

# Permanent Solutions for Little People



.....And their  
parent / Guardians

# Background Information

- 2017 Pueblo County Commissioners allocated \$25,000.00 to be used through the chaplains fund to repatriate homeless people. In 12 months 166 children and 300+ adults were returned to their home of origin. To date, very few of these people with children have returned.
- Five types of homeless people were identified:
  1. Homeless by Choice
  2. Homeless with Children
  3. No way home
  4. No job or job skills
  5. Mental or Physical barriers to work and travel

Assessment: We could only help two categories:  
“Homeless with children” and “No way home”



# Target audience



- “Homeless with Children” were given the highest priority...
  - “Homeless with no way Home” involving women received a second priority based on their willingness to follow instructions.
  - Third priority was given to anyone who could show a valid historical address outside the state of Colorado.
- People Not Considered:
    1. Local People
    2. Frequent and seasonal travelers
    3. Homeless by Choice

# Defining their need



- Warmth and safety were identified as immediate needs
- Nutrition was also identified as an ongoing need
- Permanent relocation for education and emotional development was the greatest need of all the children.

## HOW ?

Reconnect the children with family through their elders and home school counselors.

## Simple Plan

Use the existing program through the chaplains fund to identify, clear each person and arrange the transportation.

Note: Since 2004 the Pueblo Area LE Chaplains have maintained a voucher agreement with commercial bus lines for discounted travel.

# Simple Plan – 4 step process

1. Release information regarding the program through word of mouth.
2. Clear the potential rider through the clerks in the police lobby. **Identification will be necessary.**
3. Establish contact with family and school in the home city.
4. Issue a voucher and escort family to their bus.

# Safe Guards



1. Clearance through police dept
2. Contact with home school
3. Issue a voucher – not cash

# Cost Effectiveness



- A typical bus ticket is  $\leq$  one night hotel stay.
- ...  $\leq$  feeding a family of four at a fast food restaurant.
- It is a long term solution
- It releases the officer to focus on crime issues rather than finding an answer to homeless children on a cold night.