

United Way a true benefit to community

OCTOBER 5, 2009

The Homelessness Prevention Initiative is proud to be a United Way of Larimer County partner agency. Our agency would not be here to help hundreds of households and thousands of local individuals retain their homes without United Way of Larimer County.

A 2001 comprehensive rental assistance needs assessment identified a gap in available service leaving those most vulnerable to homelessness through evictions without viable rental assistance options. HPI was established as a completely volunteer-driven effort to close this gap. It soon became clear that the demand for service was more than a volunteer effort could satisfy. United Way of Larimer County agreed to incubate HPI, and we are now a standalone nonprofit agency. To date, HPI has assisted 4,200 families representing more than 7,900 children, allowing them to retain their homes and avoid the traumatic disruption to their lives a period of homelessness has been shown to cause.

The history of our program of prevention shows the power of United Way in action. United Way of Larimer County continues to strengthen our community safety net, while also trying to make systemic changes that will address the causes of poverty through the Pathways Past Poverty initiative. Please continue to support United Way of Larimer County's annual fundraising campaign so it can support our community. This year, especially, Fort Collins needs the collective power United Way of Larimer County offers to get local people through the hard times.

Sue Beck-Ferkiss,

executive director,

Homelessness Prevention Initiative