



homelessness .....  
**prevention**  
..... initiative

# Catching Families Before They Fall

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## Homelessness Prevention Fact Sheet

**What we do:** The Homelessness Prevention Initiative (HPI) provides **emergency rental assistance** to low-income families and disabled adults in the Fort Collins area facing eviction due to a temporary financial crisis. HPI also provides **referrals to relevant local resources** and when needed, mediation between residents and property owners.

### Community impact:

- HPI is a local charity that serves the Poudre School District area.
- HPI's program of **prevention** is designed to keep people in their homes before they become homeless.
- HPI serves the poorest of the working poor. Many of our clients do not qualify for other rental assistance ironically because they do not have enough income. HPI was created to fill this gap in service.
- Over 900 local households were assisted last year. Over **5,500** households have been helped in the nine years of the program's life. This represents more than **10,000** children who have been assisted by our program of prevention.
- Average cost of prevention is only **\$276** per household (2010), compared with the cost of homelessness services - **\$5,000** or more per household. \* The 5,500 households helped by HPI represent a savings of over **\$24 million** to the community. HPI is a cost effective investment in the well-being of our community.  
  
\* Cost to the community of homeless services includes time spent in a shelter, emergency room and hospital visits, lost employment, agency services, food baskets and the costs to secure new housing. These services can total \$5,000 or more per household.
- HPI's collaborative program relies on the support of over 30 faith congregations, 12 foundations, our City and County, service groups and more than 60 volunteers.

**The goal:** To prevent members of our community from losing their homes. The need continues to grow as the costs of living rise and more people suffer job loss or cutbacks in hours.

### Current Conditions:

- Local vacancy rates at a 10 year low making eviction even more likely to lead to homelessness. The median rent amount increased this year to \$873.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> marks the opening of our 6th intake center to help meet the high demand for services.
- We are serving record numbers of households with record amounts of rental assistance.
- HPI Education Extra option currently available and serving several clients every week.