



## News Release

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### Media Advisory

#### **Special delivery: County Commissioners say thanks to foster and adoptive families with hand-delivered gift bags.**

On Thursday, Arapahoe County Commissioners Susan Beckman, Lynn Myers and Marie Mackenzie will hand-deliver gift bags to County foster and adoptive parents as a ‘thank you’ for their commitment to caring for children who are victims of abuse and neglect. The deliveries are part of an internal event hosted by Arapahoe County Human Services to educate employees about the its *Embrace a Life* foster and adoption programs—and to appreciate foster and adoptive parents during National Foster Care Month (May). There are currently approximately 600 foster and adoptive parents in Arapahoe County; almost 100 children still need foster or adoptive care.

“This event will inform our current parents and employees about our need for more foster and adoptive homes, and encourage them to talk to potential parents about our programs,” said Carla Finch, Children and Family Services Division Manager. “Our parents and employees are valuable advocates on the benefits of fostering or adopting a child, and a great resource to get the message out that anyone interested in caring for a child who is a victim of abuse or neglect should contact us.”

The County hosts free orientations on the first Tuesday of every month for anyone interested in becoming a foster or adoptive parent. Sessions start at 5:45 p.m. and are held at CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Dr., Aurora: Human Services staff are on hand to answer frequently asked questions including the costs of parenting, how to qualify and apply, and what support and resources are available to foster and adoptive parents. For more information, contact 303-636-1KID.

There are two main photo and video opportunities available for media covering this event: a schedule of the morning’s events is listed below. For more information contact Katrina Seymour at 303-636-1945:

**HUMAN SERVICES ‘it’ EVENT**

**When:** 10 a.m. – noon

**Where:** Littleton Rooms, CentrePoint Plaza, 14980 E. Alameda Dr., Aurora

Carla Finch, Children and Family Services Division Manager, will host an internal event for more than a hundred Human Services employees explaining what ‘it’ is, and how employees can help increase awareness about the County’s foster and adoption programs, including delivering gift bags to current foster and adoptive families to encourage potential parent referrals.

**PARENT APPRECIATION GIFT DELIVERIES**

**When:** 11:00 a.m. – noon

**Where:** Selected family homes in Arapahoe County

Comissioners Beckman, Myers and Mackenzie will depart from CentrePoint Plaza to hand-deliver gift bags to current County foster and adoptive parents. To accompany the Commissioners, or for more information on the delivery itinerary, contact Katrina Seymour at 303-636-1945.

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