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## **Sleep out aims to provide support to Pueblo's homeless population**

**PUEBLO** – A student club at Pueblo Community College is doing its part to aid local agencies that have an even tougher time trying to provide needed services to the homeless population during difficult economic times.

PCC's PS CARE Club will conduct its eighth annual "Building Bridges" sleep out from 7 p.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday in the college's outdoor amphitheater. The purpose is to raise awareness of the homeless population and funds for two homeless-serving local agencies – Posada and the Soup Kitchen. PS CARE recently held an aluminum can drive and a walk-a-thon on campus to augment its fund-raising effort.

During the sleep out, a group of PCC students and staff as well as members of the community will sleep outdoors in cardboard boxes. The PS CARE Club is comprised of students in the Psychology and Social Work program. PS CARE is an acronym for Psychology and Social Work Careers and Resources for Education.

The club encourages any interested community members to participate in the sleep out, stop by during the evening and/or make donations for the cause. Representatives of Posada and Soup Kitchen are expected to be on hand to address the event's participants.

"There is a great need for this due to the economy, and we're just trying to raise money to help out," noted Donna Fitzsimmons, who chairs PCC's Psychology and Social Work associate degree program and is the advisor for the student club.

Posada notes on its website that Pueblo has a large homeless population that includes more than 1,100 children, and families with children make up over half of the city's homeless. Posada provides housing and supportive services that empower homeless individuals and families in Pueblo County to become self-supporting members of the community. Last year, Posada's programs served 1,717 children who were homeless. Meanwhile, the Soup Kitchen provides meals to needy individuals.

Anyone wishing to donate or attend the sleep out can get more information by contacting Fitzsimmons by phone at 549-3351 or via e-mail at [donna.fitzsimmons@pueblocc.edu](mailto:donna.fitzsimmons@pueblocc.edu).

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*Founded in 1933, Pueblo Community College is a premier teaching institution focused on providing academic and service excellence to help its students acquire the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills needed to better their lives. An educational and technological leader, PCC fosters economic development and utilizes strong partnerships in the communities it serves through its Pueblo, Fremont and Southwest campuses.*