



The  
**HERO Alliance**

# 2010 Annual Report

## 2011 HERO Board

**Pam Erickson**

Community Advocate

**Bettye Gaiter**

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage

**Dianne Hitchingham, CFRE**

DDRC

**Kim Johnson**

CHFA

**Larry Johnson**

US Bank

**April Muniz**

Vectra Bank

**Jay Rabideau**

Unifirst Mortgage

**Christopher Roe (ex-officio)**

CDHS- SHHP

**Helen Wright**

Community Advocate

**Casey Williams**

Gladstein & O'Brien

## Senior Leadership

Laura Thompson,  
Resource Coordinator and  
Housing Counselor

The HERO Alliance (**H**omeownership **E**ducation and **R**esource **O**pportunities) is a nonprofit organization that provides education, resources, and assistance for people with disabilities who are seeking homeownership in Colorado. HERO has been assisting low-income persons with disabilities since 1992 by empowering them with the information and guidance needed to achieve homeownership.

HERO is a collaboration of people with disabilities, advocates, lenders, Realtors, governmental personnel and others who are committed to creating homeownership opportunities for people with disabilities and low incomes in Colorado. We have shown that collaboration breaks down barriers and information builds confidence and self-sufficiency. HERO is the umbrella organization in Colorado that focuses on this mission and HERO partner programs are now models nationwide.

## HERO Alliance activities include:

**Housing Counseling**—The HERO Alliance provides one-on-one pre-purchase housing counseling for persons with disabilities who need additional assistance preparing themselves for homeownership as well as post purchase support to keep them living in their homes successfully.

**Education & Outreach**—The HERO Alliance provides educational presentations to potential HERO home buyers as well as industry and social service professionals through community-based presentations.

**Information & Referral Services**—The HERO Alliance provides a statewide resource line and comprehensive website to provide current, accurate information regarding homeownership and disability resources to over 4000 people each year.

**Homeownership Advocacy**—The HERO Alliance serves as an advocate and resource for persons with disabilities that are, or hope to become, homeowners by helping them to understand their options for homeownership and maneuver through the complex programs and systems.

**HERO Alliance, Inc.**

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[www.heroalliance.org](http://www.heroalliance.org)

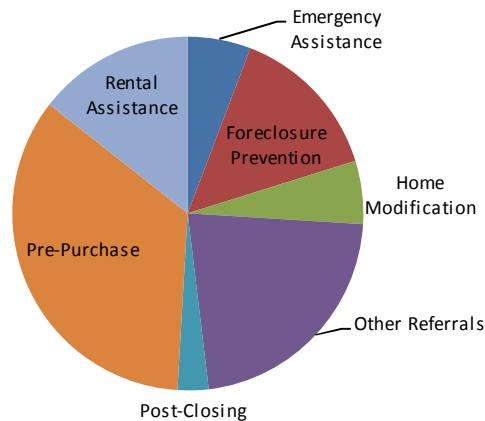
[hero\\_alliance\\_colorado@yahoo.com](mailto:hero_alliance_colorado@yahoo.com)

720-941-8901

## 2010 Accomplishments / Highlights:

- During 2010, over 40 persons with disabilities and families purchased a home of their own through one of the HERO partner homeownership programs in Colorado.
  - The average income of a HomeAccess homeowner was \$23,262
  - The average income of a SectionEight homeowner was \$27,032
- HERO Alliance received 128 inquiries via the informational resource line. The HERO website was visited 3277 times during 2010. Between the website, email and resource line inquiries, HERO is reaching an average of 355 persons a month with homeownership information.

### Breakdown of inquiry type:



- Participated in over 55 workshops, resource fairs and conferences throughout the state, reaching over 750 consumers and professionals.
- Presented a Realtor Continuing Education through the Denver Board of Realtors, Certified Affordable Housing Specialist Certification program.
- Started working towards becoming a certified housing counseling agency including attaining the necessary training for the Resource Coordinator to become a certified housing counselor.

## 2011 Goals:

- Continue to support people with disabilities and their families in Colorado who may be potential home buyers through our phone line, website and education /outreach activities.
- Increase HERO's contacts at disability and housing organizations to address staff-turnover and increase knowledge of everyone working with persons with disabilities.
- Develop stronger partnerships with local businesses, corporations and nonprofit organizations.
- Reach out to disability advocates and people not connected to disability service providers.
- Continue to identify financial resources for homeowners including down-payment assistance.
- Encourage more housing authorities to participate in the Section 8 homeownership program.
- Establish a solid fundraising plan to cover yearly expenses and an operating reserve.
- Develop an effective evaluation tool to help accurately measure the success of HERO's efforts.

## Resources:

The HERO Alliance continues to operate on a very low-cost basis with one part-time contract person and donated equipment. In 2010 80% was spent on program, 2% on fundraising and 18% on management. Increase in mgmt. costs was due to housing counseling training costs.

<u>Source of Funds</u>		<u>Use of Funds</u>	
Corporate	\$1232.95	Contract personnel	\$12,072.00
Nonprofit	\$1,000.00	Travel & Meetings	\$1551.01
Individuals	\$1850.55	Phone	\$567.14
Foundation	\$4,500.00	Postage	\$235.95
Federated	\$894.18	Supplies	\$178.69
Earned & Interest	\$22.78	Memberships	\$300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,500.46</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,904.79</b>