 2012 as a collaboration between the State of Colorado and *The Denver Post*, the one-of-a-kind cycling event highlights the importance of water, economic development, and the agricultural industry in Colorado.

Host communities of Julesburg, Holyoke, and Sterling showed visitors a party on two wheels, welcoming riders, staff, and supporters with live entertainment, delicious local specialties, an animated mascot race, inspiring art, and crisp Colorado brews. As a diverse mix of seasoned cyclists and first-time riders traveled more than 155 miles through Paoli, Haxtun, Daily, Fleming, Iliff, Crook, Sedgwick, and Ovid they learned about the area’s rich farming and ranching heritage, explored delightful landscapes, examined the latest agricultural technologies, and met some of the hardworking individuals who help put food on our table.

The Office of Community Partnerships worked with local community leaders to identify and organize 15 educational stops, secure event sponsors, encourage local engagement, and create more than 182 informational route signs. In addition to the important educational and communal components of the tour, this year’s iteration of Pedal The Plains contributed more than \$215,000 to local economies that riders passed through. Proceeds from the event benefited The Denver Post Community Foundation in support of the Colorado Future Farmers of America Foundation and Colorado 4-H.

For more information about Pedal The Plains, contact richard.sandrock@state.co.us



“Pedal The Plains was a superb way to showcase our community and highlight our agricultural-based county. It was a pleasure to assist the Governor’s Office in the planning process. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to Pedal The Plains visiting again soon!”

Mary Tomke - Executive Director, Phillips County Chamber of Commerce



9/19/15 - Community Partnerships staff at the Holyoke Fairgrounds.

Introduced in 2013 by [Colorado Creative Industries \(CCI\)](#), the Community Canvas Program provides host communities with funding to create unique public art celebrating life on the Plains. Not only do these incredible pieces of art create a lasting legacy, the design process establishes a model for future public art endeavors and unites the communities in a celebration of their unique assets. Julesburg and Sterling participated in the program this year and received a \$1,000 sponsorship from CCI to put towards a unique piece of public art unveiled during the ride. Julesburg artist Randy Renquist used the funding provided by CCI to create a sculpture made of upcycled bicycle parts to welcome Pedal The Plains guests. Located on the Sedgwick County Courthouse, the sculpture was visible during the tour’s opening ceremony.

Making Homelessness History In Colorado: Close To Home CO

[CLOSE TO HOME CO](#) is a campaign to raise awareness, increase understanding, and move Coloradans to speak up and take actions that make a meaningful difference in addressing homelessness.

Developed by a broad range of community stakeholders including Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, Metro Mayors' Caucus, Governor Hickenlooper's Homeless Initiatives Team, Denver Homeless Out Loud, The Denver Foundation, and leaders with personal experience being homeless, CLOSE TO HOME is a [public will building campaign](#) that aims to mobilize Metro Denver residents to regard homelessness as a priority issue.

A [public perception poll](#) of Metro Denver residents conducted by the Denver Foundation found that while 13 percent of respondents had experienced homeless themselves and 20 percent had come close, only seven percent believed that they had a personal role to play in addressing homelessness.

Combining research-based shared messages, mass media communications, and grassroots community coalitions, CLOSE TO HOME CO shares stories from individuals with lived homeless experience and identifies [specific actions](#) that lead to systems and policy changes addressing the underlying causes of homelessness.

CLOSE TO HOME CO is also raising awareness that today homelessness is a circumstance that is close to home for all of us. More than half of those experiencing homelessness are families. The most common causes of homelessness are unanticipated medical diagnosis, a family break-up, or the loss of a job.

On November 5th, 2015 more than 300 civic leaders gathered at History Colorado to launch the campaign.

For more information about Close To Home, contact zac.schaffner@state.co.us



11/5/15 - History Colorado campaign launch.

"Do not leave this room feeling like you don't matter. That your little action couldn't make a difference because it does," said Blair Griffith, who was among the speakers at the launch. "It shows that you value every member of our community, that everyone matters as a person, and shows our policy leaders and decision makers that we all want to see change together." Griffith served as Miss Colorado USA in 2011. Weeks after receiving the title, she and her family faced an eviction. Her story illustrates two of the central themes of CLOSE TO HOME CO: Homelessness can happen to anyone and most often happens to families and children.

"If you don't have a safe place to call home, it's hard to make the rest of your life work."

Jack and his grandson Damien



Raising his grandson Damien in a suburb like Arvada, Jack couldn't imagine being homeless, until it happened to them. To share Jack's story and others like it with people in your network of family, friends and co-workers, visit closetohomeco.org. Or join the conversation on Twitter at [#closetohomeco](https://twitter.com/closetohomeco).



"Once we had a safe place to call home, everything fell into place."

April and her son Kamron



April and her son Kamron experienced homelessness when she separated from her husband because of domestic violence. Learn how you can share April's story and others like it with people in your network of family, friends and co-workers. Visit closetohomeco.org, or join the conversation on Twitter at [#closetohomeco](https://twitter.com/closetohomeco).



Expanding Colorado's Permanent Supportive Housing Pipeline: Joint Underwriting & Pathways Home Toolkit



7/30/15 - Groundbreaking for Pathways Village, a 40-unit permanent supportive housing project in Grand Junction.

