



HAAT Force South Metro, INC  
PO Box 22997  
Denver, CO 80222  
[www.haatforce.org](http://www.haatforce.org)  
[info@aatforce.org](mailto:info@aatforce.org)  
May 7, 2022

Subject: HAAT Force South Metro 2021-2022 Season Report

Thank you for your support of HAAT Force! We are so very grateful to you, our donors and partners!

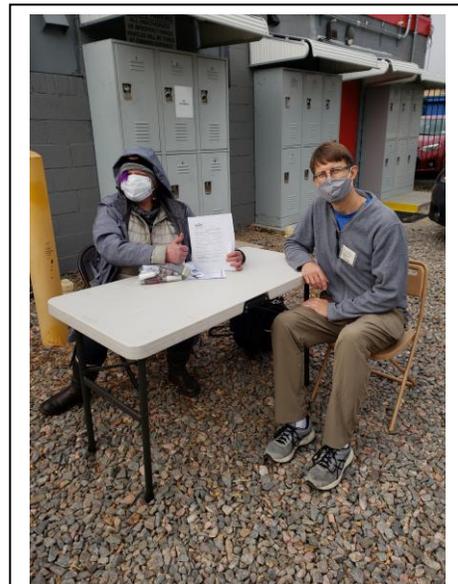
This was our 11<sup>th</sup> season in operation providing severe weather motel shelter for families, people with physical disabilities, those with medical issues, older adults and people with pets.

### Message from Sienna McGrath, Executive Director

“I want to start by thanking all the individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations that support HAAT Force. Because of your support, we were able to touch the lives of 241 individuals during the 2021-2022 severe weather season. **These individuals were provided opportunities to not only stay warm and safe on severe weather nights, but also receive meals, necessary medical care, case management, and housing resource support.**

“**They were shown love and compassion by our volunteers**, and the gratitude they showed in return made it clear how much of an impact these vouchers have on their lives. It was an amazing season, and HAAT Force truly couldn’t have done it without all of you! We are so appreciative and so hopeful that the time we invest in our homeless community will make a lasting impact.

“At this time, we are taking a fresh, deep breath of the beautiful Spring air and jumping right into planning for next season! It will be upon us before we know it and we will be prepared to again embrace the **opportunity to serve those experiencing homelessness by providing dignity and grace, one motel room at a time.**”



## Severe Weather Shelter Summary

From December 2021 through March 2022, we issued **153 motel vouchers for 1090 person-nights of shelter**. We sheltered 106 men, 87 women, and 48 children at the **Holiday Motel in Englewood** and the **Motel 6 in Greenwood Village**. We provided RTD passes for those who needed transportation to Motel 6. It cost between \$57 and \$70 for a night of severe weather shelter, depending on the motel and number of guests in the room.

We started vouchering many elderly people this season. This is a particularly vulnerable group of people. Many of our guests were showing the effects of stress or trauma and/or had medical problems, including frostbite. One couple had a 6-month-old baby and a single mother had a 4-year-old daughter. Truly the severe weather motel vouchers were life-sustaining!

### Our Community Partners



On Tuesdays and Thursdays, HAAT Force volunteers registered our guests and distributed motel vouchers at **Giving Heart** in Englewood. Giving Heart is a day shelter for people experiencing homelessness and is the location of the HAAT Force office. At Giving Heart, people connected with **Arapahoe County Housing Services**. In addition, they received breakfasts, hot lunches, hygiene kits, socks, hats, gloves and other clothing, as well as access to computers. Once a week, there were portable shower and laundry facilities, which arrived on a truck with a flat bed.



On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, a non-profit in Englewood, **Movement 5280**, generously provided volunteers to register guests in our program and issue our severe weather vouchers. They also provided sack lunches, in addition to Wednesday hot lunches and resources at their location if available.



Left: Movement 5280 volunteers Tami, Tina, Jamie G, Jamie H, Kelly (not pictured: Amaya)

Right: preparing sack lunches



The **Englewood Police Department** continued to partner with us by issuing vouchers to people in need.

We referred our guests to the navigators and Case Managers at **The Reciprocity Collective**. These professionals volunteered for us to help our guests address their unique needs and investigate housing opportunities.

**Break Bread**, Littleton and **Integrated Family Community Services**, Englewood, provided meals and non-perishable food staples to our guests when they were at the motels.

**Swedish Hospital Case Workers** referred patients experiencing homelessness to our program. **Veterans Affairs** representatives helped veterans experiencing homelessness toward next steps.

**Octapharma**, a blood plasma donation center, generously provided volunteer staff to come to our voucher sites and complete Covid testing and give general support on our voucher days.

**Local school districts** referred families to our program. Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987, federal grant monies are appropriated to help families who aren't living in a stable place. HAAT Force set up a few short-term stays for a couple of families whose children attended Englewood schools.

HAAT Force is an active participant in the **Change the Trend Network** of the Englewood, Littleton and Sheridan area. Change the Trend exists to lessen the impact of homelessness, and serve service providers by helping them get to know each other, achieve collaboration and take collective action.

### Guest Stories

Our Severe Weather shelter program is run entirely by volunteers, led by our amazing and dedicated **Program Coordinator and Board Member Dana Thompson**. She made herself available for countless hours at both Giving Heart and Movement 5280.

