

8755 West 14th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215

Jeffco Action Center, Inc.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jeffco Action Center

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New West Physicians Donates \$100k to Jeffco Action Center

LAKESWOOD, CO: When many corporations are stating they can't afford to give to non-profits this year, New West Physicians says they can't afford not to with the current economic climate affecting thousands of Jefferson County residents. They have decided to take action by donating \$100,000 to Jeffco Action Center.

"The exemplary services offered by Jeffco Action Center needs to be recognized and supported by the businesses in Jefferson County," said Ruth Benton, CEO of New West Physicians. "New West Physicians has enjoyed doing business since 1994 in the county and therefore our Board of Directors has chosen this year to support Jeffco Action Center with this charitable contribution."

Jeffco Action Center provides an immediate response to basic human needs and promotes pathways to self-sufficiency through intervention, prevention and connection to essential services. Each day, hundreds of Jefferson County residents receive assistance at the Action Center with food, clothing, homeless shelter, medical and utility assistance.

New West Physicians is a primary care group practice and medical management company consisting of 48 physicians and 10 mid-level practitioners practicing at 13 office locations throughout the Denver metro area.

"Many of us have been volunteering in the Estes Street Clinic (a Jeffco Action Center partner located next door) and this is a real tangible way that we can express the giftedness that we have, appreciation for being part of the community and privilege to work in it," said New West Physicians Board Chair Thomas Jeffers, M.D.

This tremendous gift from the New West Physicians is timely for the Action Center which has seen a demand for its services set new daily records beginning the week before Thanksgiving. The number of daily households served has surged to above 300 at times with a standing room only lobby. The month of November was especially busy with a 27 percent increase in services over Nov. 2008. In fact for the past year and a half, the Action Center has had double-digit growth in the monthly number of services.

"I don't think I have ever given a family a bag of groceries and seen them cry," said Roger Mattson, Jeffco Action Center Vice President. "I delivered groceries in High School and when you carried them out

"Where Action Matters!"



sometimes you got a 'thanks' and sometimes you got a quarter. Here when you hand a bag of groceries you get tears of thanks, it is unbelievable that important these things are to these people at this time. On behalf of the board, it is just outstanding in the amount of (this donation which) is large and needed."

Fueling this growth has been a combination of record foreclosures, a 7.6 percent Jefferson County unemployment rate this spring which is 22-year high. Also, the need for one-time seasonal purchases like Thanksgiving food or holiday gifts that stretch families budgets and cause them to make the difficult decision between paying rent or filling this need.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of Jeffco Action Center, we are extremely gratefully to New West Physicians for this incredible gesture of faith in our work and mission," said Mag Strittmater, Jeffco Action Center Executive Director. "This gift comes at a time when requests for our services is at an all-time high and we anticipate the demand will continue to grow. New West Physicians is a remarkable community corporate partner to acknowledge and respond to our neighbors in need."

At the same time donations have struggled to keep up with demand. This trend of higher demand for services and lower corporate donations is part of a larger trend according to the Giving USA. A recently completed survey found "For 2008 ... the business world reduced contributions 8 percent after adjusting for inflation."

Corporate Philanthropy has been largely affected by the numerous bailouts, sell-offs, and weak sales reports. This has taken a toll on many non-profits like Jeffco Action Center that rely on corporate contributions to meet the community's needs. Without financial support, many of the services that the Action Center offers would be cut back thereby putting more strain on limited resources that struggling families and individuals need.

Through this generous contribution by New West Physicians, Jeffco Action Center will continue to be the place where action matters.

ABOUT NEW WEST PHYSICIANS

New West Physicians is a primary care group practice and medical management company consisting of forty-eight physicians and ten mid-level practitioners practicing at thirteen office locations throughout the Denver metro area. Within this group of professionals, 41 are in Family Practice and 17 practice Internal Medicine. Combined, they serve 200,000 registered patients, 35,000 of whom participate in HMO health plans.

ABOUT JEFFCO ACTION CENTER

Jeffco Action Center, a human-services non-profit, provides an immediate response to basic human needs and promotes pathways to self-sufficiency through intervention, prevention and connection to essential services. More than 25,000 Jefferson County residents receive assistance annually at the Action Center with food, clothing, homeless shelter, medical and utility assistance. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, the Action Center gives help, provides hope and builds dignity while breaking the cycle of poverty. For more information and to make donations please contact Joe Haines at 303-237-7704 or visit us at www.jeffcoac.org.

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