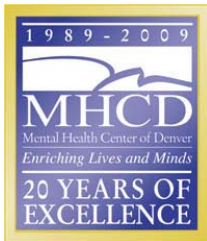


For immediate release

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## The Mental Health Center of Denver Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*May 1st declared Mental Health Center of Denver Day by Mayor Hickenlooper*

**Denver, Colorado May 12, 2009.** The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) kicked off Mental Health Month with a special celebration of the organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Governor's mansion Thursday, May 7, 2009.

Colorado's First Lady Jeannie Ritter and many friends and founders of MHCD gathered to witness Nancy Severson, Denver Department of Environmental Health manager and MHCD board member, present Dr. Carl Clark, MHCD Chief Executive Officer, with an official proclamation on behalf of Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper declaring **May 1st Mental Health Center of Denver Day**.

Two decades ago four mental health centers serving different areas of Denver came together to form MHCD. Mayor Federico Peña issued an executive order that created a private, not-for-profit (501(c)(3) corporation which became operational July 1, 1989 as Denver's mental health authority.

In the last 20 years, MHCD has evolved into a community mental health center of the highest quality. An organization that is recognized nationally as a center of excellence and offers Denver residents a network of comprehensive care and services designed to help people recover from their mental illness and go on to live healthier, happier and more productive lives.

*"What a special honor to have our own official day during mental health month,"* says Dr. Carl Clark, CEO of MHCD. *"We all grew up somewhere and MHCD grew up here in Denver. We owe the success of the last 20 years to the dedicated supporters, volunteers and community leaders who believed that MHCD could and would develop into an organization our community can be proud of. We believe in recovery and the potential of the consumers we serve."*

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The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) has provided extensive and accessible mental healthcare and substance abuse treatment, housing, education and employment services to the citizens of the City and County of Denver since 1989.

MHCD is widely recognized as the national center of excellence in community mental healthcare and recovery-focused treatment.

MHCD is a private, 501(c)(3) organization. A skilled staff of 500 mental health professionals provides treatment to over 11,500 individuals at 37 locations and in 16 Denver public schools, resulting in quality mental healthcare for an additional 900 students and their families. MHCD has 95 professional affiliations with national and local organizations, including programs that serve Denver's homeless and those involved with the criminal justice system.

The main office of the Mental Health Center of Denver is located at 4141 E. Dickenson Place, Denver, Colorado 80222 or 303-504-6500. For more information contact Kaylynn Dougall at 303-504-6555 or [kaylynn.dougall@mhcd.org](mailto:kaylynn.dougall@mhcd.org) or Theresa Baiotto at 303-504-6655 or [theresa.baiotto@mhcd.org](mailto:theresa.baiotto@mhcd.org)

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