In 2015, homeless service providers from across the state came together with the Department of Local Affairs' Division of Housing (DOH) and the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) to fund the creation of 282 new units of permanent supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness; this marks the largest increase in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units in Colorado history.

By combining affordable housing with access to supportive services like case management, employment training, and mental health treatment, permanent supportive housing reduces emergency costs by [72.95 percent from \\$43,239 per person per year experiencing chronic homelessness to \\$11,694 after being housed](#), strengthens communities, and gives residents the opportunity to live stable, autonomous, and dignified lives.

A study completed in August 2014 found that while Colorado had an existing inventory of 7,800 PSH units, in order to meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, 5,800 new PSH units were needed.

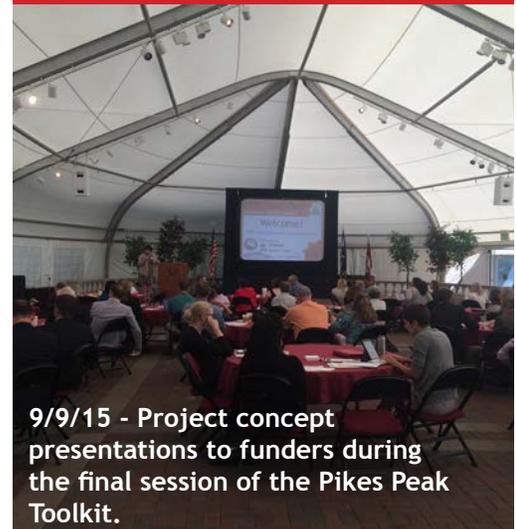
In order to help meet this demand, Governor Hickenlooper's Homeless Initiative Team (HIT), DOH, and CHFA partnered with Enterprise Community Partners and LeBeau Development to create the Pathways Home Supportive Housing Toolkit. Now in its third iteration, the Toolkit is a series of technical assistance and peer learning sessions designed to help nonprofits, housing authorities, and other homeless service providers develop high-quality supportive housing.

In conjunction with these efforts, a joint underwriting process led by HIT, DOH, and CHFA established a coordinated set of application standards, submission deadlines, and review processes during the 2015 Low Income Housing Tax Credit application round.

For more information about PSH, contact zac.schaffner@state.co.us

"CHFA is pleased to see how the Pathways Home Supportive Housing Toolkit is helping stakeholders advance their goals to best leverage resources and partnerships required to address homelessness in their communities. We have been proud to support the development of 282 permanent supportive homeless housing units with tax credits this year. In fact, due to the success of the Toolkit, this is the highest number of homeless housing units supported in any single-year in CHFA's history."

Cris White - Executive Director & CEO, CHFA



9/9/15 - Project concept presentations to funders during the final session of the Pikes Peak Toolkit.

Driving Government Resources to Social Programs with Proven Results: Pay for Success

The Pay for Success model, also known as a Social Impact Bond, brings government, service providers, private investors, and independent evaluators together to implement an evidenced-based intervention that serves a specific population in need.

Private investors provide upfront capital to support the implementation of a publicly funded intervention. Investors are paid if and when the intervention meets a series of previously established criteria and benchmarks.

The State of Colorado is working with the University of Utah's Policy Innovation Lab as a grant recipient to evaluate whether the Colorado Second Chance Housing and Reentry Program (C-SCHARP) can be successfully scaled as a Pay for Success model.

C-SCHARP selects individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders exiting Colorado prisons without housing and prepares them for successful reentry by providing permanent housing, intensive case management, access to mental health counseling, substance use services, employment, education, and other independent living resources.

Governor Hickenlooper's Homeless Initiatives Team has created an interdepartmental working group comprised of staff from the Colorado Division of Housing, the Colorado Department of Corrections, the Colorado Department of Human Services, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the University of Denver, and the Mental Health Center of Denver to create a full feasibility scan to be completed by Spring of 2016.

This process has provided valuable guidance on how Pay for Success models may be able to serve Colorado's most vulnerable.

For more information about Pay for Success or C-SCHARP, contact shadrey.sands@state.co.us



"From early education to chronic homelessness, the Lab is helping test the feasibility of implementing Pay for Success models across a wide array of focus areas. We are excited to provide funding and other support to highly motivated governments to develop innovative, evidence-based interventions that measurably improve the lives of individuals and families in their communities." Jeremy Keele - Policy Innovation Lab Executive Director, University of Utah

Improving Medicaid Financing of Supportive Housing Services: Colorado's Medicaid Crosswalk



"As a new housing provider, being able to leverage Medicaid in new ways make all the difference in the world. Having a sustaining resource in place will not only help keep our clients housed, it will improve their overall quality of life."

Terrell Curtis - Executive Director, Delores Project

Governor Hickenlooper's Homeless Initiative Team (HIT) partnered with technical assistance provider Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) in 2014 to determine ways to make intense services like substance use treatment and mental health recovery more available and accessible in Permanent Supportive Housing environments.

CSH worked with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing over a 10-month period to determine the degree to which the State's current Medicaid plan included services critical to permanent supportive housing.

The newly released [Colorado Medicaid Crosswalk](#) provides the State, managed care entities, and service providers with a valuable tool that helps them access additional resources to support programs that are proven to help those experiencing homelessness attain stability and life-long success.

