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COMMUNITY SHARES OF COLORADO TO HONOR COMMUNITY LEADER

Denver, Colorado – Leslie Foster, President and CEO of local nonprofit, The Gathering Place, will be honored as the 2010 Community Leader of the Year for 2010 by Community Shares of Colorado.

Foster receives Community Shares' esteemed honor after 20 years of service to one of Denver's most vital nonprofits. "You cannot run a shelter of this volume for twenty years without being an astute executive. Leslie and her staff give every woman who visits The Gathering Place a fresh start each day. Imagine twenty years of opening the doors to a shelter believing that this will be the day a woman is ready to change her life. This is what makes Leslie exceptional," says Community Shares CEO, Alyssa Kopf.

The Gathering Place supports women and their children experiencing homelessness or poverty. By providing a safe daytime refuge and resources for self-sufficiency, The Gathering Place has provided relief to those with urgent needs since 1986. Foster led the organization through a major expansion into a state-of-the-art 29,000 square foot facility in September 2007. In 2009, over 84,500 women and 9,000 children visited with an average of 365 visitors per day.

"The Gathering Place's new building is the physical expression of Leslie's indelible imprint on the Denver community. Yet it is when you walk inside that you understand the true enormity of what Leslie has built," Kopf said. "The shelter challenges the norm that people in crisis deserve only cast-offs, leftovers, and supplies other people no longer need. The Gathering Place's culture of dignity and hope is a direct reflection of Leslie's leadership."

Foster will be honored at the 2010 Summer Celebration on June 2, at the Infinity Park Event Center. The Summer Celebration is an annual gathering of businesses, philanthropists, and nonprofits in commemoration of the annual workplace giving campaign. Businesses, volunteers and nonprofit leaders will also be honored at this public event. More information can be found at www.cshares.org/events.

About Community Shares:

A Colorado-grown community giving fund, Community Shares of Colorado has worked for 24 years to broaden charitable choice and connect Coloradans to the charities and causes they care about most. Community Shares provides financially accessible and cost-effective donation options so all Coloradans can choose to give. Over 100 local nonprofits benefit from Community Shares' annual Workplace Giving Campaign and thousands of Coloradans choose Community Shares each year as their giving option. Since 1986, \$18 million has been invested into the Colorado community with an average gift of less than \$1 a day. Learn more about Community Shares at www.cshares.org.

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