



2023-2024 Season Update and a Look Toward the Future

The 2023-2024 Severe Weather Season was an exciting year for HAAT Force! We issued **21% more vouchers and saw a 46% increase of unique individuals served** compared to the 2022-2023 season.

The demand for sheltering was so high last season that by March 1st of 2024, we were no longer able to register new individuals for vouchers, needing to focus on the needs of the current individuals we were serving.

Numbers for the 2023-2024 season:

- 335 vouchers issued
- 167 unique individuals served
- 72 men and 70 women
- 25 children served
- 60 dogs and 12 cats sheltered
- 135 unique households served
- 26 total nights of sheltering provided
- 17 nights of shelter provided to individual needing safe shelter to recover from an illness or injury (not on severe weather nights)
- 2 clients permanently housed!!

Testimonial from a HAAT Force Client:

“Being homeless has many challenges, but being disabled while homeless has even more challenges. It is a daily struggle to do the normal human functions like going to the bathroom, showering, etc. Additionally, it is a daily struggle to make sure that my health issues are taken care of. From filling my pill box to getting enough sleep, living in a tiny car with two other people is rough. ***I am so very grateful for HAAT Force*** because when we get a motel voucher, I know that at least for one night, I will have a bed to sleep in, a bathroom close, and a nutritious meal.”

Plans for 2024-2025 Season

The 2024-2025 season begins October 1st and runs through April 30th. ***This year promises new challenges as we move to a new location with ADA accessibility – 4300 S. Lincoln St., Englewood – and face an increasing need for sheltering.***

For many years Severe Weather Shelter Network (SWSN), a partner of HAAT Force, has provided a shelter option in the Western Arapahoe County area serving individuals who are able to shelter in a congregate shelter setting. SWSN recently announced they had to make the difficult decision to shut down the organization and will not be providing services for the upcoming severe weather season.

HAAT Force has worked extensively with SWSN and, as an organization, we are deeply saddened to see this organization, and the lifesaving work they do, cease to exist. We have always focused on sheltering the most at-risk people and those who are unable to be sheltered in congregate shelter settings, and will continue to prioritize sheltering those individuals, but **as resources allow, our goal will be to begin sheltering individuals formerly served by SWSN as well. We expect to see double to triple the need for sheltering individuals based on this decision** and we are working diligently with partner agencies and local governments to address this need and fill the gap in services left behind by the closure of SWSN.

THANK YOU!

In addition to our valuable donors, HAAT Force relies on volunteers to assist with vouchering, provide direction to clients, assist individuals we shelter with meals and provide directional oversight to the organization. During the last season, we had over 28 volunteers active with our organization. Two of our dedicated volunteers were individuals who received vouchers from us – it is very exciting to see them give back and provide invaluable support to others!

Volunteer Testimonial

“When I saw the request for volunteers in the HAAT Force flyer, I knew I had to sign up because I’ve expressed my appreciation verbally, but volunteering is another way to express how much I am thankful for how much HAAT Force has done for my family.” – HAAT Force client

Appreciation for Supporters and Partners

In addition to our wonderful volunteers, HAAT Force would like to thank the following supporters and partners: Break Bread, Movement 5280, SAFER, Integrated Family Community Services, Colorado Access (Foundation and Care Managers), High Plains Region of the Episcopal Church, Littleton Church of Christ Food Bank, Littleton Rotary Foundation, Englewood Lion’s Club, CDPHE, Whole Foods, Arapahoe County and the City of Littleton. Your support was vital to our ability to serve so many individuals and families!

How Can You Support HAAT Force?

The upcoming season provides lots of new challenges and excitement as we see HAAT Force grow and serve even more people than we initially anticipated. Would you consider partnering with us to provide lifesaving shelter and services to those who are most at risk? Here are some of our needs:

- Support a family with a season of shelter - \$2,400 will cover 30 nights for a family of 4.

- Support a family with food for a season of shelter - \$1,100 will cover 30 nights of meals for a family of 4.
- Support transportation to and from shelter for a family - \$600 will cover 30 nights worth of bus passes or gas money for a family of 4.
- Financial support in any amount is always needed and appreciated!
- Volunteer with us, many options and needs – email info@haatforce.org for more information.
- Provide professional services pro-bono to the organization – sometimes we can use a few minutes with a lawyer, HR expert, tax specialist or grant writer.

With your support, we will continue to be in solidarity with our neighbors who are unhoused!

With appreciation,
Sienna McGrath, Executive Director
HAAT Force Board of Directors