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DENVER HOMELESS GET FREE VOICE MAIL

Mayor Hickenlooper Leaves First Message at St. Francis Center Ceremony

DENVER, Aug. 12, 2004 — Mayor John Hickenlooper today left the first message on a voice mail system designed to help homeless people communicate with potential employers, healthcare services, child care providers, landlords and family. Homeless people are given their own personal voice mail telephone number which takes messages. They can retrieve those messages 24/7 from any phone or pay phone totally for free.

Addressing homeless individuals, providers and advocates at the St. Francis Center, a Denver day shelter for homeless residents, Mayor Hickenlooper said, “We’re confronting Denver’s homelessness situation at every turn. In this era of instant communications, having a phone number, something most of us take for granted, can be the key to survival and self-sufficiency for people in crisis or transition. This innovative program will empower Denver’s homeless residents and improve their ability to conduct the business of their lives.”

Founded by entrepreneur Nigel Alexander, owner of local voice mail provider Multi-Link, Colorado Community Voice Mail is the first telecom industry supported program in the nation.

“This service will really make a difference in the lives of homeless people in the Denver area,” said Alexander. “It’s a good example of how several private companies can utilize available resources and work together to help the community.”

To qualify for the service applicants must only have a need to communicate, and be unable to afford a phone or message service. Eligibility will be determined by each agency managing an allocated block of numbers and applicants can only get numbers from a participating agency.

“Being homeless entails so many disadvantages – and for years the Denver community has responded with shelters, meals and counseling,” noted Tom Martino, consumer advocate and

founder of sponsor company Liberty Bell Telecom. “While these efforts were essential and compassionate, homeless men and women were still disconnected. They did not have that one essential thing – a phone number to give somebody for a call back. It hurt their self esteem and often meant missed opportunities - now they have it.”

About Colorado Community Voice Mail

Acting through existing homeless shelters and other agencies, Colorado Community Voice Mail (CCVM) provides free direct dial voice mail numbers to homeless and low-income people in the Denver metro area. By checking messages daily toll-free from any phone, people can now communicate quickly with potential employers, housing and medical providers and agency caseworkers. CCVM telecom infrastructure is provided by Multi-Link, Liberty Bell Telecom and Inflow. Other sponsors include Faegre and Benson and Metzger Associates. CCVM is a registered 501(c)3 corporation. Visit www.multilinkcom.com/ccvm for more information.

About Multi-Link

Multi-Link is a 13 year old company providing one-stop Telecom and Computer related services to over 4,000 small businesses in Metro Denver. Services include: selection of local phone service, low cost phone systems, advanced voice mail service, efax, off site data backup and 24/7/365 computer tech support. With 25 local employees, an emphasis on quality service and a BBB Gold Star rating, Multi-Link is the logical choice for all your small business support needs. Further information at www.multilinkcom.com

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