Creating Lasting Solutions

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
2006 Annual Report

www.coloradocoalition.org
Dear Friends,

Every family or individual experiencing homelessness has a unique story. Their paths into homelessness are varied. Many have suffered losses, tragedies and disabilities that could afflict any of us. Their journey out of homelessness can be difficult.

The following pages reveal life stories of real people who have suffered and overcome the most difficult of life’s unexpected twists and turns with the help of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless. There is Stephen, a Viet Nam veteran who lived on the streets for four years, who is now reunited with his daughter and grandchildren; there is Julie, now diagnosed with severe depression, who lived in a tent with her dog until outreach workers helped her start a new life; and there is Lena, who fled from domestic violence with her children, but is now housed and enrolled in a master’s degree program.

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless creates lasting solutions to homelessness one person at a time. With your help as donors and advocates, we can continue and expand our efforts to end homelessness in Colorado. Thank you for your generous and continued support.

Sincerely,

Jay Brown  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

John Parvensky  
President

CCH Programs

- Benefits Acquisition and Retention Team (BART)
- Community Outreach
- Community Resources
- Denver Housing First Collaborative
- Education and Advocacy (E&A)
- Family Support Services
- Healthcare Services – Stout Street Clinic
  - Dental Clinic
  - Eye Clinic
  - Health Outreach Program (Mobile Healthcare)
  - Pharmacy
  - Primary Medical Care
  - Respite Care Programs
  - Samaritan House Clinic
- Mental Health Services
  - La Casa Quigg Newton Family Counseling Center
  - Ruth Goebel House
  - Stout Street Clinic Mental Health Services
  - Stout Street Bridges
  - Project to Assist in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH)
- Renaissance Children’s Center
- Rental Assistance Program
- Residential and Vocational Services
- Rural Initiatives
- Substance Treatment Services
- Supportive Housing
  - Beacon Place
  - Forest Manor Apartments
  - Forum Apartments
  - Lincoln Glenarm Apartments
  - Renaissance at Blue Spruce Townhomes
  - Renaissance at Civic Center Apartments
  - Renaissance at Concord Plaza Apartments
  - Renaissance at Loretto Heights Apartments
  - Renaissance at Lowry Boulevard Apartments
  - Renaissance at Off-Broadway Lofts
  - Renaissance Xenia Village Apartments
  - Ruth Goebel House
Consolidated Statement of Activities

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Renaissance Housing Development Corporation
Renaissance Property Management Corporation

Year ended December 2005

Revenue
Contributions 4,747,672
Grants 15,714,506
Programs 2,277,636
Development fees 571,380
Other 2,371,049
Interest 476,825
Total revenue 26,159,068

Expenses
Program services:
Health care 13,227,890
Housing 9,751,654
Statewide education and advocacy 444,314
Total program services 23,423,858

Supporting services
Administration 1,994,735
Fundraising 645,776
Total supportive service 2,640,511

Total expenses 26,064,369

Increase (decrease) in net assets 94,699
Net assets December 2005 10,996,111
Net assets December 2006 11,090,810

The 2006 audited financial statements for the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless are available on request.

2006-07 Board of Directors
Jay Brown, Chair
Jim Winston, Vice Chair
Peter Calamari, Treasurer
Steve Bassett
Gylinda Gonzalez
Dan Grossman
Kim Hacker
Karen Lowe
Bryce Lloyd
Becky Martinez
Jennifer Miner

Renaissance Housing Development Corporation Board of Directors
John Parvensky, Chair
David Klimut, Secretary
Steve M. Bassett
Robert J. Brown
Jim Hubbell
Randle Loeb
Michelle Mitchell
Alan Robinson
Jim Winston - ex officio