The in-depth analysis shows there are opportunities, particularly when caring for individuals living with mental health conditions, for Permanent Supportive Housing providers to secure additional resources and supports from Colorado's Medicaid program.

The Crosswalk also highlights the need for managed care entities, community mental health care providers, and Permanent Supportive Housing providers to work together, in order to fully utilize Medicaid resources to best serve clients living in supportive housing.

The World Health Organization identifies housing as a social determinant of health...it is an underlying, contributing factor to health outcomes.

The Recipe for Economic Expansion: Colorado Resiliency Study

Understanding what makes particular communities thrive while others struggle to retain population and sustain economic growth is critical to Colorado's long-term prosperity.

The Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) has contracted with the Business Research Division of the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder to conduct an economic resiliency study to identify commonalities between expanding and contracting economies.

The project will identify factors that differentiate a path of success for non-metropolitan communities in Colorado, selecting a sample of communities in Eastern Colorado, the Mountain Region, and Western Colorado. Upon completion of the study, a document will be prepared including a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats analysis and factors of success that can be applied and transferred to situations in other communities struggling to sustain growth.

The Office of Community Partnerships worked with stakeholders and partners across the state to finance the study and ensure it captured critical data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the U.S. Census Bureau, the State Demography Office, and local focus groups.

For more information about the Resiliency Study, contact meridith.marshall@state.co.us

"There is a direct relationship between people's attachment – how committed they are – to a community and the economic growth of that community. In a Colorado context, what makes people strengthen their attachment to community thereby creating economic growth? This is a critical analysis for every Colorado community whether large, small, urban or rural." Paul Major - President & CEO, Telluride Foundation

Ouray, Colorado looking north from Highway 550

Building Community Connections and Stability: **One Congregation – One Family**



6/16/15 - OCOF Communities discuss program progress, successes and best practices with Gov. Hickenlooper.

The One Congregation - One Family (OCOF) model connects families experiencing housing instability with mentors to help them secure first month's rent and deposit, achieve self-sufficiency, and build community support systems.

Developed by Denver's Road Home in 2006 to address the needs of homeless families and seniors, the OCOF model has been successfully adopted in Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, and Montrose. In 2015, OCOF helped 41 families secure permanent housing, trained 191 mentors from 37 participating organizations, and achieved a 96.6 percent success-in-housing rate.

On June 16th, five communities attended the first OCOF Summit to share best practices and program progress. Communities interested in replicating the OCOF model also had the opportunity to discuss referral processes, service agency planning, and mentor training.

At the conclusion of the Summit each participating community received a \$1,000 capacity building grant to advance expansion efforts and recruit new mentors. For example, the Colorado Springs Rescue Mission used their funding to create a promotional [video](#) highlighting their program and the incredible experience of one of their mentor families.

For more information about OCOF, contact zac.schaffner@state.co.us

Homelessness is less about running out of money, and more about running out of relationships. - Participating Pastor

"Homeless Gear and One Village One Family are proud to have joined this statewide effort to assist homeless families in their journey back to stable housing and self sufficiency. Our partnership with the Governor's Office and OCOF staff have been invaluable to our program and together we are committed to helping more families in 2016!"

*Ken John - Founder,
Homeless Gear*



5/27/15 - Gov. Hickenlooper meets an OCOF family who recently purchased a home.



PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Stephenson

Effectively, Elegantly and Efficiently Responding to Constituents: Office of Correspondence

The Governor's Office of Correspondence manages the flow of information among the Governor's Office, state agencies, and community partners, while providing high-quality customer service to the people of Colorado.

The correspondence team works with internal and external stakeholders to ensure that constituents are assisted in a timely and effective manner, and that their opinions and concerns are helping to inform the Governor's decision-making process.

The Office of Correspondence coordinates honorific correspondence, including gubernatorial proclamations, and managing the Governor's ceremonial flag program.

The correspondence team also assembles a daily media briefing designed to keep the Governor and his staff apprised of relevant news stories.

In 2015, the Office of Correspondence processed nearly 84,000 pieces of correspondence, issued over 300 proclamations, and drafted more than 5,000 honorific letters and certificates.

For more information about the Office of Correspondence, contact jason.thomas@state.co.us



10/2/15 - Gov. Hickenlooper reads a special proclamation during Karla Maraccini's going away celebration.

Creating A Culture of Literacy: One Book 4 Colorado

From April 13-27, One Book 4 Colorado gave more than 75,000 4-year-olds a free copy of *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon* by bestselling and award-winning author, Jane Yolen and illustrator, Mark Teague.

One Book 4 Colorado is a collaboration of the Colorado State Library, the Denver Preschool Program, the Office of Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia, Reach Out and Read Colorado, Serve Colorado, public libraries, and Colorado's foundation community.

Distributing books in English and Spanish at public libraries, Denver Preschool Program preschools, One Book 4 Colorado is part of the State's ongoing effort to increase family literacy, improve kindergarten readiness, and bridge the vocabulary gap between high and low-income children.

According to a survey conducted in 2015 by the Colorado State Library, 92 percent of 500 sites participating in community events, author readings, and giveaways said that the program helped their agency promote the importance of reading with young children.

