HAAT Force, South Metro (Homelessness Awareness/Action Task Force) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization focused on addressing homelessness in the tri-cities area of Arapahoe County Colorado (Littleton, Englewood, Sheridan) and south eastern Jefferson County. Our main focus is to provide motel vouchers for families with children and disabled adults during the winter/severe weather season.

YEAR END SUMMARY 2019/2020 SEASON

On behalf of the Board of Directors of HAAT Force, please accept our appreciation for all you have given in the past year to serve people experiencing homelessness in the south metro area. This has been a season like no other.

During the 2019-2020 winter season, from October 1, 2019 to March 2020 HAAT Force provided motel vouchers on severe weather nights for families with children, disabled adults, people with pets … people who cannot be otherwise easily sheltered in the Denver metro area. Our last severe weather night was March 19, 2020. In this warmer than usual winter season, HAAT Force served 104 families with children, disabled adults, and their pets: (35men, 35 women, 34 children, 9 dogs and 1 cat). Often these pets are the only living creatures to offer love to our homeless neighbors. We continue to provide bus passes to enable our clients to reach the motel sites, give grocery gift certificates when possible and at Christmas time again partnered with St. Gabriel the Archangel Episcopal Church to provide Christmas gifts for all the families, single adults, children and even the pets that we serve. As you can see in the attached photos, they were thrilled.
In March 2020 The COVID 19 crisis led to a shelter in place order from Colorado’s Governor Polis. HAAT Force decided to do as much as we could for as long as we could during this crisis. With the generous support of individual donors, the support of Change the Trend partnering organizations, the Littleton Rotary, Colorado Access and the City of Englewood HAAT Force was not only able to continuously shelter 33 people from Mid-March to Mid-May 2020 but the people we sheltered gained access to meals delivered daily to the motels, access to medical care and support services from dedicated Change the Trend partners such as Break-Bread, Doctors Care, Cafè 180, Movement 5280 and others. By May 15th, HAAT Force ended the 2019/2020 season having provided a grand total of 2,216 nights of shelter.

As it has become apparent that the COVID-19 crisis will continue into the foreseeable future, HAAT Force has joined a sub-committee of Change the Trend, led by our partnering organization, the Severe Weather Shelter Network to plan how to serve and shelter people experiencing homelessness and keep our volunteers healthy and safe in the up-coming severe weather season. We know we cannot do business as usual. Stride Community Health Centers, Tri-County Health Dept. and Doctors care have all joined this planning effort to offer technical assistance and medical support. As the planning continues we are hopeful that sheltering can continue with more support services than we have ever been able to offer before. We hope to add medical motel vouchers to our menu of services – allowing people who may test positive for COVID or are waiting for test results, experiencing other contagious illness, or recovering from a hospital stay/surgery to have a safe place to recover while receiving medical support services.

HAAT Force continues to partner with the Severe Weather Shelter Network which provides shelter for single adults in several south metro area churches. We share a data base to prevent duplication of services. We continue our strong relationship with Giving Heart Day Shelter in Englewood/issuing motel vouchers from our office at that site: 4358 S. Broadway, Englewood Co 80113.

In these uncertain times, strengthening collaboration is essential. Through Change the Trend we have connected with numerous non-profits, faith based organizations, City Government, Arapahoe County Human Services and Community Services departments and civic organizations such as the Littleton Rotary Club all working together to continue existing services and develop more lasting housing alternatives for people experiencing homelessness in the south metro/Tri-Cities area. We plan to continue our existing partnerships and strengthen collaboration
toward permanent housing solutions and supportive housing in the south metro area.

We Thank you again for supporting HAAT Force this past season. We continue to rely on the generous support of our faith based organizations and individual donors. We hope to see you next fall (we plan a virtual fundraiser in October) and we will be in touch with information about volunteer opportunities. Our hotline number remains 720-483-7864. We have changed our Logo and updated our website: HAATforce.org, and can be reached via email at info@haatforce.org.

Again ..THANK YOU!

HAAT Force South Metro,
Board of Directors