



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Community Partnership Family Resource Center Celebrates their 300<sup>th</sup> GED Graduate!**



**(Woodland Park, CO, May 2023)** — Community Partnership Family Resource Center's (CP) 300<sup>th</sup> GED student graduated on May 1, 2023. Teller County residents who graduate with their GED, earn 25% more per year and are qualified for 75% more jobs than without their GED. Having more job opportunities and the potential to earn more income increases financial security and decreases household stress, which aligns with CP's vision that all Teller County families are self-reliant, fully functional, and positive contributors to our community. Research also shows that

once parents get a diploma, they're more likely to encourage their children to seek educational opportunities and complete educational milestones.

*"CP is proud to be the only provider of GED preparation and testing in Teller County, with locations in Cripple Creek and Woodland Park. CP would like to thank it's many partners for supporting this program, in particular the Cripple Creek & Victor and Woodland Park School Districts who work closely with CP to ensure that students have alternatives to dropping out of school, and the Pikes Peak Workforce Center which helps fund the program." Jodi Mijares, CEO, Community Partnership Family Resource Center*

Community Partnership established the first professional General Educational Development (GED) program in 2006, when Program Coordinator Elaine Gould saw a need to help Teller County residents increase their education and employment opportunities by earning their GED. CP helps students every step of the way, from enrollment to graduation, job readiness, and achieving academic and employment success, with small classes, on-site testing, and a career center. New students (min. age 16) may join GED classes any time after completing orientation. Weekly classes are held midday in Cripple Creek and evenings in Woodland Park. Students who graduated from CP's GED program have advanced on to become firefighters, policemen, restaurant owners, roofers, welders, grocery store managers, nurses, massage therapists, postal workers, teacher's aids, enrolled in the Army and Navy, and furthered their education enrolling in college.

*"There is no dreading class, I look forward to coming. I come knowing I'm going to get the help I need. You guys make it easy; you show us easier ways to do things. You guys motivate us and push us. The environment is comfortable and relaxing."*  
2016 graduate

*"The people here are very nice! They boosted my confidence in taking my GED and made me feel super confident through all of it. Very helpful. Will always recommend Community Partnership!"* 2020 graduate

In 2014, the GED Test transitioned from written exams to being delivered in official testing centers and the closest was in Colorado Springs, a 30+ mile drive from Teller County. To support CP GED students and assist with the barrier of residents who didn't have reliable transportation, CP opened Teller County's only Pearson VUE Testing Center location. In October 2020, CP expanded the testing center to include professional certifications and licensure exams, including but not limited to Amazon Certified Cloud Practitioner, coding specialist, digital marketing professional, Microsoft, physician assistant, and property agent. The testing center is open to anyone, not only CP students. In fact, due to location, intimate setting, open year-round, and scheduling flexibility, CP has assisted testers from Park, Chaffee, El Paso, and Douglas counties! CP's Pearson VUE testing center is open Mondays from 10am-7pm. Visit the Pearson VUE website for more information and available tests and exams.

*"This is by far the greatest accomplishment of my 45 years. It is still unreal to me. You all have been so good to me. I cannot thank you enough for this opportunity."*  
2017 graduate

In 2023, the Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC) moved some of its Teller County services to CP's new Community Center in Woodland Park. PPWFC helps individuals with job searching, resume assistance, and unemployment applications. PPWFC also connects businesses with work-ready job seekers and provides resources needed for career transitions, career guidance, and development.

*"In Teller County, Community Partnership offers crucial services that dramatically improve the quality of life for individuals and families. We are delighted to partner with CP and provide funding for their essential GED services."* Traci Marques,  
Executive Director/CEO, Pikes Peak Workforce Center

### **About Community Partnership Family Resource Center**

Community Partnership Family Resource Center (CP) is celebrating over 30 years of supporting Teller County families. Offering free or low-cost workshops and programs for families of every shape and size. You can engage in one of the 20+ programs for the kids, the family, and the community, as well as additional essential resources.

CP works alongside parents, grandparents, and caregivers with children from prenatal to adulthood, GED students, to those entering the workforce. Whether you are looking to meet new families, struggling to cover bills or provide a meal, needing some parenting support, wanting to learn to prepare healthy meals or participate in community exercise classes, Community Partnership is here to help! Our philosophy is to provide tools, skills, and enrichment activities which strengthen families and ensuring that children have an opportunity to grow and thrive!

Supported families build strong communities!

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If you would like more information about this news release, contact Jodi Mijares at (719) 686-0705 or email [office@cpteller.org](mailto:office@cpteller.org).