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## **New haven for homeless**

### ***Arapahoe County helps fund renovations of new Comitis Crisis Center***

**Aurora, Colo.** --- The newly refurbished Comitis Crisis Center will soon be providing a roof over the heads of homeless thanks to help of local communities. Last week the Center hosted a Preview Celebration to recognize the significant contributions of Arapahoe County, Centennial and Aurora, among other organizations, for their support in the renovation of the Fitzsimons facility.

"We were excited to find a way to support a program that helps the homeless in our community," said Karinne Wiebold, Arapahoe County Community Development Administrator. "The City of Centennial provided approximately \$86,000 to install a fire sprinkler system, and Arapahoe County provided an additional \$50,000 to complete the job."

The City of Aurora generously contributed to the project as well, providing more than \$1 million in rehab support.

The Comitis Crisis Center provides emergency housing, counseling, food, clothing and necessities to anyone in need. The Center offers educational programs and a 24-hour crisis line to help people contemplating suicide, parents concerned for their children, and many other difficult situations.

When the Fitzsimons base closed in the 1990s, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act mandated that some of the now surplus federal land be designated to serve the homeless population. As a result, the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority granted Comitis an old Army barracks - the home of their new facility. The new building is four times the size of their previous location at 9840 E. 17<sup>th</sup> St. in Aurora, enabling Comitis to serve more clients. Clients will be welcomed in a phased transition starting late May/early June.

Arapahoe County and City of Centennial funding was made possible by federal Community Development Block Grants and HOME funds.

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