The next book giveaway will take place April 11-24, 2016. Watch celebrity readings of the 2016 book finalists (*I Love You*, *Stinky Face* by Lisa McCourt and Cyd Moore, *One Drowsy Dragon* by Ethan Long, and *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae) and vote for your favorite at www.onebook4colorado.org

For more information about OB4CO, contact jennifer.jones@state.co.us



5/15/15 - Mark Teague reads to a group of 4-year-olds in Longmont.



3/23/15 - Gov. Hickenlooper and Lt. Governor Garcia at the Drop Everything and Read event at History Colorado.

"I am more excited about sitting down and reading since receiving this book. It has helped reinvigorate my parental passion for reading to my kiddos!"
-Parent from Salida

Bringing Faith Leaders Together to Address Critical Issues Affecting Colorado: Governor's Clergy Council

"The Council gives me time to listen, discuss, and share what is working in my community as well as in the other Clergy's communities. When we all focus on what the needs are in Colorado and how we as a faith-based community can help in providing solutions, it's a win-win for all of the people of Colorado."

Richard Godsil - Founder & Executive Director, Common Ground Montrose



6/16/15 - Gov. Hickenlooper and the Clergy Council meeting in Colorado Springs.

Governor Hickenlooper's Clergy Council is comprised of 30 religious leaders reflecting the great religious diversity of our state. The Council serves as an advisory body to the governor and meets regularly to share information, discuss pressing issues, and expand inter-faith dialogues in order to build stronger, more connected communities and improve outcomes for Colorado's most vulnerable citizens.

First convened in March 2013, with support from the Office of Community Partnerships the Clergy Council has evolved over the last two years into a more geographically and religiously diverse group. In 2015, Community Partnerships convened the Council at three meetings around the state. At the first meeting Gov. Hickenlooper asked the Clergy Council to consider six issues he felt were affecting Colorado, namely, homelessness, poverty, the death penalty, civil unrest, mental health, and suicide. The second meeting, hosted by Regis University, included productive discussions about the Governor's 10,000 Acts of Kindness Campaign and Permanent Supportive Housing strategies led by Tina Staley, one of the preeminent experts on the effects and cultivation of kindness, and Lloyd Pendleton, a nationally renowned expert on homelessness and supportive housing. The third meeting of the Clergy Council provided another opportunity for an open conversation between the governor and the Clergy Council, focusing on the role of faith communities in combating childhood hunger and securing employment for chronically homeless individuals.

Community Partnerships looks forward to growing the role of the Clergy Council and continuing to connect and support Colorado's dynamic faith communities.

For more information about the Clergy Council, contact richard.sandroch@state.co.us

Ending Veteran Homelessness: Coming Home Colorado Action Lab



In Spring 2015, Governor Hickenlooper’s Office convened a group of homeless service providers, state and federal agency staff, housing authorities, and business leaders for Colorado’s first Veteran Housing Summit.

The conversation focused on ways to support communities working to prevent and to end homelessness. Participants discussed their need for increased data sharing, the identification of veteran-specific services, the availability of State resources, and improved referrals between partners.

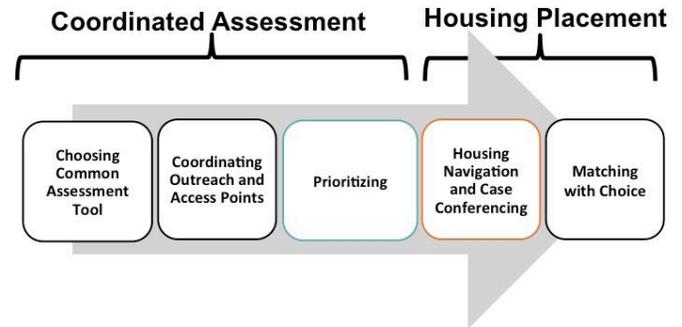
In response to the concerns raised during the Summit and building off the best practices of Metro Denver’s recent participation in the [25 Cities Initiative](#), the Governor’s Homeless Initiatives Team has partnered with the Department of Human Services’ Office of Behavioral Health and the national technical assistance provider [Community Solutions](#) to create the Coming Home Colorado Action Lab.

The Action Lab will assist selected Community Teams from across the state in creating the infrastructure needed to successfully identify and prioritize homeless veterans based on acuity of need, streamline housing application systems, and create real time vacancy and housing placement reports.

With a focus on concrete outcomes and actionable learning, the 2.5 day Action Lab and subsequent 100-days of intensive follow up will help determine how state agencies can support the objectives outlined by Community Teams and can ensure that Veteran Homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

For more information about the Action Lab, contact zac.schaffner@state.co.us

CAHP System – 6 Key Components



Coordinated Assessment in Action: ↓

Jesse James was a private in the Army training for deployment to Afghanistan when he broke his back. He couldn’t walk and lost feeling in his right foot. After he was discharged from the Army, Jesse was able to secure disability assistance but his injuries made it impossible for him to work. With rising medical bills and chronic back pain, Jesse ended up living in his car in Colorado Springs with his dog, wife, and one other person. A church connected Jesse with Rocky Mountain Human Services and the local coordinated assessment system. Contacted within 24-hours by an outreach worker, Jesse was connected with stable housing and VA vocational assistance. Today, Jessie is studying chemistry at Pikes Peak Community College.

