

Upcoming Events

Criminal Justice Awareness Day

Saturday, September 18, 2004 9am - 4pm

First Universalist Church of Denver, 4101 East Hampden Ave
(NE corner of South Colorado Blvd & Hampden), Denver

Reggie Rivers will present the Keynote speech on "Who is Being Punished?" The race to incarcerate is throwing away lives and throwing away our families. Join us to help Colorado be "smart on crime" not "tough on communities." This is an opportunity for community members to gather, focus and learn about the need for criminal justice and prison reform. The day will include multiple strategy sessions and panels on various criminal justice topics. Please contact event co-chairs Patra Attig or Liz Been at (303) 759-2770 ext 49 or cjad04@yahoo.com to register and to order a lunch (\$6.00 box lunch and drink provided by the Women's Bean Project). Admission is free.

The Rally for Recovery

Saturday, September 18, 2004 12 - 2pm

Denver Civic Center Park

Please join Advocates for Recovery at their rally to raise awareness and demand greater funding for substance abuse treatment and other strategies that help people recover from addiction. Denver Mayor Hickenlooper will be the main speaker. If you're interested in volunteering for CCJRC to help distribute literature at this event, contact Christie at christie@ccjrc.org.

Five-Points Town Hall Meeting

Presented by the Denver Reintegration Working Group

Saturday, September 25, 2004 4 - 6 pm

Agape Church, 2501 California St., Denver

(Dinner & childcare available)

If you live in Five Points, it is no secret that incarceration is a problem in our community. The secret is that TOGETHER we have the power to address the issues. Join others in our community for a facilitated dialogue with members of the police, parole officers, case workers, former prisoners, and family members of incarcerated individuals. Get answers to your questions, find out about resources, and connect with others in your community. For more info: (720) 296-3954 www.denverworkinggroup.org

Your Donation Doubled!

The Gay & Lesbian Fund of Colorado awarded a matching grant of up to \$5,000 to help CCJRC expand financial support from our members. If your donation this year exceeds what you gave last year (even if you didn't make a donation last year), The Gay & Lesbian Fund will **MATCH** your donation!

CCJRC has also recently received grants from the *Bamboo Fund*, *Brett Family Foundation*, and the *Fund for Nonviolence*. We so appreciate the generosity and partnership with these foundations and YOU, our members.

Worst Prison Uprising in Colorado History

Hundreds Riot at Crowley County Correctional Facility

Here we go again. As some of you might remember, in 1999, there was an uprising at the Crowley County Correctional Facility (Olney Springs) after inmates from Washington rioted. At the time, CCCF was owned and operated by a private prison company, Correctional Service Corporation. As a way to ensure that prisons are full and maximize profitability, private prison companies "import" prisoners from other states to Colorado private prisons. A follow-up investigation by DOC determined that CSC employees were not properly trained. The prison was sold to Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and the practice of importing prisoners continued. CCA operates 65 facilities with a design capacity for 66,000 beds in twenty states and DC which makes it the 6th largest corrections system in the nation, behind only the federal government and four states.

CCJRC has always opposed "importing" prisoners and supported legislation in 2002 that would have banned the practice in Colorado. Despite well-documented evidence that clearly demonstrates that importing prisoners increases the risk to both prisoners and staff, the bill was easily defeated by the private prison lobby on the argument that importing prisoners is good for business.

In early July, approximately 200 prisoners from Washington state were transferred to CCCF. They joined approximately 120 prisoners from Wyoming and over 800 Colorado prisoners. For weeks before the uprising, prisoners and staff were aware that tensions were mounting and that something was going to go down. In the morning of July 20th, a Washington prisoner refused to go to work and was beaten by guards. The DOC said that it didn't think that excessive force was used but the Washington inmates felt differently. In the evening, several hundred prisoners were released to the exercise yard. At about 7:30 p.m., Washington prisoners refused to return to their cells in protest. The guards in the yard took off which precipitated the worst inmate uprising in Colorado history. For more than 5 hours, prisoners set fire to various housing units, damaged property and 13 prisoners were hospitalized. Three of the hospitalized prisoners were from Colorado and one was in critical condition after receiving multiple stab wounds after being accused of being a "snitch". It took over 100 DOC personnel and authorities from multiple law enforcement agencies, fire department and medical services to quell the riot and extinguish the fires. Four of the five housing units were damaged and one vocational greenhouse was burned to the ground.

Although the investigation is ongoing, the DOC has sited numerous problems with the way CCA handled the situation including slow decision-making, lack of communication, failure to respond adequately, ignoring offers to negotiate with prisoners, guards abandoning a staff librarian when they retreated, and failure to heed warnings about growing unrest. CCA denies the bulk of these claims but has placed a Captain on administrative leave because his statements were very inconsistent. Also, Jim Seaton, Chief Operating Officer for CCA, resigned in mid August, although CCA didn't disclose whether it was related to the problems at CCCF and other CCA facilities.

