



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Parent Pathways Sees Record Participation in 2009 Holiday Helping Hands Projects

*Despite Recession, Individuals, Groups and Corporations Come Through for Teen Parents and Their Children*

DENVER – Dec. 23, 2009 –

Supporters of Parent Pathways opened their hearts and wallets and provided a record amount of gifts, food baskets and other donations to the agency's Holiday Helping Hands campaign this season, enabling the nonprofit that helps teen parents raise healthy families to give out 106 Thanksgiving baskets, 64 holiday gift and food baskets, and well over 900 presents.

"The incredible community response to our Holiday Helping Hands Project was amazing," said Marcia Jamison, Parent Pathways' Volunteer & Events Manager. "With all the negative news about the economy, this year's project was our most successful one yet, which is a credit to the generous people of Colorado!"

"Picking up and delivering gifts from many local companies was so much fun," said Soni Walker of Graebel Movers in Denver, which picked up gifts from donors and delivered them to Parent Pathways' warehouse. "Count me in for next year!"

Here's a breakdown of Holiday Helping Hands participation:

**Thanksgiving Baskets** -- Families, companies or community groups provide all the fixings of a Thanksgiving meal for a young family served by Parent Pathways.

- Parent Pathways gave out Thanksgiving meals to 63 teen families, compared to 42 in 2008.
- In addition, Wal-Mart distributed baskets and turkeys to 43 more families at Epworth United Methodist Church.
- The Thanksgiving Baskets Project's other 42 donors included Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Denver, BNY, Mellon, Zachry Engineering, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.; the McCormick Family, Farmers Insurance, Sts. Peter and Paul School, and a number of individuals and groups of families and friends from throughout metro Denver.
- Forty-seven community volunteers helped with packing and distributing baskets.

**Sponsor-a-Family** -- Groups provide a holiday meal and gifts for an entire family.

- Parent Pathways received baskets of food and gifts for 54 young families.
- Lockheed Martin sponsored 10 more families, including providing food from King Soopers supermarkets.

- Other sponsors included Altitude Wolf's Den/Best Buy, University Park United Methodist Church, Adoption Alliance, Bank of the West, Anthem, the Wagner Family, Bighorn Wealth Management, Fast Enterprises, Direct TV, Girl Scout Troop 3521, Zachry Engineering, Yanari Watson McGaughey, PC; CGI, Cherry Creek Investment Club, Brunick Family Foundation, the Mullen Family, Rothstein Kass, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Fast Enterprises, Intrawest Shared Services, Inc.; Lillis Foundation, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.; the McCormick family, and the Vrabel Family (PCL Construction).

**Giving Tree** -- Groups set up a "tree" in a public space and collect gifts listed on ornaments for the children of Parent Pathways' young parents.

- Individual and corporate donors fulfilled more than 900 ornaments with children's wishes, so that every Florence Crittenton School student received diapers, clothing and toys for her family.
- Sponsors included Wellborn, Sullivan, Meek and Tooley, Pentax Imaging, ATA Services, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Zachry Engineering, Merrill Lynch, Acquilano Leslie, Inc., Omni Institute, Jacobs Chase, DPS Human Resources, Stadium Management Co., SteinMart, DPS Department of Technical Services, Franklin Lofts, Click Bank, Fantastic Sam's, Rotary, Anthem, Gates Corporation, Janus, Colorado Health Institute and SteinMart.
- Graebel Movers delivered donors' gifts to Parent Pathways' warehouse.
- An anonymous donor donated 120 \$25 Wal-Mart gift certificates, and two individual donors created holiday goody bags for Florence Crittenton School students.

**Other** -- In addition to the Holiday Helping Hands projects, the Colorado Academy sponsored a party for 40 family members of the Florence Crittenton School, which included gifts for children and a generous feast. Shell Oil provided 10 volunteers to help sort incoming gifts. Another 23 community volunteers participated in the annual Gift Wrapping Party.

### **About Parent Pathways**

Parent Pathways is a Denver-based non-profit that empowers struggling teen families to be productive members of the community. Using a holistic and proven approach, Parent Pathways offers a spectrum of wraparound services for the entire teen family, including education, health/wellness services, career guidance and parenting training for pregnant and parenting teen mothers at the Florence Crittenton School; early childhood education for their babies and toddlers at the Qualistar-rated Early Learning Center; and counseling, education and parenting support for teen fathers through the Young Fathers Program. Learn more at [www.parentpathways.org](http://www.parentpathways.org).

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