Realizing the Full Talent Potential of Separating Service Members:

Veteran Employment Collaborations



Veteran Employment Collaboration in Action:

Andrew Fredrickson served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for three years as an F-18 crew chief. After separating in 2013, Andrew's mother fell ill and passed away. Having exhausted his savings during her care, Andrew found himself homeless and unemployed. When he heard that the Colorado Department of Labor Workforce Center was partnering with Lockheed Martin and Black Fox technical institute to offer training at no cost to Veteran job seekers, Andrew jumped at the opportunity. Graduating at the top of his class, Andrew has been working at Lockheed Martin for more than two years and is planning to utilize its tuition reimbursement program to continue his education and further his career in the aerospace industry.



8/14/15 - Gov. Hickenlooper at the Bill Daniels Veteran Services Center Building Dedication.

With approximately 600 service members separating from active duty every month in Colorado, the Office of Community Partnerships strives to ensure that these individuals are able to find meaningful and rewarding employment when they return home.

Highlighting the benefits of hiring Veterans, Community Partnerships engages with the private sector and connects prospective employers with Transition Assistance Programs at Fort Carson and Buckley Air Force Base, as well as the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's Veteran hiring specialists.

In 2015, Xcel Energy, Lockheed Martin, the Western Dairy Association, MHW Global, FirstBank, Comcast, and Ball Corp learned first-hand that Veterans train faster, work harder, stay with companies longer.

Recognizing potential challenges that Veterans face when entering the civilian workforce, Lockheed Martin, who hired more than 100 Veterans last year, created a mentor position to assist with the technical aspects of securing necessary certifications and to build a meaningful relationship with potential employees. This Veteran mentor stays in contact with the employee for up to one year to ease the transition to the private sector and to ensure the new employee has everything he or she needs to secure a lasting and fulfilling career.

As companies across the state work with Community Partnerships to develop veteran employment pipelines and veterans learn that local businesses value their unique abilities, attitude, and loyalty, Colorado takes one step closer to becoming the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

For more information about Veteran Employment Collaborations, contact richard.sandrock@state.co.us

WE DID IT!

We reached our goal of 10,000 Random Acts of Kindness!
To everyone who participated THANK YOU!

#STATEOFKIND

STATEOFKIND CO



Increasing Well Being and Inspiring Action: 10,000 Acts of Kindness

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation and the State of Colorado teamed up in 2015 to encourage a State Of Kind by challenging schools, businesses, and individuals to collectively perform 10,000 random acts of kindness and document them using the hashtag #Stateofkind.

The six-month challenge, which kicked off with the governor's inauguration on January 13 and concluded before the Biennial of the Americas on July 14, focused on the action steps that can be practiced every day to increase kindness for yourself and others in the community.

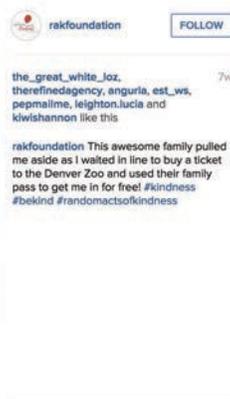
Seventy-four businesses, nine schools, and hundreds of individuals reported 2,290 acts on social media and submitted 7,913 via email to record more than 10,203 acts.

Research has proven that kindness increases the wellbeing of both the giver and receiver, inspires those who witness the act, and creates emotional warmth that releases a hormone known as oxytocin causing the release of nitric oxide, a chemical that dilates blood vessels and lowers blood pressure.

For more information about 10,000 Acts of Kindness, contact neal.walia@state.co.us

"Anonymously leave food on neighbors' doorsteps. Pay for the person behind you in line at a coffee shop. It's not just about single acts, though. It's about changing your mentality from day to day."

Kelsey Gryniewicz - Director, Random Acts of Kindness Foundation



Transforming the Lives of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: Fort Lyon

A partnership between the Colorado Division of Local Affairs, Bent County, and the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community provides housing with access to mental health and health care services, substance-use treatment and counseling, creative arts programming, as well as educational and vocational training to individuals experiencing homelessness.

The 550-acre campus, which previously served as a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hospital, sanatorium, and prison, welcomed its first six residents in September 2013 and in the last two years has served more than 560 residents, 24 percent of whom are veterans.

Fort Lyon's combination of education, employment and access to supportive services in a recovery environment plays a crucial role in the State's broader continuum of homeless services and continues to demonstrate positive outcomes.

Over the past year, 135 Fort Lyon residents have enrolled in educational programs, 60 percent of residents have participated in job training with over 40 in the last year joining the workforce. Over the past two years, 207 have transitioned into housing, including 116 to permanent housing.

While many residents are choosing to remain in Bent County, with support from Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and the Department of Local Affairs, Fort Lyon residents can transition to the community of their choice as productive members of society.

For more information about Fort Lyon, contact denise.stepto@state.co.us



9/24/15 - Gov. Hickenlooper at the Fort Lyon Supportive Residential Community Two-Year Celebration.

Fort Lyon Resident Profile:

RD had been struggling with addiction in Fort Collins when he decided it was time to clean up and get back to his normal life. He went to Weld County Veteran's Services in Greeley, where he was told about Fort Lyon. "This doesn't sound like a normal place," he remembers thinking. He had visions of a military prison.