2007 Leadership Team
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President and CEO
Louise O. Boris
Vice President of Programs
Stan Eilert
Vice President of Operations
Joseph Ptacek
Vice President, Resource Development and Marketing
Joan Christensen
Director of Health Services
Elizabeth Cookson, M.D.
Psychiatric Director
Ed Farrell, M.D.
Medical Director
David Klimut
Director of Housing Development
Linda Lytle
Director of Mental Health Services
Tim Marshall
Director of Residential and Vocational Services
Mark Miller Mastro
Director of Rental Assistance
Elizabeth Murphy
Director of Family Support Services
Jennifer Perlman
Director of Outreach, Community Resources and BART
Kay Tennant
Assistant to the President
Jerry Valdes
Director of Property Management
Doug Wayland
Director of Education and Advocacy
Ken drove 18 wheelers after two tours in Vietnam as a sniper. He and his wife of 25 years were in a truck accident that left Ken in a coma for eight months and the entire left side of his face destroyed, which was eventually rebuilt. Ken’s wife passed away a few years later from the effects of that accident.

Ken lost his job as a truck driver because of health related issues. The staff of Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ (CCH) Health Outreach Program met him in a Denver shelter. Their medical exam detected an imbalance in Ken’s medications and determined his diabetes was worsening. CCH has helped Ken with respite care through Stout Street Clinic.

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Ken’s full story.

The Health Outreach Program is a symbol of hope and healing for many homeless people in Denver. Its medical team frequents shelters, food lines and motels, caring for an average of 200 people every month in 2006.
“Chico” came to Colorado 18 years ago and hasn’t seen his family since. His alcohol addiction left him behind dumpsters in alleys. He collected aluminum cans for cash. Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) Outreach Workers introduced Chico to the Housing First Program, which prioritizes immediate housing for chronically homeless people. Chico is now sober and lives in his own apartment. “I have been given the opportunity to better myself. I’m going to do everything to prove I am worthy of whatever time has been invested in me. I have a job, pay my bills, go to movies, and on weekends I help serve food to homeless. I do my best to give back.”

Please visit [http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories](http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories) to read more of Chico’s story.

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A stable home, supportive treatment and services help CCH’s Housing First program participants focus on their core mental health, substance abuse, and physical issues that compromised their ability to attain and maintain housing.
Ruben lost his job after a local telecom company downsized its workforce. This was a tragedy for a family with a second child on the way. Ruben and his wife Aurora desperately fought to keep homelessness from their sons. Fortunately, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ (CCH) two-year transitional housing development, Renaissance at Concord Plaza Apartments was there, and the Renaissance Childcare Center enrolled the boys. Four year old Josue’s mind is like a sponge, and he recites new English words nightly. To keep up with their son, Ruben and Aurora are attending ESL classes. Ruben is now proud to work for Whole Foods Bakery.

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Ruben, Aurora, Josue, and Lazaro’s full story.

CCH’s Renaissance Childcare Center is one of the few four-star rated early childhood development centers in Colorado. Formerly homeless, transitional, low-income, at-risk, and middle to high-income children all learn and play together in integrated classrooms. The curriculum invites children to develop cognitively through structured playtime and creative problem solving.
Anne Marie fled her home of 30 years. Having vocalized her employer’s violation of equal opportunity laws, he terrorized her with harassment and threats. Her consuming fears of her employer resulted in attempted suicide and forced her to leave home. Anne Marie was homeless. She went to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ (CCH) Stout Street Clinic where a nurse found her a room at CCH’s Ruth Goebel House, a home for women seeking refuge. This warm, old house was the sanctuary Anne Marie needed to regain her life, and within six months she had her own apartment. Anne Marie now lives without fear.

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Anne Marie’s full story.
“In 2005 I lost 13 people I loved including my brother, my mother, and two sons. I tried to commit suicide, and the Coalition saved my life.”

A beloved co-worker

Bobby was a 16 year employee of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA). He was so loved and respected that staff pitched in to send him on a vacation to Vienna, Austria. In 2005, Bobby’s world unraveled. In just four months, he lost 13 family members and friends including two sons. He spiraled into severe alcoholism and depression, attempting suicide more than once. Despite numerous interventions and attempts to help, DCPA finally had to let this favorite employee go. Their concern, however, did not end with his dismissal.

