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Colorado Coalition for the Homeless Celebrates with Community Leaders the Grand Opening of Recuperative Care Center and Supportive Housing in Denver

The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) hosted a grand opening event on Thursday, October 6 to celebrate the launch of a first-of-its kind mixed-use development to serve the housing and healthcare needs of people experiencing homelessness. The Renaissance Legacy Lofts and Stout Street Recuperative Care Center, located at 2175 California Street in Denver, will meet the immediate health care needs for 500 people experiencing homelessness annually through medical respite and recuperative care, while also providing 98 units of affordable and supportive housing. The event featured Congresswoman Diana DeGette (District 1), Mayor Michael Hancock, Dominique Jackson, HUD Regional Administrator (Region 8), Alison George, Director of Division of Housing with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, and Tom Riley, Senior Portfolio Manager of Northern Trust and CCH Board member.

The Stout Street Recuperative Care Center fills a significant gap in services for people who are healthy enough to leave the hospital but do not have homes to assist them in recovering safely. By late 2022, the Recuperative Care Center will provide 75 medical respite beds for people experiencing homelessness who, if housed, would be discharged to home but who cannot be safely discharged to the streets, nor to shelters, which are not equipped to deal with medical needs. The Coalition's President and CEO, John Parvensky, who recently announced his pending retirement after 37 years at the helm of the Coalition remarked, "The desperation of those experiencing homelessness as well as those serving them in shelters and hospitals that really had no place for them to go made a strong case for the development of this integrated housing and health building."

"Legacy Lofts is a game-changing resource for our community. Today's opening underscores our housing first approach and is a huge step forward in building a healthy, housed, and connected Denver," said Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock. "Housing and health are inextricably linked, and Legacy Lofts will stand as a beacon of opportunity for our unhoused neighbors for decades to come."

Congresswoman Diana DeGette (District 1), who helped to facilitate \$2 million in congressionally-directed spending to the project from the U.S. Congress added "John Parvensky and his team present a model for how to address this complex problem of homelessness throughout our country. This new facility is going to be able to provide help to hundreds of more people right here in the heart of Denver and at the time when they're the most vulnerable and susceptible to debilitating issues."

"This project brings to life the spirit of HUD's mission by creating life-changing housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness while also providing social services—supportive services that can change lives" added Dominique Jackson, Regional Administrator for HUD Rocky Mountain West. The organization contributed nearly \$4 million to the project.

The aptly named project is a true legacy for John Parvensky, who has overseen the organization for nearly four decades. Mayor Hancock presented a proclamation declaring October 6 "John Parvensky Day" in Denver, and presented Parvensky with the city challenge coin, which the Mayor awards to individuals who make extraordinary differences in the Denver community. "No one has done more for our city, and for the people of our state that you have." Mayor Hancock added. The Stout Street Recuperative Care Center will also be named after Parvenksy, as announced by Coalition Board Chair Joel Neckers and Former Board Chair TR Reid.

The Grand Opening Event was livestreamed, and the full program is available on <u>YouTube</u>. The Coalition will release a video tour of the building in the coming weeks. Photos are available <u>here</u> (Photo Credit Dennis Schroeder). More information on the project is available <u>here</u>.

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About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:

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 people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition 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. Since its founding, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition's comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to over 22,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at www.coloradocoalition.org.