What he saw was something completely different, RD quickly realized he could get the support he would need to get healthy and to begin a program repairing bicycles for Fort Lyon residents while he was there. "It's a healthy thing," he says. "Gets people out and about. Soon as they get on a bike, you see a change in them." With the blessing of the staff at Fort Lyon, he got online and put out a call for donations of bicycles and parts. The responses poured in.

RD didn't limit himself to rescuing old bicycles. He also made time to attend Fort Lyon's veteran's meetings, and soon he and the others decided to take it to the next level. They contacted the American Legion and started a new post at Fort Lyon, the only post of its kind in the world, whose Legionnaires are all formerly homeless or in recovery. The post's Honor Guard now leads parades around the community.

The bike shop and the American Legion charter are legacies he will leave behind when he moves on from Fort Lyon. His hope is to one day set up a bed and breakfast, something he knows wouldn't have been possible the way he used to live.



9/24/15 - Gov. Hickenlooper tours RD's shop.

Expanding Historical Preservation Efforts: Sand Creek Massacre Land Transfer



11/29/15 - The Sand Creek Healing Run and Remembrance event.

"Not only did Community Partnerships provide information on potential foundations that could support the project and establish the connection with the Civil War Trust, they ensured the project was completed by the 151st anniversary."
Ernest House - Executive Director, Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs

On November 29th Gov. John Hickenlooper announced the transfer of 640 acres of state-owned land to the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.

The transfer came a year after Hickenlooper became the first Colorado governor to offer an apology for the Sand Creek Massacre.

The result of years of collaboration between the History Colorado State Historical Fund, the History Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Civil War Trust, and the National Park Service, the transfer is a vital step on the path toward a new era of healing and a critical part of preserving the Sand Creek Massacre story.

The 640 acres designated for expansion are adjacent to the current historic site outside of Eads where 200 members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, mostly women, children, and the elderly, were killed on November 29, 1864 when 700 U.S. Army soldiers ambushed their camp.

The Office of Community Partnerships played a critical role in the project, working with philanthropic organizations and foundations to secure the \$265,000 needed to complete the transfer.

For more information about the Sand Creek Massacre Land Transfer, contact richard.sandrock@state.co.us



Connecting Food & Nutrition Resources: Hunger Initiatives



2/27/15 - Colorado celebrates significant progress in ending child hunger

"The Governor's Office of Community Partnership champions getting all Coloradans connected to the nutritious food they need to fuel better, healthy lives. This brings Colorado closer to becoming the healthiest state in the nation."
 Kathy Underhill - Executive Director, Hunger Free Colorado

While the official Campaign to End Childhood Hunger concluded in 2015, the Office of Community Partnerships continues to vigorously support ongoing collaborative efforts focused on food security in a variety of ways.

Community Partnerships hosted a celebration with Hunger Free Colorado, Share Our Strength, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and more than 70 guests marking the formal conclusion of the Colorado Campaign to End Childhood Hunger which was launched in 2010 under the administration of Governor Bill Ritter and then championed by Governor John Hickenlooper.

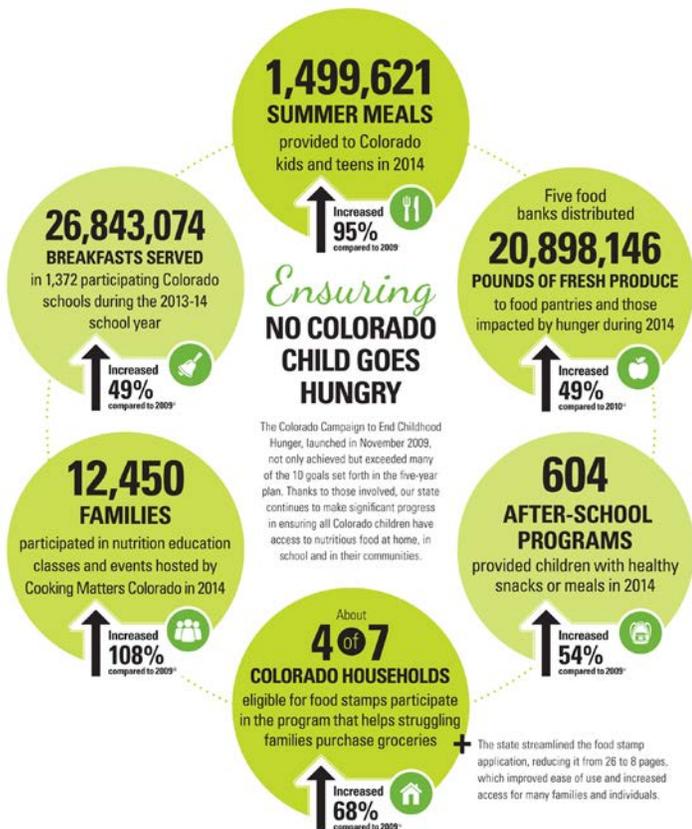
Both issued Executive Orders—the only governors at the time to initiate such a campaign in the nation—creating a public-private partnership between the Governor's Office and Hunger Free Colorado to ensure that all children have access to nutritious food at home, in school, and in their communities. The event emphasized the need to continue to educate and increase awareness among our community leaders and lawmakers about why nutrition programs matter.