DCPA staff found Bobby in detox and discovered he was homeless. Bobby met with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ Denver Housing First Collaborative team, which provided him supportive housing at Renaissance at Civic Center Apartments and connected him with substance treatment services staff. A great success story, Bobby has been sober and working part time for nearly two years.

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Bobby’s full story.
John was fired after injuring his knee on the job. After six months of unemployment, he and his wife Susan had depleted their savings and could not pay rent. The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) provided them with housing at Renaissance at Blue Spruce Townhomes, which offers transitional housing, low-income housing, and market rate housing.

John and Susan have taken advantage of community programs offered by CCH, designed to help residents rebuild their lives. These include parenting classes, counseling, and children’s after-school programs. “We did not choose to be homeless. We now have restored our credit, have employment, and are looking ahead to [owning] our own place.”

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read more about John and Susan.

“Anybody can become homeless. Sometimes homelessness is due to a job loss or an illness.”
In 2006, Family Support Services helped 1,578 families including 3,620 children with supportive housing, first month rental payments and access to medical and mental health care. Today, there are 300 families on a year long waitlist for transitional housing.

Jamie and Leona were optimistic and idealistic newlyweds. Both were employed, but Jamie’s mental health disability began disrupting his career as a professional musician. Soon he had no gigs and Leona was the sole provider. She lost her job when their first child was born. Suddenly they were on the streets without medical or mental health care.

The Family Support Services program was Jamie and Leona’s first experience with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). It became their lifeline to hotel vouchers and ultimately the gateway to housing and other services including medical care and mental health care.

Jamie’s disability prevents him from working, but Leona anticipates the time when the kids are old enough so that she can return to work. In the meantime she is a volunteer counselor for other families needing help. Jamie plans to be involved with the music program at the kids’ school where he will help with musical productions, arrangements, and performances.

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Jamie and Leona’s full story.
“If I didn’t have this housing I’d either be in jail or dead.”

When Leland’s employer went out of business, he fell into a “temporary rut,” started drinking, and finally ended up living under a bridge. “I got thrown off a bridge, got my finger chopped off, and had both hands broken while living on the streets.” Sometimes those most in need of services are the most reluctant to request help. Highly visible on the streets, under bridges and in alleys, many chronically homeless individuals have severe mental and physical health issues. It takes all their strength to live through a day.

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ (CCH) Street Outreach Program helped Leland turn his life around. “Outreach workers kept in touch with me, and now I have my drinking under control and have my own place to live.” He is currently enrolled in a commercial baking class.

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Leland’s full story.
April Fool’s Day

Passover begins

Earth Day

Out of the darkness and into the light

As a victim of severe mental illness, Julie lived on the streets with her dog, Sophie, for seven years. A Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) outreach worker found her and connected her to Stout Street Clinic for psychiatric treatment. Today, Julie takes medications to control her mental health disability and receives Social Security Disability payments which help with rent and other bills. The Project to Assist in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program continues to be Julie’s primary connection to CCH services.

Julie is an avid guitarist. She gives guitar lessons and plans to take her talent to local venues.

Julie loves to play James Taylor’s Fire and Rain and feels the lyrics are special for any homeless person:

Won’t you look down upon me, Jesus
You’ve got to help me make a stand
You’ve just got to see me through another day
My body’s aching and my time is at hand
And I won’t make it any other way

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read more of Julie’s story.
Torn from her *tribe*

At age 11, Antoinette Red Woman’s (Wosidah) mother and grandmother died, leaving her in the case of missionaries who relocated her from her tribe. They physically, mentally, and emotionally abused her and vilified her people, calling them “heathens and savages.” For six years, her extended family assumed she was dead.

