

Contact: Donna Webb  
ACS Community LIFT  
Phone: (303) 935-7389  
Fax: (303) 935-3397  
Cell: (805) 796-7186  
dwebb@acslift.org

5045 West First Avenue  
Denver, CO 80219  
www.acslift.org



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## PRESS RELEASE

### ACS Community LIFT Client Base to Grow Significantly

*Increasing the need for all forms of support from the community.*

Denver, CO, September 6, 2011: ACS Community LIFT, [www.ACSLIFT.org](http://www.ACSLIFT.org), is preparing for a projected onslaught of additional clients to add to the already 70,000-plus clients they serve annually at the Denver facility at 5045 West First Avenue.

The reason for the newly expanded client base is two-fold. First, the prolonged recession has forced more people than ever to seek aid from all of the area human service agencies. And second, because the Denver-area Catholic Charities - one of the largest support networks in the nation - closed its last two satellite emergency assistance centers in metro Denver on September 1, ending food-bank and clothing services to "focus their shrinking resources on keeping people in their homes," according to Catholic Charities president Jonathan Reyes. "With an estimated drop of more than \$1 million in revenues over last year, we're making strategic changes in services and in how they are delivered. For every person or family we help, there are a dozen more that we must turn away because we lack the resources."

The social services giant has a staff of 260 and a \$19 million 2010 budget (more than \$30 million when two housing affiliates were added). It provided services to more than 80,000 people last year, according to its annual report. Catholic Charities of Denver will still be offering services at its headquarters facility at 4045 Pecos Street.

Now those people must go elsewhere for the crucial support that helps them survive with little or no income or support. In 2010, ACS Community LIFT reached a client base of over 70,000 people with a budget just a fraction of what the Catholic Charities reported the same year.

ACS Community LIFT is able to function on a much lower budget due to the wealth of volunteers who help staff the facility and due to the donations of businesses, hospitals, medical staff, schools, churches and individuals throughout the year.

Nevertheless, with the expectation of an additional client base finding their door, comes the need for additional support in all forms. “Financial help is always needed to maintain our level of service to our clients,” says Michael Bright, CEO of ACS Community LIFT. “But, we also need donations in the form of gifts-in-kind, personal care as well as canned food items, fresh produce, pet food, clothing, volunteers, and above all – financial aid to cover increased expenses - as we meet the needs of so many, not just in metro Denver, but in other areas of Colorado as well.”

ACS Community LIFT may not be what you think it is if you have not had the privilege of visiting the facility. In 2010, over 70,000 were served either directly at the facility at 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Sheridan in Denver or at the medical CareVan that operates all over the Denver basin from Westminster to Castle Rock. Thanks to the donated services from medical professionals and by collaborating with the Rocky Mountain Adventist hospitals and Kaiser Permanente, ACS Community LIFT was able to deliver more than \$2.5 million worth of free medical services for less than \$187,000.

In addition to the medical services, ACS Community LIFT has a comprehensive family care program that addresses the most basic of human needs for those in need by offering programs that assist people in breaking the cycle of poverty that is often generational. By offering food, emergency clothing, utility assistance, emergency shelter, job placement, and domestic violence assistance, their quest is to build a platform of stability for families in crisis.

Adventist Community Services nationwide is known for the work done in disaster situations around the country. ACS Community LIFT participates with the national ACS Disaster Response teams, but most specifically meets the needs here at home in Colorado. The team is often on the front line of support to the American Red Cross and other first responders when natural disasters strike aiding in rescue and recovery efforts. By organizing volunteers, they team up with the federal, state and city organizations to provide emergency human service for the victims and the surrounding communities.

For more information on how you can help ACS Community LIFT meet the ever-increasing demands expected in the coming months, please call (303) 935-7389 or visit [www.acslift.org](http://www.acslift.org).