In 2015, Cooking Matters, which helps families learn about nutrition and shop for and cook healthy meals on a budget reached 38,540 families across 46 counties. Celebrating the successes of this incredible organization, Governor Hickenlooper applauded their work and proclaimed April 19, 2015 Cooking Matters and Chefs Up Front Day in the State of Colorado at their annual fundraiser.

In July, Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia and Community Partnerships joined the Cooking Matters Colorado team at Safeway in Pueblo West for a \$100,000 check presentation from the Safeway Foundation. While at the store, Lt. Gov. Garcia toured another of Cooking Matters' programs: in-store presentations on smart shopping. Teams of Cooking Matters experts set up stations inside stores to provide tips on how shoppers can stretch their food budgets.

Community Partnerships supported the grand opening of Metro Caring's new facility which has a state-of-the-art food pantry for clients to shop independently for healthy and nutritious foods. The Governor's Residence at Boettcher Mansion continues to host plant beds for volunteer gardeners to grow fresh produce supplied to Metro Caring.

For more information about Hunger Initiatives, contact richard.sandrock@state.co.us



Connecting the Americas and Working on Solutions to Shared Challenges: 2015 Biennial of the Americas



In the Summer of 2015, the Governor’s Office of Community Partnerships helped coordinate the Biennial of the Americas, an international symposium connecting business, cultural, and civic interests to build lasting relationships and inspire action through a combination of innovative workshops, world-class symposia, and clinics.

From July 14 - August 30, 2015, more than 30,000 artists, innovators, leaders and experts from business, government, arts and education, nonprofits and philanthropy came to Colorado from more than 25 countries to explore the theme ‘NOW!’

Under the leadership of Chairman Mike Fries of Liberty Global Media and CEO/Executive Director Erin Trapp, the 2015 Biennial featured groundbreaking art installations, engaging conversations and live performances celebrating the shared cultural heritage and rich connections of the Western Hemisphere.

Governor Hickenlooper participated in the ‘Community Now!’ symposium, where, he, former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, and Dr. Nora Volkow of the National Institute on Drug Abuse discussed how illicit drug markets affect communities in the Americas and explored effective approaches to legalization and policy.

For additional information on the exhibitions including the 2016 Biennial of the Americas Summit to Brazil, visit www.biennialoftheamericas.org.

For more information about the Biennial, contact neal.walia@state.co.us

“In the past four years Colorado’s exports have increased 20 percent. The Biennial cannot claim credit for all of that increase but we know that turning the conversation on the north-south axis has a positive impact on relationships and the way that we all understand each other through this festival of ideas, art, and culture.”

*Erin Trapp - CEO/Executive Director,
Biennial of the Americas*





“Interning in the Governor’s Office has provided me with invaluable experience and provided me with a new appreciation for the moving parts that make up the day to day operations of State Government.”

*Corey Fall -Intern,
Constituent Services
Autumn 2015*

Developing Future Leaders: Executive Internship Program

The Governor’s Executive Internship Program, which is managed by the Office of Community Partnerships, successfully hosted 70 candidates during 2015.

Selected high school, undergraduate, graduate students, and recent graduates, are afforded an opportunity for practical work experience, professional networking, and leadership development. Participants also gain a substantive understanding of state government.

Interns come from a variety of academic and personal backgrounds, and they contribute to a range of projects and activities, from drafting policy memos and planning special events to coordinating constituent casework and staffing leadership meetings. In 2015 Executive Internship Program participants provided over 16,000 hours of service.

Many former interns report the program was a positive and impactful experience for them and a number have since transitioned into a paid position with the Administration and state agencies.

For more information about the Executive Internship Program, contact jason.thomas@state.co.us



STAFF BIOS



Conor Hall, Program Coordinator
conor.hall@state.co.us

Conor Hall has served as a Program Coordinator of Community Partnerships since January 2015. He has worked on a diverse portfolio of projects, including Pedal the Plains, the Governor's Colorado Clergy Council, the Executive Internship Program, One Book 4 Colorado, and the Colorado Pedals Project. Conor grew up in the San Luis Valley of Southwestern Colorado. He attended Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in Political Science. He worked as a fundraiser in the 2008 election cycle, and has experience in community outreach and comparative climate policy. Conor recently transitioned into a new role as Governor Hickenlooper's Director of Advance.



Jennifer Lopez, Director of Homeless Initiatives
jenn.lopez@state.co.us

Jenn Lopez works with state agencies to implement outcome-based policies and programs that prevent and end homelessness. Current initiatives include managing the Pathways Home Supportive Housing Toolkit, developing a Medicaid crosswalk to identify long-term services funding for homeless initiatives, implementing a supportive housing pilot for parolees and managing a joint underwriting initiative between two state housing agencies to increase permanent supportive housing. Prior to this appointment, Lopez served as a Western Slope development specialist for the Colorado Division of Housing and the Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA). From 2006 - 2013 Lopez was Executive Director of the Regional Housing Alliance (RHA) where she oversaw the creation of a five-point action plan in La Plata County that leveraged millions of dollars in affordable housing opportunities. Lopez is a graduate of the Achieving Excellence leadership program at Harvard University and has a Master's Program in Community Planning at the University of New Mexico.



