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For release: October 20, 2003

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Drop-in childcare services open in Arapahoe County facility

The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners and CentrePoint Plaza Drop-In Childcare Services will celebrate the grand opening of drop-in childcare services at the county facility in Aurora. Arapahoe CentrePoint Plaza is home to the Department of Human Services, Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, and the County Assessor's Office.

When: Thursday, October 23, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Arapahoe CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Dr., Aurora

How: Cake, magic, playground equipment and fun give-aways!

Almost 1,000 people pass through Arapahoe CentrePoint Plaza every day, a majority of them with small children in tow. The drop-in center provides a safe, fun place for children ages 12 months to 6 years to pass the time while their parents take care of whatever business brought them to the facility. Children may stay at the center for up to four hours. They participate in arts and crafts activities, climb on outdoor playground equipment, and enjoy nutritious snacks. Their parents must stay in the building the entire time and are given a pager in case they are needed.

"It is not unusual for someone to be in the building for a number of hours. They might need to attend an hour-long food stamp orientation or a two-hour resume writing workshop," said Commissioner Debra Vickery, chair of the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners. "The benefit of the center is that it gives parents the time needed to complete their business without having to worry about keeping their children occupied. That makes it much easier, and less stressful, for parents to accomplish what they need to do while they are in the building."

The CentrePoint Plaza Drop-in Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The services are available free of charge and parents must remain in the building, completing county business, for the duration of the time their children are at the center.

The center is sponsored by Club 4 Kids, Denver's original hourly drop-in childcare center. Club 4 Kids has been serving children and families in the community for more than 10 years, and was recently voted "Best of the Best" child care center in Highlands Ranch by the Highlands Ranch Herald readers, and also "Best of the Best" in a Centennial reader's poll.