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Community Assets Fair 2/27: Free Resources to Save You Money and Build Your Assets

DENVER (February 23, 2010) – In these uncertain economic times, we could all use some sound financial guidance. On February 27 representatives from financial institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations will come together to provide free informational resources to members of the community to help people save money and build, maintain and protect their assets.

The 2010 Community Assets Fair will take place at Mi Casa Resource Center, located at 360 Acoma Street on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010, from 9a.m. to 1p.m. THIS IS A FREE EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; no advance registration is required.

The 2010 Community Assets Fair will offer free clinics and workshops to help people save money and build their assets. Resources at the February 27th event will include:

- Pulling and understanding your credit report
- Debt counseling
- Free tax preparation (must earn less than \$49,000 a year to qualify)
- Protecting against identity theft
- Foreclosure prevention
- First time home buying
- Financial aid and scholarships for education
- Financial education/coaching
- Banking options
- Document shredding and disposal

“This is an opportunity for people to deepen their understanding of finance as it relates to them personally. Folks can meet individually with financial coaches to discuss their particular challenges and get some great free advice,” says Shawn Young, one of the event organizers and Executive Director of Advocates 4 Young Adults. “And if you get your taxes done on site, you will walk out of there having saved yourself a minimum of \$200, which is the average cost of tax preparation.”

A number of other financial services exhibitors/counselors will attend the 2010 Community Assets Fair to educate the public, free of charge and on a one-to-one basis, about affordable housing opportunities, food assistance, debt management, bankruptcy, subsidized health insurance options, and finance for small business. “A person’s assets are not only his or her financial resources,” Shawn Young continues. “Health, education and housing are examples of other valuable individual assets, and now, more than ever, it is important for people to be aware of all the community resources available to help them build on their personal assets.”

Additionally, Young points out that consumers rarely realize how costly low credit scores are. According to a report by the Consumer Federation of America, consumers nationwide could save \$16 billion per year in lower credit card finance charges by improving credit scores by an average of 30 points. In the mortgage arena, individuals with lower credit scores will be charged a higher interest rate than individuals with strong credit.

Some of the entities that will attend the 2010 Community Assets Fair include: Colorado Housing Finance Authority, College in Colorado, CollegeInvest, Brothers Redevelopment, Inc., IRS, Mi Casa Resource Center, Community Credit Counseling Services, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, Money Management, Inc., Rebuilding Together Metro Denver, Americorps, TCF Bank, Mile High Youth Corps, Medicaid/CHP+, Habitat for Humanity, and more.

The 2010 Community Assets Fair is organized by Colorado**Saves** and will take place during America Saves Week. The 2010 Community Assets Fair will be a fun and informative day of finding resources on saving money and building, maintaining and protecting your assets.

The 2010 Community Assets Fair will also have many exciting raffle opportunities, including a college scholarship, gift cards to local retailers and refurbished desktop computers!

About ColoradoSaves

ColoradoSaves is a community-owned, grass roots effort that provides information, tools, and motivation for consumers to improve their financial conditions. ColoradoSaves is committed to improving the well-being of Coloradoans by offering health and financial education and empowerment to take control of their finances. ColoradoSaves is affiliated with America Saves, a nationwide initiative supported by the Consumer Federation of America, the Ford Foundation and other prominent national groups. For more information visit www.ColoradoSaves.org.

About Mi Casa Resource Center

Mi Casa is among the oldest and largest Latino-serving organizations in Colorado. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by eight Head Start mothers in west Denver who understood that education and employment were essential for women to achieve personal and economic success. Mi Casa was established to create new opportunities for women and their children to succeed. For more than 30 years, Mi Casa has been committed to advancing the economic success of Latino and low-income families through business, career, and youth and family development strategies. For more information visit www.MiCasaResourceCenter.org.