

For Immediate Release:

March 12, 2009

Contact:

Kate Quillin
HPI Intern/SWA member
719-271-3470
kquillin@rams.colostate.edu

PRESS RELEASE

MORE THAN 100 CSU STUDENTS WILL SLEEP ON THE PLAZA FOR “SLEEP IN SOMEONE ELSE’S BOX,” AN EVENT TO RAISE SUPPORT FOR THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY

Students will come together on Friday, March 27 to sleep out on CSU’s Plaza for the **first** “Sleep in Someone Else’s Box” event.

Social Work in Action, a CSU student organization, is sponsoring the first CSU sleep-out for homelessness awareness and prevention on **Friday, March 27** on the CSU Plaza. Prior to the event, students are encouraged to collect pledges that will support Homelessness Prevention Initiative’s emergency rental assistance program and donations of camping equipment to Homeless Gear, whose mission is to collect unwanted outdoor gear (packs, sleeping bags, coats, boots, blankets, etc) and distribute those items to our area’s homeless.

“Because homelessness has lifelong consequences for youth, and because a dollar spent on prevention saves \$20 in community-funded homeless services, preventing homelessness before it occurs is in everyone’s best interest,” said Sue Beck-Ferkiss, HPI executive director.

Social Work in Action is hoping to **raise \$4,900** and is expecting more than 100 students to attend the sleep-out. This will assist at least 20 families. They are also hoping to collect sleeping bags, back packs, tents, and other camping equipment for Homeless Gear.

Tax-deductible donations may also be made to the Homeless Gear Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. Visit www.CommunityFoundationNC.org and click on Donors > Donate to an Existing Fund, and write the fund name in the Comment field. Donations to Homelessness Prevention can be made at www.homelessnessprevention.net, click on Donate Now for Homelessness Prevention.

“Sleep in Someone Else’s Box” will kick off with a box-decorating contest from noon to 4 p.m., and the sleep-out will last from 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. During the evening, a local documentary on poverty made by Center for Justice Peace and Environment and the Citywide Anti-Poverty Action Coalition, *The Other Side of Suburbia*, will be projected. Also, Sister Mary Alice Murphy, dedicated advocate for the homeless and impoverished in Fort Collins, will speak at 7:30 p.m.

For additional information on Homelessness Prevention Initiative, visit www.homelessnessprevention.net or for more information on Homeless Gear please visit www.HomelessGear.com.



Photo taken by Cassie Rosch

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