



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL VIGIL UNDERSCORES GROWING DEMAND FOR HELP AMONG THE POOR AND THE NEWLY HOMELESS

*5:30 pm – 6:15 pm
1437 Bannock Street*

December 18, 2008 - DENVER - For the twelfth year, several hundred people will gather on the steps of the Denver City and County Building this evening to attend a Homeless Persons' Memorial Vigil.

Hosted by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, together with Mayor John Hickenlooper, the candlelight, name-reading ceremony will pay tribute to 164 people who lived on the streets of the Denver metropolitan area and died during 2008. This number reflects a 37% increase from 2007. Of those being recognized this evening, twenty two were women, one hundred and forty two were men; and they ranged in age from 0 to 76.

For most, this will be the only memorial service held in their honor. (*Note: the Memorial List of Names is attached to this news release.*)

The program will include Denver Mayor **John Hickenlooper**, First Baptist Church Senior Pastor **Dr. Gary Bowser**, Mile High Church Associate Minister **Cynthia James**, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless President **John Parvensky**, Coalition Board Member **Randle Loeb**, and the Coalition's Consumer Advisory Board Members **Tom Rossi, Randy Brown, Steve Shankland and Lexi Udell**.

Scheduled in conjunction with the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, the Vigil pays tribute to those who lost their lives as well as to those men, women and children who continue to survive against great odds. Homeless persons are 3-4 times more likely to die prematurely than the general population.

The consequences of restricted access to comprehensive health care are reflected in extremely high rates of both chronic and acute health problems among people experiencing homelessness. Overall, the average life expectancy for Americans is almost 80 years of age; yet, for those that experience homelessness, the probable life span is somewhere between 42 and 52 years. And the burden of early death is especially high in younger women (ages 18 to 34); they are 4-31 times more likely to lose their lives than their housed counterparts.

“Illnesses that are closely connected with poverty, such as tuberculosis, AIDS, malnutrition and severe dental problems devastate the homeless population,” explained Mr. Parvensky. “Health problems that are often routinely and effectively treated at other income levels, including alcoholism, mental illnesses, diabetes, hypertension and physical disabilities, are prominent on the streets – and often become deadly.”

The Coalition’s Stout Street Clinic has provided health care for the homeless for 24 years. In 2007, the organization delivered medical and mental healthcare services to 12,228 men, women and children.

Although there is no official tracking of homeless deaths in Colorado, the Coalition conducts the count through a coordinated process involving more than twenty-five homeless service organizations, in the seven-county Denver metropolitan area, representing medical clinicians and other healthcare professionals; case managers; outreach and social workers; hospice, shelter and emergency service personnel; housing managers; chaplains; volunteers and others who provide direct assistance for those that are homeless. Causes of death include exposure, vehicular accidents, violence, but most

frequently, illness due to chronic diseases.

“We in Denver look forward to the day when there are no longer any names to read at this vigil. The Winter is a cold reminder of the fact that there is no good time to be homeless,” said Mayor Hickenlooper. “We are urging the Denver community to continue to embrace the work of our homeless providers and Denver’s Road Home, our ten-year plan to end homelessness, and remain focused on housing, services and prevention to minimize the impact of this economy on the homeless men, women and children in our community.”

For more than a decade the Coalition has sponsored this event in conjunction with the *National Coalition for the Homeless Campaign: National Homeless Persons’ Memorial Day*. In 2007 at least 102 communities participated in the campaign, spanning 38 states.

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for homeless and at-risk families, children, and individuals throughout Colorado. CCH advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves.

For more information visit coloradocoalition.org.

Homeless Persons’ Memorial Vigil 2008
List of Names

Rudy Ackerman – Age Unknown
Roger Aldrich – Age 51
George Chase Alone – Age 48
Brandi Arellano-Diaz – Age 33
Peter Armato – Age 58
Valarie B. – Age Unknown
Robin Baca – Age 44
Melvin Baker – Age 60
John Bansept – Age 38
Richard Barragan – Age 63

