



## **MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CONGRESSMAN JARED POLIS VISITS FAMILY TREE GEMINI OUTREACH**

**Boulder, CO** – On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Jared Polis of the Second District of Colorado, toured the Family Tree Gemini Outreach facility in Boulder in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. The private tour led by Family Tree CEO, Scott Shields, offered insight into the critical issue of runaway and homeless youth.

Congressman Polis was very interested in the facts and figures regarding runaway and homeless youth in the area; more importantly the Congressman spent much of his visit with two Family Tree Gemini Outreach clients, who were given the opportunity to share their experiences and future goals.

“Family Tree Gemini helped me work through my anger and depression”, explained self-referred client Jerry Jacinto. “The staff helped me realize that I would like to work as a gang counselor in the future.”



**Congressman Jared Polis and youth client, Jerry Jacinto, discuss Family Tree Gemini.**

Last year, Family Tree experienced a distressing 45% increase in the numbers of youth self-referring to Family Tree Gemini, an adolescent treatment center for runaway and homeless youth ages 11 to 17. Unfortunately, the trend continues so far this year, with the number of youth voluntarily coming to Family Tree Gemini increasing more than 30%.

As a community leader in the area of child abuse and neglect prevention, Family Tree is committed to educating our communities to help bring an end to these issues.

*Family Tree - Since 1976, Family Tree has provided a continuum of services and shelter to families and youth of metro Denver to overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness. The purpose of Family Tree Children's Services is to keep children safe from abuse and neglect and to help stabilize families.*