For Immediate Release

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The OUR Center Earns ‘Friend of Extension’ Award

Award Recognizes Outstanding Public Service and Support of Extension Program

(Longmont, Colo.) Outreach United Resource Center, Inc. (OUR Center), the Longmont area’s largest basic needs agency helping people move toward self-sufficiency by unifying community resources, was recently awarded the 2012 Epsilon Sigma Phi Zeta (Colorado) Chapter’s ‘Friend of Extension’ Award for its support of and partnership with the Boulder County Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program–Education (SNAP-Ed), a Colorado State University Extension nutrition education program for low income families.

Through this partnership, the OUR Center is able to offer nutrition classes to its clients in both Spanish and English, while helping SNAP-Ed fulfill its mission of providing low-income families nutrition education to improve their diet quality and overall health. The OUR Center provides space for SNAP-Ed instructors to teach a series of eight classes in a series, and staff and volunteers at the OUR Center recruit and enroll their clientele into SNAP-Ed classes.

The support the OUR Center provides helps ensure the success of the program in Boulder County. OUR Center clients, meanwhile, benefit from learning from trained experts on how to prepare healthy nutritious meals at home using the food they receive through the Food Pantry.

The award was presented in early November at the Colorado State Extension’s statewide conference in Fort Collins, and the OUR Center is now on the short list of agency partners of Extension programs across the country to compete for the award at the national level.
About SNAP-Ed

The Colorado State University-Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (CSU-E SNAP-Ed) teaches participants nutrition fundamentals; how to make healthier food choices for their families; how to be more physically active; how to make nutritious recipes; and, how to stretch their food dollars. This leads to savings for the community in terms of lowered health care (Medicare) and public assistance costs. An increase in knowledge and self-confidence about nutrition, physical activity and living a healthy lifestyle among participants also leads to an increase in pride of community members and stronger and healthier neighborhoods. For more information, please visit http://www.snaped.colostate.edu/

About the OUR Center

Founded in 1986, Outreach United Resource Center, Inc. (OUR Center) provides vital services, including a food pantry, daily hot meals, a clothing bank, a day shelter, and homelessness prevention programs in an effort to help those in need throughout the greater Longmont area. The OUR Center also operates the Aspen Center for Child Development, which offers childcare and full-day school readiness programs for children from six weeks to six years old. As a truly community-based agency, the OUR Center partners with other agencies across Boulder County to provide additional resources to help people move toward self-sufficiency. For more information, please visit www.ourcenter.org or call 303-772-5529. The organization’s administrative offices are located at 303 Atwood Street in Longmont.

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Colorado State University Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

Colorado State University Extension is your local university community connection for research-based information about natural resource management; living well through raising kids, eating right and spending smart; gardening and commercial horticulture; the latest agricultural production technologies and community development. Extension 4-H and youth development programs reach more than 90,000 young people annually, over half in urban communities.