

## For Immediate Release

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### HOUSING LEADERS HONORED

#### 2010 Eagle Award Winners Announced at 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Housing Colorado NOW! Conference *Vail, Colorado*

Housing Colorado proudly honored the 2010 Eagle Award winners and People's Choice selection at their recent 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Housing Colorado NOW! Conference on October 14, 2010. Winners are competitively selected from a pool of nominees by an appointed committee of housing industry leaders. The outstanding achievements of this year's Eagle Award recipients demonstrate the drive, innovation, and collaboration needed to address Colorado's critical shortage of affordable housing options.

The 2010 Eagle Award winners recognize members of the housing community whose contributions reflect the wide-ranging housing needs in our communities from transitional and permanent housing for homeless individuals and families, counseling for homeowners facing foreclosure and affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for hard-working families. (Download Housing Colorado's recently released [Housing Update](#) to learn more about Colorado's rising housing needs.)

Established in 1990, the Eagle Award has come to represent one of the highest achievements within the Colorado housing community. This prestigious award celebrates the extraordinary accomplishments and outstanding leadership in housing and support services across the state. The award honors the individuals and organizations that soar to new heights in their work to ensure safe, decent housing for all Coloradans.

The winners of this year's Eagle Awards are:

#### **HomeAid Colorado (Organization Category)**

HomeAid Colorado is a statewide nonprofit that provides housing to temporary homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless. Since 2000, HomeAid Colorado has completed 31 new housing units for the homeless, two facility renovation projects and the creation of a new community garden for families. Currently, HomeAid Colorado has a project under construction that will serve temporarily homeless families who are homeless for the first time.

*"We are so proud of this award. It shows that the good charitable work of our in kind home building industry partners has been recognized by the greater affordable housing community. We thank Housing Colorado for this meaningful award and look forward to completing many more projects to help give the transitionally homeless a second chance." Laura Brayman, Executive Director, HomeAid Colorado*

#### **Colorado Foreclosure Hotline**

The Colorado Foreclosure Hotline was established in 2006 as a means of providing easy access for Colorado homeowners to foreclosure prevention services. The Hotline has kept open the door to homeownership for over 19,000 families. Reaching a positive resolution in the loss mitigation process with

the homeowner is also a positive resolution for the lender, the homeowners' community and the children living in the home.

*"To be selected for the Eagle Award among so many amazing and important programs is beyond words. The honor is reflective of the hard work and passion of many individuals, government agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations in Colorado committed to the preservation of homeownership for thousands of struggling Colorado families. Most importantly, as a first of its kind and most successful Foreclosure Hotline in the nation, our program is especially proud of the more than 80 HUD-approved housing counselors that comprise our robust network and who have helped more than 25,000 homeowners understand their options, negotiate solutions, and find the best resolution for their particular circumstances. Thank you and congratulations to all Eagle Award recipients!" Stephanie Riggi, Manager, Colorado Foreclosure Hotline*

### **John Parvensky, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (Individual Category / 2010 People's Choice Award)**

John Parvensky, President and CEO of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless since 1986, has spearheaded the development of over 1,400 affordable housing units in the Denver Metropolitan area. John is a renowned affordable housing advocate. He has been active in creation of ground-breaking federal legislation and model programs in the arena of homeless prevention and assistance.

*Quote Pending*

### **Thistle Communities (Organization Category)**

Thistle Communities provides permanently affordable rental and ownership homes for working families, seniors and people with disabilities. Thistle's Home Ownership Program provides homebuyer education and counseling to 900 people per year. Thistle also provides quality apartments for working families. Thistle owns and manages a total of 784 permanently affordable rental homes at 15 sites in Boulder, Longmont and Northglenn.

*"We were nominated for the Eagle Award by Edwina Salazar of the OUR Center in Longmont; the nomination focused on Thistle's long history of providing affordable housing, particularly in partnership with other agencies to help some of the more disadvantaged members of the community. Because the nomination came from one of our Longmont partners, it is particularly gratifying and indicative of the respect our peers and colleagues have for us. The award is for all our work in Boulder, Longmont and Northglenn. The biggest recognition should go to our staff, because it really is reflective of their hard work, fairness and consistency over the last few years." Mary Roosevelt, CEO, Thistle Communities*

Housing Colorado is a statewide, multi-sector organization of over 6,000 professionals dedicated to expanding quality affordable housing choices for Coloradans through our education and advocacy efforts. Housing Colorado works to shift the public perception and the policy environment while providing tools and knowledge to help meet the challenges of affordable housing in Colorado. Through the combined efforts of our growing network, we work to ensure that every individual and family has access to decent, safe and affordable housing in a healthy and sustainable community.

High resolution photos are available upon request, contact [Kirsten@housingcolorado.org](mailto:Kirsten@housingcolorado.org).



*2010 Eagle Award Winner, HomeAid Colorado*



*2010 Eagle Award Winner, Colorado Foreclosure Hotline*



*2010 Eagle Award Winner and People's Choice Award Winner, John Parvensky, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless*



*2010 Eagle Award Winner, Thistle Communities*



*2010 Eagle Award Nominees and Winners*