She and her volunteers connected our guests with our community partners; Dana personally followed up with our guests to make sure connections were being made.

The following are two stories from Dana:



*“I met Cindy and her son, Josh, at the first of the year. They had fallen on hard times in spite of Cindy’s pension from her deceased husband. Josh was also homeless and was supporting both of them as best as he could by working for Door Dash. Our cold winter had descended on them and it was becoming harder and harder to live in their car. They were very thankful for the handful of motel vouchers HAAT gave them each time the weather was cold.*”

*“While Josh was working, Cindy continually met with navigators from The Reciprocity Collective to reinstate her SNAP benefits and Arapahoe County Housing Services to begin the arduous process of looking for a roof over their heads. Pay checks are coming in and finally there are a handful of apartments accepting applications.”*

A second story:

*“Joseph limped on crutches into Giving Heart a couple of months ago. He had been discharged from Swedish Hospital Urgent Care with a splint on his leg because of a swollen ankle. His job as a flagger was out of the question. I referred him to The Reciprocity Collective to make arrangements for a new cell phone and Colorado ID. We helped Joseph with a warm, dry room as he recovered from his ankle problem.*”

*“He had been wanting to revisit his interest in working in the culinary field. I recommended that he apply to the Housed Working and Healthy School. They help those in need become self-sufficient and return to independent living. His space there is ready. Presently his ankle has healed and he is very grateful to HAAT for all that we’ve done to make his life more meaningful.”*

## Colorado Access Medical Motel Voucher Program

HAAT Force was thrilled to receive a substantial grant from the **Colorado Health Access Fund**. They are a non-profit health care company who assisted us with funds to voucher individuals experiencing homelessness with **severe medical needs, on a longer-term basis**. We worked directly with our strong partners at Arapahoe County Housing Services and The Reciprocity Collective to assist these guests. One of our guests in this program eventually passed away; he and we were blessed that because of our connection with him, **he was able to die with loving care and dignity**.

### Financial Summary

With the exception of a part-time Executive Director and a professional who maintains our Quickbooks records, we are an entirely volunteer organization. Our Board members are very active in HAAT Force operations.

To date, during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, we have received \$27,899.41 in donations from individuals, faith communities, and Colorado Access for our severe weather voucher program. We also appreciate the individuals and businesses who donated silent auction items last Fall.

We deeply appreciate ongoing grants from the **High Plains Region of the Episcopal Church, Arapahoe County Aid to Agencies, Littleton Rotary and Sisters of Color**.

### What We Have Learned This Season

From our Sienna McGrath, our Executive Director:

- “Dana Thompson is invaluable!”
- “Keep smiling; our smiles make an impact!”
- “Show love and respect at all times, as some of our guests have not been shown love or respect in a very long time.”
- “HAAT Force is a strong team, with each of us providing unique talents and support.”
- “Our vouchers are becoming more and more necessary, and only begin to scratch the surface of needs, causing us to see the absolute need for continuing to create opportunities for case management and mental health support.”
- “Partnerships are key and strengthen us as an organization. We would not have had such a successful season without the many partnerships we have created!”

### Future Plans

While we have accomplished so much, there is always room for growth! Taking the mission of HAAT Force further is always in the forefront of our minds when planning for the future.

Currently, the most important aspect for the future is focusing on providing consistent case management for our voucher recipients. We are excited to announce that the **Tri-Cities (Englewood, Littleton, Sheridan) Homeless Navigation Center** will be assisting with that mission next season, in addition to other wonderful resources!

HAAT Force is also working to become more **technologically-based** in future seasons, which will make our information more accessible to individuals within the organization, as well as assist us with coordinating with other organizations. These steps include utilizing a cloud-based system for storage of paperwork and financial information, completing intakes on a laptop or tablet (making them paperless), and entering all of our clients into the HMIS database (Homeless

Management Information System – collects client-level data regarding housing and services provided to clients) at the time of enrollment into our program.

If Dana taught us one thing during this season, it is how vital her role as Program Coordinator is. This should be a paid position, and we need to take the time to look at **fundraising and grant opportunities to fund that position.**

### **Opportunities to Help!**

We always need **volunteers** to help register guests and issue motel vouchers during severe weather!  
Email [info@haatforce.org](mailto:info@haatforce.org) to get connected.



We are having an end-of-season dining out fundraiser with **Romano's Restaurant**, 5666 S. Windermere, Littleton on **Wednesday, May 25** (11 am to closing time.) If you mention HAAT Force or are able to bring our flier, we will get 20% of your meal proceeds!  
You can dine in or take out.

Our annual **Fall Fundraising campaign will kick off on Saturday morning, September 17** at St. Luke's UMC, 8817 S. Broadway, Highlands Ranch. There will be **free food, videos, speakers**, and a bidding preview of our **month-long silent auction**. The 30-minute program will be livestreamed. Stay tuned for more details!



You can always donate by going to [www.haatforce.org](http://www.haatforce.org)!

We look forward to the future! With passion and compassion, and your ongoing support, we will continue to be in solidarity with our neighbors experiencing homelessness!

Sincerely,  
Sienna McGrath, Executive Director  
HAAT Force Board of Directors:  
Michael Flaherty (Chairperson)  
Megan Leinard (Vice-Chairperson)  
Betsy Keyack (Treasurer)  
Kris Reif  
Keith Singer  
Dana Thompson