Mary Sun Bear – Age 55
James Benjamin – Age 50
Robert Berg – Age Unknown
Ariadne Betcke – Age 43
Jose “Bigote” – Age Unknown
Frank Bourn – Age 61
Wilma Bruce – Age 76
Marcus Buchanan – Age 37
Christopher Burtis – Age 24
William Burton – Age 46
Kevin Butt – Age 42
Jesse Camacho, Jr. – Age 50
Jerry Carmichael – Age 56
Jerry Carr – Age Unknown
David Cass – Age 48
John Castalleno – Age Unknown
Pete Cordero – Age 62
Lee Connell – Age 53
Nicole Connell – Age 36
Mitchell Curphy – Age 55
Jeff Davis – Age Unknown
Ruben DeLatorres – Age 61
Jafaye Doyle – Age 49
Katurah Dreyer – Age 35
Louis Dunn – Age Unknown
Lenny England – Age 44
Leo Espinoza – Age 34
Shirlyn Ferguson – Age Unknown
John Fine – Age 50
Cleveland Flood – Age Unknown
Anthony Fluellen – Age Unknown
Patrick Flynn – Age 57
Roy Ford – Age 53
Daren Freisberg – Age 38
Rodney Gibson – Age 47
Edward Goodes – Age 55
Donald Grayum – Age 52
Roy Gregory – Age Unknown
Rajinder Grewal – Age Unknown
James Gueveia – Age 57
Robert Hamburg – Age 49
Charles Harper – Age 59
Brian Heino – Age 42
Joseph Henderson – Age 45
William Hewlett – Age 42
Cody Hill – Age 39

Patrick Hill – Age 55
Norman Hinkle – Age Unknown
William Holland – Age Unknown
Rochelle Hope – Age 28
Howard Huntsinger – Age 44
Baqi Jackson – Age 49
Ellison Jenkins – Age 51
Steve Jenson – Age Unknown
Harvey Jim – Age 54
Phillip Johnson, Jr. – Age 41
Douglas Jones – Age 44
William Kemmeter – Age 61
Glen Kemp – Age 37
John Kork – Age 69
Gary Kraft – Age 50
Kenneth George Kullhem – Age 68
David Larsen – Age 60
Donald Lewis – Age Unknown
William Luder – Age 43
Jack Lund – Age 67
Larkin Lyles – Age 59
Janice Maes – Age 42
Patrick Martinez – Age 56
Raymond Martinez – Age 57
Thomas Martinez – Age 26
Michael May – Age 51
Larry McCranie – Age 45
Marshall McGee – Age 49
Stephen McGuinness – Age 52
Clifford Moore – Age 54
Adam Morgan – Age 39
Javier Moyano – Age Unknown
Robert Mulhern – Age 53
Jacole Nelms – Age 35
Eddie Nelson – Age 53
Bobby Newberg – Age Unknown
Kenneth Oborn – Age 45
Vincent Olguin – Age 57
Steven O’Neal – Age 47
Tracy Oppenheimer – Age 34
Shelly Orendorff – Age 44
Lee Ortegon – Age Unknown
Esparanza Pardue – Age Unknown
James Parson – Age Unknown
Lawrence Pantera – Age Unknown
Dwight Patterson – Age 58

Kenneth Patterson – Age 56
Melvin Paup – Age 58
Terry Pettit – Age 47
Andrew Pewo – Age 20
Bob Pleasant – Age Unknown
Isaiah Jerome Presley - Newborn
Richard Purkerson – Age 62
Stephen Quintana – Age 38
Darrell Redearth – Age 51
David Richmond – Age Unknown
Johnny Rivera – Age 55
William Robitalie – Age Unknown
Stanley Roebuck – Age 59
Jack Roland – Age Unknown
Jerrold Rosendale – Age 47
Joseph Rouleau – Age 45
Lindsey Saidy – Age 28
Victor Sandoval-Raygoza – Age 32
Carrie Sare – Age 45
Cecelia Scott – Age 53
Vodra Scott – Age Unknown
Gary Slatton – Age 57
Thomas Smith – Age 25
John Stednitz – Age 51
Richard Stoops – Age 39
Terry Swain – Age 46
Kevin Thiel – Age 53
Delbert Thompson – Age Unknown
Kauri Tiyme – Age 39
Gabriel Torres-Reyes – Age 51
Bryce Turk – Age 33
Doug Vaughn – Age 47
Glen Vavarek – Age Unknown
Diana Vigil – Age 50
Phillip Vigil – Age 55
Koji Wada – Age 63
Charles Walls – Age 30
Shirley Welch – Age 56
Barry Alan Wheeler – Age 52
Stephen Wheeler – Age 55
Stephen White – Age 38
William Whitelance – Age Unknown
David Williams – Age 38
Ralph Wolcott – Age Unknown
Dawn Wynkoop – Age 55
David Young – Age 52

Keith Young – Age 51
Felix Zamora – Age 25