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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wheat Ridge, Colorado

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Family Tree and Jefferson County Department of Human Services Form Partnership to Help Prevent Homelessness

(Wheat Ridge, CO) Family Tree announced today that it has signed three contracts in partnership with the Jefferson County Department of Human Services for the Family Tree Homelessness Prevention program. Together, the three contracts total \$337,000. The contract will primarily be used in three ways: assisting individuals and families with rent, mortgage and utility assistance; assisting with individuals and families' initial application for mainstream benefits, as well as helping individuals and families in their recertification to receive mainstream benefits; and lastly with rental assistance subsidies.

Since 1976, Family Tree has provided services and shelter to help families and youth in crisis overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness to become safe, strong, and self-reliant.

Tom Lose, Managing Director of the Family Tree Homelessness program commented that, "Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds enable us to assist those who are already homeless; so we are especially pleased to be able to work toward the prevention of homelessness through this innovative partnership opportunity with the Jefferson County Department of Human Services." He adds that those who wish to learn more about program eligibility should contact the Family Tree Housing and Family Services department at (303) 467-2604.

Basic program requirements for rent, mortgage and utility assistance include residence in Jefferson County, income eligibility and applicants must have children. In addition, program beneficiaries will be asked to show their financial ability to meet future rent, mortgage and/or utility payment requirements.

Family Tree CEO, Scott Shields commented that, "During this uncertain economic climate it is important to know that positive, proactive solutions to address major community problems are being developed."

Jefferson County Department of Human Services Acting Director – Community Service division, Lynnae Flora said "Homelessness continues to be a problem many people face and we are proud to be partnering with Family Tree in this effort."

For more information about Family Tree, call (303) 422-2133, or visit www.thefamilytree.org.