



MEDIA CONTACT:

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Peak Vista's Health Center at Rio Grande Partners with Springs Rescue Mission to Better Serve Community

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Peak Vista Community Health Centers (Peak Vista) is taking new measures to protect people experiencing homelessness from the ongoing spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) by temporarily relocating the Health Center at Rio Grande to the Spring Rescue Mission (SRM) campus and providing primary medical and behavioral health care, COVID-19 testing and transportation assistance to those in need.

The ongoing public health emergency has made it more obvious than ever that housing and health are essentially interlinked. In times when the public is advised to stay at home and quarantine or self-isolate, the need for a shelter or home becomes evident.

According to Peak Vista's Director of Health Equity, Anne Beer, "people who are experiencing homelessness have a higher incidence of chronic illnesses and shorter life expectancy. Because we know that underlying health conditions put people at higher risk, this translates directly to a higher risk for our homeless patients." Beer further explains, "shelters and encampments make hygiene, illness care, social distancing and isolation much more difficult if not impossible, further increasing risk."

One of Peak Vista's greatest responsibilities during the pandemic is to find ways to continue providing essential services for neighbors who are particularly at risk for COVID-19. "Protecting and supporting people experiencing homelessness is critical as they are some of the most vulnerable in our community," comments President and CEO, Pam McManus. "Our Health Center at Rio Grande staff are working hard to ensure we continue to deliver the best care and services during this public health emergency."

Most organizations throughout Colorado who serve those without housing have adjusted the way they normally do business in order to continue providing services to keep clients and staff safe and cared for. "When we set out four years ago to build a Community of Hope, we knew that shelter and stabilizing services were critical; but we also knew that health services were necessary to transform lives," said Larry Yonker, President & CEO of Springs Rescue Mission. "As a community partner, Peak Vista Community Health Centers has played an important role in this. We believe that Peak Vista's full-time presence on our campus will help hundreds of our neighbors experiencing homelessness receive essential physical and behavioral medical care. We are so excited to have Peak Vista on our campus and can't wait to see the impact this will have on hundreds of our guests and residents."

Peak Vista and Springs Rescue Mission have been in partnership for many years and share a common goal to protect those most vulnerable during this pandemic and will collaborate to take care of nearly 600 people daily. Peak Vista will provide services Monday through Friday from 8:00AM – 5:00PM at the Springs Rescue Mission campus located at 5 W. Las Vegas Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.



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About Peak Vista Community Health Centers

Peak Vista Community Health Centers is a nonprofit organization providing exceptional health care to people facing access barriers through clinical programs and education. Established in 1971, Peak Vista offers primary medical, integrated behavioral health, and dental care services. We proudly serve over 94,000 patients annually through 27 outpatient centers in Colorado's Pikes Peak and East Central regions. To learn more about Peak Vista, visit peakvista.org.

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