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Subject: HAAT Force South Metro 2022-2023 Season Report

Thank you for your generous support of HAAT Force! We are so very grateful to you, our donors and partners. You are truly heroes in solidarity with people in our community in need of our compassion and care!

This was our 12th season in operation providing severe weather motel shelter for families, people with physical disabilities, those with medical issues, older adults and people with animals.

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, this season we were able to distribute **278 motel vouchers** (compared with 153 last season), providing life-saving shelter for **114 unique adults, 17 children and 41 pets** and support animals (36 dogs, 4 cats and even a turtle.)*

Our guests 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. We got to know many of our guests very well, providing them with resources, food, and a warm place to sleep during the 14th coldest winter in Colorado history.

It was a very busy season, and HAAT Force truly couldn't have done it without all of you! We are so appreciative and hopeful that the time we invest in our homeless community will make a lasting impact.

*At this time, we are 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.***

*Thank you for your support of HAAT Force! **You are genuinely appreciated!**"*

Severe Weather Shelter Summary

HAAT Force meets a unique need in our community by sheltering people who are unable to utilize traditional congregate shelter settings: families, people with disabilities, older adults and people with animals. **Through our community partners**, this season we also provided our guests referrals to organizations who provided access to needed resources. In addition, we followed up in person with our guests in the motels and assisted them with food.



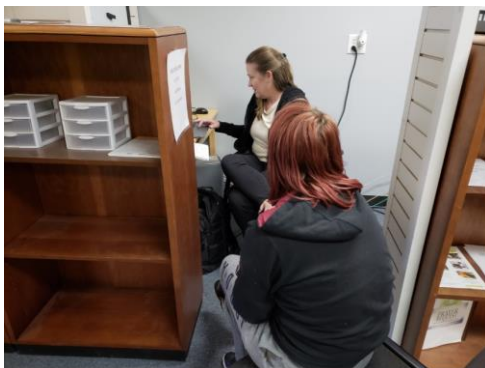
During the 2022-2023 severe weather season, we provided **1250 person-nights of shelter** (for each voucher, multiply the number of people sheltered in each room times the number of nights sheltered). **Fifty-one of our guests had disabilities or medical issues.** We provided shelter to **10 unique families** with children ranging in age from 18 months to 17 years old. **265 bus passes** were given out to provide transportation for our guests to the motels.

We contracted with Motel 6's in Greenwood Village, Aurora and Lakewood in addition to the Holiday Motel in Englewood. It **cost between \$60 and \$70 for a night** of severe weather shelter, depending on the motel and number of guests in the room.

Many of our guests were experiencing the effects of stress or trauma and/or had chronic medical problems. One man, whose wife had suffered a disabling medical issue, was having difficulty with employment because his wife needed full-time care. The need for affordable housing and supportive housing was evident. One family consisted of a single mother, two teenagers, an elderly grandmother, a dog and a cat. The mother had TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), the grandmother received Social Security and one of the teenagers was working while going to school. Like so many of our neighbors during the season, they were having difficulty finding an apartment they were able to afford.



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 has been the location of the HAAT Force office for many years. At Giving Heart, people connected with **Arapahoe County Housing Navigators**. In addition, they received breakfasts, hot lunches, hygiene kits, socks, hats, gloves and other clothing, as well as access to computers. When available, there were portable shower and laundry facilities.

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 hot lunches and resources at their location if available.

The **Englewood Public Library** also graciously provided space for us to issue motel vouchers at their location as needed.



The **Englewood Police Department** and the **All Health Mobile Response Unit (MRU)**, which provides support to the **Englewood Police Department**, continued to partner with us by issuing vouchers to people in need.

When our guests came for motel vouchers, we gave them information on how to access the **Arapahoe County Housing Navigators**. In person and on our hotline phone, we provided information about other locations at which our guests could obtain meals and resources.



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

Veterans Affairs representatives helped veterans experiencing homelessness toward next steps.



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. In the Change the Trend weekly meetings, we often receive information on programs and resources that could help our guests; for example, we heard details about how FedEx was hiring and passed that along to our voucher recipients.

Financial Summary

HAAT Force is a financially-lean organization. With the exception of a part-time Executive Director, we are a volunteer run organization. Our Board members are very active in HAAT Force operations, including our dedicated Voucher Program Coordinator, Dana Thompson.

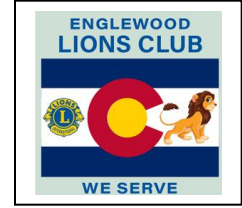
In January 2023, we were in a very difficult financial situation, due to an increase in homelessness, the relentlessly cold weather and reduced grant funding. This is despite your tremendous response to our Fall Fundraising Campaign. We put out a special donor appeal, and many individuals, churches, and the High Plains Region of the Episcopal Church **generously** came through for us so we could complete our severe weather season on budget.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE for every donation, no matter the amount, that came from your hearts!

In March we received two substantial donations from an individual donor and Colorado Access, which will be used to improve our operations and guest experience.

Sixty-eight percent of our income came from individuals and church partners this fiscal year; the rest came from grants and donations from other entities. In addition to our appreciated individual donors, we recognize our church partners – St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church and Columbine United Church.

We deeply appreciate generous grants and donations from the High Plains Region of the Episcopal Church, Colorado Access, Littleton Rotary, Englewood Lions Club and the Englewood Rotary. We also appreciate grants from the Quick Foundation, Whole Foods and Walmart.



Our Severe Weather operating expenses for the 2022-2023 fiscal year are projected to be \$79,463.44. In addition, we will be making an investment in computers and software of \$5250 (see below.)

Future Plans

While we have accomplished so much, there is always room for growth!

With our increased financial support during this fiscal year, we are moving to a HIPAA compliant and more efficient way to handle guest registrations and motel vouchers to greatly improve our guests' experience, while continuing to provide them with the dignity they deserve. We are implementing a computer-based system with database software to complete guest registrations and make motel room reservations. HAAT Force is also planning to arrange for additional meals catered to the health and dietary needs of our guests, along with gift cards for them to purchase food at local businesses.

We are planning to closely partner with Colorado Access to refer our guests to Colorado Access **Care Managers**.

In addition, with a grant from **Colorado Access**, we are planning a comprehensive program for people who are medically vulnerable, giving them a safe, healthy environment in support of their healing. An additional grant from the **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment** and a partnership with **Colorado Coalition for the Homeless** will extend similar support to people who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

Opportunities to Help!

We always need **volunteers** to help register guests and issue motel vouchers during severe weather!

Stay tuned for our annual Fall Fundraising Campaign activities. We very much welcome help with fundraising!

You can also donate hats, socks, gloves and hygiene items for our guests. ***We appreciate the generous donations of these items by individuals and the hygiene kit drive by St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church.***

Email info@haatforce.org to get connected.



You can always donate by going to www.haatforce.org or by mailing a check to HAAT Force, PO Box 22997, Denver, CO 80222.

Your donations will be used in a variety of ways:

- Motel vouchers - \$65 per night for a family or double occupancy
- Local bus passes to help guests get to and from the motels - \$6-\$12
- Gift cards to help our guests obtain food - \$25
- Cost of meals that meet specific dietary needs for guests
- General administration and salary expenses, such as insurance, annual tax filing, software and printing brochures, to keep our operations going.

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!

Wishing you peace and blessings,

Sienna McGrath, Executive Director

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