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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties join forces to provide foster care**

**Littleton, Colo.** --- It started as one of those crazy thoughts, "Wouldn't it be great if there was a single foster care program that spanned across counties?"

After a year of discussions and brainstorming, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties have joined forces to create a foster care collaborative. "By working together we'll better serve the community's abused and neglected children and support those foster parents who open their hearts and their homes to take care of them," said Angela Lytle, Arapahoe County Children, Youth & Families Division Manager.

"We're excited to take the best from each county's program and combine them in a way that assures foster parents receive the training, support and resources they need to provide a good home that supports each child's needs, safety and family connections," said Cheryl Ternes, Arapahoe County Human Services Director.

Lynn Johnson, Jefferson County Human Services Director, emphasized both departments' goal is that a child can live in a home free of abuse and neglect until he can return home safely, be adopted or live independently. "The idea for this collaboration came from the employees in both counties who work day in and day out with these families," she said.

Foster staff from both counties relocated to a single shared location at Arapahoe County's Arapahoe Plaza building, located at 1690 W. Littleton Blvd., in Littleton, last week.

"Both counties are committed to assuring that when a child needs protection, is unable to remain at home and is placed into foster care, that the quality of care is excellent, that their temporary home is stable and secure and their childhood is truly honored," said Jefferson County Children Youth & Families Director Mary Berg.

Want to make a difference in the life of a child? Attend a foster and adoption information night Sept. 3 in Wheat Ridge or Oct. 2 in Aurora. Call 303-636-1KID to learn more.

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**To download the new logo click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CA/>**

*Logo caption:* Arapahoe and Jefferson County rebrand their new foster care program. By working together they plan to better serve the community's abused and neglected children and the foster parents who care for them.