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**For release: October 25, 2006**

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## Believing in our Forgotten Youth

**Aurora, Colo.** Celebrating its new youth resource center, A/D Youth in the Works! provides “forgotten” youth – school dropouts, homeless or foster children, ex-offenders, and pregnant or parenting youth ages 16 -21 – a safe and friendly environment for education, training and employment and an opportunity to build a brighter future.

The public is invited to attend the new Youth Resource Center Open House on Thursday, Nov. 2, from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the A/D Works Center located at 14980 E. Alameda Drive, Aurora, CO 80012. There will be food, giveaways and activities.

“These youth have a tremendous amount of potential and when they apply themselves, it shows,” said Alisha Romero, Youth Case Aide at A/D Youth in the Works! “When they participate in our program, they learn new skills, utilize skills they already have (even ones they don’t realize they have) and apply them to their daily life.”

The new youth resource room offers youth a place to call their own, where they can explore careers, take classes on budgeting, financial aid, and job readiness topics including interviewing, application writing, job searching, and resume building. They will also be able to search for jobs and attend mini job fairs. The addition of seven new computers provide participants a variety of career exploration and basic skills programs. Participants can use the resource library and assistive technology for youth with disabilities.

“The staff are curious and they make things happen. They work hard for us,” said Juan Castillo, a participant in the Youth in the Works! In addition to the dedicated staff, A/D Youth in the Works! offers a unique onsite GED and assessment center which minimizes the need for youth to deal with transportation issues. Youth also receive cash incentives for completing certain courses, getting good grades, and job retention. The program is federally funded through the Workforce Investment Act and a Youth Transitions grant and currently serves over 1,000 youth. For more information call Kelly McDougal at 303-636-1252.

Disclaimer: Funded under a grant/contract supported by the Office of Disability Employment Policy of the U.S. department of Labor, grant/contract #E-9-4-3-0126. The opinions contained in this publication are those of the grantee/contractor and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Labor.

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