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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Colorado's Nonprofits Have Tough Financial Year but Persevere to Deliver Essential Services

The economic recession impacted many of Colorado's nonprofit organizations in 2009 by causing a decline in revenues while simultaneously increasing demand for services, according to the results of a statewide survey released by the Community Resource Center and the Colorado Nonprofit Association. Nonprofits navigated the turbulent economic conditions by collaborating with other organizations, reducing expenses and seeking new funding sources.

Survey respondents experienced widespread decline in revenues in 2009:

- Almost half (48 percent) of respondents reported that their organization expects to fall short or significantly short of the organization's revenue goals. Almost 56 percent reported a time in the last twelve months when their total expenses exceeded total revenue.
- Nearly 65 percent said that a major funder reduced or eliminated their support due to the current economy.
- More than 64 percent said that the economy had a somewhat or significant negative impact on obtaining funding from foundations, government agencies or corporations.

Nonprofit organizations took many actions to sustain their operations in the difficult economy:

- Collaborated more: the economic climate had a positive impact in helping organizations to share expenses and costs (39.6 percent) and build relationships around program delivery (46.8 percent.)
- Increased fundraising activities: 32.5 percent increased face-to-face solicitations, 42.5 percent increased requests for foundation grants, 31.8 percent sought government grants and 27.5 percent increased soliciting board members.
- Reduced expenses: 28.5 percent cut back or eliminated programs, 21.2 percent cut staff pay or hours, and 15.9 percent laid off staff.
- Used more volunteers: 43.7 percent said they were already using more volunteers and 33.9 percent said they were considering this action.

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“Because nonprofit organizations are integral to the fabric of all Colorado communities, it is crucial to sustain and strengthen these organizations,” said Sarah Fischler, Interim Co-director of CRC. “We encourage our partners in the philanthropic community, business sector, and in government to ramp up their support of nonprofit organizations during this challenging time so that nonprofits can continue their critical work to improve and strengthen Colorado’s communities.”

“Nonprofits are used to finding creative solutions and making dollars stretch farther when it comes to meeting community needs,” said Renny Fagan, President and CEO of the Colorado Nonprofit Association. “As Coloradans make their year-end donation decisions, they can help strengthen their communities by contributing to a local nonprofit organization. Every individual, family and business can make a difference by donating time or money today.”

Fagan urged individuals and businesses who are interested in learning more about particular nonprofit organizations or linking to on-line giving sites to visit www.generouscolorado.org. To find volunteer opportunities with local nonprofits, start by visiting the resources page of the Governor’s Commission on Community Service at <http://www.colorado.gov/gccs/resources.html>.

About the Survey

CRC and the Colorado Nonprofit Association invited nonprofit organizations from across Colorado to complete an online questionnaire between October 26 and November 6, 2009. They received responses from about 450 nonprofits organizations. A more detailed report of the findings, including some breakdown of the results by geography, budget size and mission type, can be found at www.coloradononprofits.org and www.crcamerica.org.

In March 2009, CRC and the Association published the results of a similar survey, entitled *Weathering the Storm: Challenges and Opportunities Facing Colorado Nonprofits During Recession*, that documented how the recession had affected nonprofits in 2008 and what they predicted for 2009. The survey report released today contains some comparisons with this earlier study.

ABOUT THE COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1986, the Colorado Nonprofit Association is a statewide nonprofit membership organization dedicated to making Colorado a better place for people to live by fostering an environment that supports nonprofits. The Association leads the nonprofit sector in influencing public policy and public opinion, serves our members with networking tools, communications, and administrative support, and strengthens the nonprofit community through trainings, issue discussions, and administrative programs. For more information, please visit www.ColoradoNonprofits.org or call (303) 832-5710 or (800) 333-6554.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

The Community Resource Center (CRC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides training, technical assistance and consultation to nonprofits and community-based organizations in Colorado and across the country. CRC empowers nonprofits to fulfill their missions by building capacity, strengthening skills, and providing strategies for success. CRC serves as a convener of communities to expand resources and stimulate change. CRC’s mission is to create opportunities, tools and strategies to develop nonprofits and community groups to strengthen Colorado. For more information, visit www.crcamerica.org or call (303) 623-1540.

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