

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 16-1152

In Recognition of 2016 National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week in the Denver Metro Area

WHEREAS, every person deserves to live without worrying whether they'll have food on their plate or a roof over their head; and

WHEREAS, the January 2016 Point in Time Survey found 2,036 households with children were homeless; 183 unaccompanied youth were homeless, and 402 of the respondent households were newly homeless; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in five American kids live in households without consistent access to adequate food; and

WHEREAS, the week before Thanksgiving – a time when many organizations provide meals to the homeless; is a fitting time to remember the many children, families, senior citizens, veterans and others in the City and County of Denver lack food or a safe, stable place to call home preventing them from reaching their full potential; and

WHEREAS, over the last 12 years, the City and County of Denver has worked to address hunger and homelessness through the work of Denver Human Services, Denver's Road Home, and the recent creation of Denver's Office of Behavioral Health and the Office of Drug Strategies; through collaborateion with dozens of local service providers to find lasting solutions for individuals and families experiencing homelessness and hunger; and

WHEREAS, these collaborations have resulted in the opening of the Lawrence Street Community Center; development of a Solution Center that will serve mental health and basic needs of homeless individuals, and over 3,000 residential units were built by local organizations to provide housing to those in need; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 Hunger and Homelessness week is focused on specific steps that individuals and local governments can take to prevent Coloradans from experiencing homelessness and hunger.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. We recognize and thank all the local business who collaborate with the City and non-profit service providers to meet the needs in our community. A couple examples include the efforts of DOMO Restaurant which serves hundreds of hot meals to the homeless every month, Denver Rescue Mission who provides daily meals at their Lawrence Street Shelter, and ALSCO for recently donating 8,000 pairs of new men's pants to Mile High Behavioral Healthcare for distribution to local homeless providers.

Section 2. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the movement to eradicate hunger and homelessness in our community by working with one of the many organizations that are providing for the well-being of their clients through delivering services. Those organizations include Mile High Behavioral Healthcare, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Volunteers of America, Urban Peak, Denver Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Samaritan House, Mental Health Center of Denver, Fr. Woody Haven of Hope and numerous religious and non-profit organizations.

Section 3. We ask that all residents speak up and lend a hand so that Denver is a community where everyone has a safe place to call home and enough healthy food to eat.

Section 4. November 13-19, 2016, is declared as Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week.

Section 5. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Robert Dorshimer Mile High Behavioral Health Care; Alan Campbell, ALSCO; Colorado Rockies and James Gillespie.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 14, 2016

PRESIDENT