Karla Maraccini, Former Director of Community Partnerships
karla.maraccini@fns.usda.gov

Karla Maraccini recently transitioned from her long-time role as Director of Community Partnerships to a newly created opportunity with the USDA Food and Nutrition Services to implement new and innovative methods of assisting communities in a ten state region in providing critical job education, training, and placement options for residents receiving food assistance to help them move into self sufficiency. Karla takes with her more than 15 years of experience in large-scale complex system coordination, fundraising, and management and looks forward to working with Community Partnerships in a different capacity.

STAFF BIOS



Richard Sandrock, Manager of Community Partnerships
richard.sandrock@state.co.us @RichardSandrock

Richard Sandrock serves as Manager of Community Partnerships assisting the administration with coordination and management of its multiple projects and social welfare initiatives and has been with Community Partnerships since February 2013. A veteran himself, Richard takes great pride in representing the administration at military and veteran events across Colorado. He's also been the prime driver in ensuring that all Colorado veterans and their families are able to gain meaningful employment. Richard additionally serves his community and nation as a soldier in the Colorado Army National Guard.



Shadrey Sands, Project Coordinator
shadrey.sands@state.co.us

Shadrey Sands joined the Office of Community Partnerships in May of 2015. As a Project Coordinator on the Homeless Initiatives Team he works with the Director of Homeless Initiatives on a number of projects and topics including the Colorado Medicaid Crosswalk and finding housing solutions for Colorado's justice-involved population. Sands' work is primarily focused on the state's first Pay for Success initiative. Shadrey grew up in Seattle, but has spent the last 16-years of his life living in Boulder, Colorado. He graduated in 2014 from the University of Colorado Boulder with a BA in Political Science. After graduation he interned in Washington D.C. and worked on a Senatorial campaign. He is thrilled to be a part of this amazing team!



Zac Schaffner, Homeless Initiative Project Coordinator
zac.schaffner@state.co.us @ZSchaffner

Schaffner works with state agencies, non-profit service providers, and community organizations to support the implementation of Pathways Home Colorado, the state's ongoing effort to support regional priorities and become more strategic in preventing and ending homelessness. Schaffner works with the Director of Homeless Initiatives to help facilitate the development of new permanent supportive housing units and is working to end veteran homelessness by expanding the number of communities with robust Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement systems. Before joining the Governor's Office in March of 2014, Schaffner served as an AmeriCorps VISTA working with Lt. Governor Joe Garcia to increase literacy rates of low-income youth. Schaffner graduated from Rutgers University with a BA in Journalism and Media Studies.

STAFF BIOS



Jason Thomas, Program Coordinator
jason.thomas@state.co.us

Jason Thomas has been part of the Community Partnerships team since January 2014. He first served as the program coordinator for the “Don’t Be a Lab Rat” youth marijuana prevention campaign before transitioning to his current position as the program coordinator of correspondence and experiential learning. In these capacities, he helps to manage nearly 100,000 pieces of incoming/outgoing correspondence and recruits, interviews, and places over 70 interns and fellows for the Governor’s Office each year. Jason is currently pursuing master’s degrees in public administration and economics at the University of Colorado Denver, and in his free time, he enjoys running and spending time with his family and friends.



Jamie Van Leeuwen, Senior Advisor
[@jvanlee6](mailto:jamie.vanleeuwen@state.co.us)

Jamie Van Leeuwen currently serves as the Senior Advisor for Governor Hickenlooper after three years as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Senior Advisor, and Director of Community Partnerships. Leading up to the Hickenlooper administration, he worked as the Policy Director and served on the transition team for the Hickenlooper for Colorado gubernatorial campaign. He is also the founder and Executive Director of the Global Livingston Institute, a non-governmental organization in East Africa designed to engage students and community leaders to develop innovative solutions to poverty and is a Senior Research Fellow with the Buechner Institute at the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs. He became a Fulbright Scholar in 2013. Since 2009, he has worked to develop a research and learning institute for students and community leaders in Uganda and Rwanda. He is the recipient of the 2009 “Judy Kaufman Civic Entrepreneurship Award” from the Denver Foundation, the 2010 Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation Alumnus of the Year, and named in the 2011 Power Issue of *Out Front* magazine as a leader in Lesbian & Gay community.



Neal K. Walia, Program Coordinator
neal.walia@state.co.us

Neal K. Walia is a Program Coordinator of Community Partnerships for the Office of Governor John. W. Hickenlooper. Prior to joining the Hickenlooper Administration, Neal lived and worked in the prefecture of Okayama, Japan for two years as an English Language Instructor for the Achievement Center of Education, a small franchise dedicated to providing a comprehensive education of the English language to its students. While living in Japan, Neal volunteered for two nonprofit organizations: Renjuku and Peer Network. As a volunteer for Renjuku and Peer Network, Neal participated in several English camps and conferences as the lead coordinator for English and cultural learning. Neal is currently pursuing his Master’s degree in Public Administration and Criminal Justice from the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver. Neal received his Bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado Boulder with a double major in Political Science and International Affairs.



COLORADO
Office of the Governor

Community Partnerships

136 State Capitol Bldg | Denver, Colorado 80203 USA
Phone: 303.866.2087 | FAX: 303.866.2003
www.colorado.gov/governor

