

MAYOR CALLS ON METRO DENVER CHURCHES TO MENTOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

Mayor John Hickenlooper met with 25 faith leaders at Trinity United Methodist Church this week, urging their congregations to join the effort to end homelessness in Denver by mentoring homeless families. The Mayor and faith leaders helped serve lunch to 250 homeless men and women at Trinity, which serves hot lunches to 750 homeless people each week. Trinity, whose motto is “We’re Here for Good,” hosted the faith leaders’ meeting in commemoration of its 150 years as Denver’s oldest church. The interfaith effort to mentor homeless families under Denver’s Road Home program has lifted 1,300 people and 562 families out of homelessness with the help of 1,200 mentors from 250 congregations, the mayor reported. Hickenlooper estimated that the cost of caring for the homeless is \$40,000 per person per year for medical care and other services. In the first few years of Denver’s Road Home, homelessness has been reduced by 37 percent by transitioning families into housing. Rev. Mike Dent, Trinity’s senior pastor, received a proclamation from the Mayor honoring the church’s century and a half of service and a community award from Rev. Shawn DeBerry of Denver Rescue Mission and the Mayor’s Clergy Council. The Mayor proclaimed Sunday, August 2, “Trinity United Methodist Church Day,” when Trinity officially celebrates its Sesquicentennial anniversary.