Antionette’s dislocation drove her to homelessness. For ten years Antoinette endured depression, alcoholism, and anxiety until she connected with the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). In 2002, she founded the *Talking Circle* at CCH’s Stout Street Clinic. She is now a role model and leader for her community. “I think it comes from the lineage of my grandfathers and grandmothers, the chiefs, and the medicine people... to help my people in a good way.”

Please visit [http://www.coloradoalition.org/stories](http://www.coloradoalition.org/stories) to read more about Antoinette and the Talking Circle.

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**Talking Circle** is a support group to assist homeless Native Americans from all Tribes and Nations to find housing, sobriety, rediscover their spirituality and maintain mental health through emotional support and cultural identity...and to be proud once again.

**May 2008**

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“*In a Talking Circle, each one is equal and each one belongs.*”

www.coloradoalition.org
“What is depression like? Tie your hands in front [of you] and put two ten pound weights on each leg, and then go through your day and try to do everything you need to do.”

Bipolar disorder has colored Rhonada’s life for 25 years. Her fiancé was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, and his medications made him increasingly angry and violent. Their arguments grew red hot, culminating in a domestic violence police report. In turn, he filed a restraining order, evicting her from their apartment. Rhonada was homeless, her prescription supply was dry, and her manic state was “off the Richter Scale.” A domestic violence safehouse referred Rhonada to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ (CCH) Stout Street Clinic where its mental health program provided medication and individual and group therapy.

For the first time, Rhonada cares for herself. She thrills in her community garden plot where she has planted eighteen 10-foot rows of “every vegetable you can imagine!” Thanking the CCH staff, Rhonada feels that “the people who choose to work [at CCH] choose to work with the person who is the very lowest man on the totem pole in life. It’s awesome.”

Please visit http://www.coloradoalition.org/stories to read Rhonada’s full story.
“I was so excited that he was alive and he had made it through the winter.”

A veteran out in the cold

Stephen lived on the streets for four years. His alcohol addiction began after serving in Viet Nam and led to his homelessness. Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) Outreach Workers found him in a homeless camp along the Platte River and checked him into the Veterans Administration hospital. He lost six toes to frostbite. After the VA discharged Stephen, CCH’s Medical Respite Care Program at Beacon Place gave him a bed, nursing support and case management for successful convalescence.

Stephen’s daughter Jodi had not seen her father for years but always prayed for his health and an end to his drinking. She was relieved to hear he was alive in medical respite. “I was ecstatic that we were going to get back together again. It’s been a miracle! God has a purpose for him to be back with my kids to be a grandpa for them. He is going to be part of their life.”

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Stephen’s full story.
When leaving home is a step forward

Lena could endure no more of her husband’s violence. Seven months pregnant and a two year old in tow, Lena had $29.40 with which to start a new life. She suffers from a genetic disorder, Graves Disease, which requires regular medical attention, eye care, and prescription medication. “I went a few years without meds. At $145 per month, I said my kids need to eat and they need a roof over their heads.” The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless’ (CCH) Stout Street Clinic and Eye Clinic were the support she needed. Lena treasures the staff; they helped her complete her bachelor’s degree at Metro State. This August she begins Regis University’s Master’s program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation. She wants employment as a children’s advocate to give homeless parents a voice. “I’ve been there. I know what it’s like. I know what it means to wonder if you’re going to pay rent on your hotel room or if you’re going to feed your kids that day.”

Please visit http://www.coloradocoalition.org/stories to read Lena’s full story.
Individual Donors $10,000 +

John A. and Lynne Meade

$5,000 – $9,999

Jerry and Leah Nettles

$2,500 – $4,999

Rita F. and Lloyd H. Conolly

$1,000 – $2,499

William R. and Mary Jones

$500 – $999

John O. and Jeanne G. Kasten

$250 – $499

The Halon Foundation

$100 – $249

Donor Organizations

Alice Simmons Overland Trust

Art Association of Colorado

Audiolab

Auburn University, AL

Auburn University, DE

Auburn University, NY

Auburn University, AL

Auburn University, CA

Auburn University, GA

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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.

www.coloradoalition.org