



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Enterprise and MetLife Foundation Honor Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

*Denver Nonprofit Receives National Award for
Excellence in Affordable Housing*

(BALTIMORE, Nov. 20, 2008) – The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) a Denver-based nonprofit organization, received a first-place award for Supportive Housing in the 13th annual MetLife Foundation Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing. The organization received the award and a \$40,000 grant today at the 2008 Enterprise Community Conference in Baltimore.

The Supportive Housing category award recognizes CCH's work with the Renaissance at Civic Center Apartments, a 216 unit multi-family property providing housing and supportive services to a mixed population. Residents include formerly homeless individuals with a range of disabilities and diagnoses, including severe and persistent mental illness, who are living together with low-income working individuals and families.

“CCH is a leader in not just developing homelessness solutions that lead to real success for their residents, but also in creating and operating properties that successfully house together residents with special needs and working low-income residents. This integrated housing model more closely reflects the residential makeup of communities; it gives families and individuals the tools and resources they need in order to stabilize their lives and move forward, from whatever place they are,” says Patricia Magnuson, Senior Director for Supportive Housing for Enterprise. “By providing permanent housing and support services, CCH creates new possibilities for every one of their residents.”

This important and historic property, located on the east end of the 16th Street pedestrian mall, also houses the Central Denver YMCA. It is on the Colorado Historic Register of Places. In 2004, the property received the Historic Denver Award for the restoration of the original 1906 YMCA. It is one of only four remaining buildings crafted in the New-Classical Revival style in downtown Denver.

Since 1990, CCH has developed and currently manages more than 1,200 units of affordable housing. CCH runs a clinic that serves more than 8,000 homeless adults and children each year; administers 29 transitional housing programs in metro Denver and rural Colorado; and operates a children's center that serves up to 147 children between the ages of 6 weeks and 12 years.

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“Affordable, well-maintained housing is a vital component of livable communities,” said MetLife Foundation president and CEO Sibyl Jacobson. “We are pleased to join Enterprise in recognizing CCH, which is meeting the needs of low-income individuals and families and strengthening its community.”

In total, six MetLife Foundation Awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$40,000 were presented today. Enterprise and MetLife Foundation launched the program in 1996 to recognize and share the important work being done by community-based organizations across the country to provide affordable housing for the nation’s most vulnerable people.

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***MetLife Foundation** was established in 1976 by MetLife to carry on its longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Grants support education, health, civic and cultural programs. MetLife and MetLife Foundation have supported Enterprise’s neighborhood revitalization activities with grants and loans of almost \$39 million. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.*

***Enterprise** is a leading provider of the development capital and expertise it takes to create decent, affordable homes and rebuild communities. For more than 25 years, Enterprise has pioneered neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share our vision. Enterprise has raised and invested more than \$9 billion in equity, grants and loans to help build or preserve more than 240,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes to create vital communities. Enterprise is currently investing in communities at a rate of \$1 billion a year. Visit www.enterprisecommunity.org and www.enterprisecommunity.com to learn more about Enterprise's efforts to build communities and opportunity.*