Several hundred Colorado prisoners have been transferred to other prisons in Colorado and the DOC has indicated that prisoners from Wyoming and Washington will remain at CCCF. Visiting at CCCF has been suspended until further notice. On the DOC website, you can see a list of Colorado prisoners still at CCCF and those that have been moved at http://www.doc.state.co.us/Facilities/Status_CCCF/status_cccf.htm.

In light of this incident, recently the Legislative Audit Committee has agreed to do an audit of private prisons in Colorado. CCJRC has been advocating for this for over two years. At this time, it is unclear what the audit process will entail, the timing, and what opportunities there will be for public comment. We are looking into this and will keep you posted. If any of you have information you'd like the audit committee to consider, please contact Christie at christie@ccjrc.org.

Recommended Reading

For anyone interested in private prisons, we recommend that you consider reading *Private Capital Punishment* by Ken Kopeczynski. The book is \$11.50 and is available through 1st Books 1-800-280-7715 or www.1stbooks.com.

On the Front

After a short hiatus, we are very pleased to announce that *On The Front* has resumed publication. *On The Front* publishes recent updates in Colorado state and federal cases that may impact prisoners in Colorado. The August 2004 issue provides an analysis of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Blakely*. To subscribe, please contact *On The Front* c/o CCJRC.

CCJRC is a member of Community Shares!
Ask your employer about work-place giving!

COLORADO JUSTICE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2004

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM COALITION

2508 1/2 West Colorado Ave. Suite 3 Colorado Springs, CO 80904
719-475-8059 Toll Free 1-888-298-8059
www.CCJRC.org info@ccjrc.org

Founded in 1999, CCJRC is a network of organizations, faith communities and individuals working to reverse the trend of mass incarceration in Colorado.

NO END IN SIGHT

Colorado's path of perpetual prison expansion

The unprecedented growth in the state's prison population is largely due to "get tough" changes in sentencing laws during the 1980s and '90s. As a result, the **Department of Corrections'** (DOC) budget has grown from \$28.8 million in 1980 to over \$500 million in 2004 and the state has spent more than \$800 million building prisons during that same period. Of Colorado's 28 prisons, 23 are operated by the state and the DOC contracts with 5 private prisons. Since 1990, 16 new prisons have been built (not including new federal prisons). Constitutional limits on government spending mean that the growth in the DOC budget comes through devastating budget cuts, particularly in higher education and human services.

Colorado currently has the **fourth fastest growing prison population in the country**, growing by 60 prisoners a month. This growth translates into the "need" for a new 700+ bed prison every year, into perpetuity. To fill this gap, the private prison industry continues to aggressively expand its role in Colorado.

Recent and current prison expansion projects include:

Brush -- In September 2003, private prison operator GRW Inc. reopened a 245 bed private prison in Brush that houses female prisoners from Wyoming and Colorado.

Colorado Springs - Another private prison company, CEC, is building a 750-bed prison in Colorado Springs that is projected to open in the summer of 2005.

Pueblo - Wackenhut was awarded a contract from the DOC to build a 750-1000 bed private prison in Pueblo. CCJRC has been working with Pueblo residents to challenge this facility, and this project is on hold.

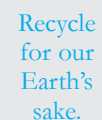
Lamar - An ad-hoc committee of government officials is negotiating with Cornell to build 500-750 bed private prison in Lamar. Concerned Citizens of Lamar is attempting to put an initiative on the local ballot to require voter approval. This project is also on hold.

Canon City -- The only public prison project underway is a 948-bed expansion of Colorado State Penitentiary. In October 2003, CCJRC filed a lawsuit under TABOR to require voter approval of the \$100 million financing plan since it involves long-term public debt. This lawsuit is ongoing and consequently this project is also on hold.

Please see Prison Expansion on Page 2

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
2508 1/2 W. Colorado Avenue, Suite 3
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Colorado Spring, CO
Permit No. 387



Recycle for our Earth's sake.



Change Services Requested



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

Use Your Voice, Register to Vote, and Vote!

CCJRC has partnered with the Colorado Voting Project on a new voter education campaign to inform former prisoners and others with a felony conviction about their eligibility to register to vote.

- ✓ Did you know that Colorado law allows former prisoners to register to vote once they have completed their prison sentence and parole?
- ✓ Did you know that Colorado law allows people in jail awaiting trial (pre-trial detainees) to vote?
- ✓ Did you know that Colorado law allows people to register to vote even while they are currently on probation?

If you didn't know - you're not alone! Even though Colorado law does not permanently disenfranchise people with a felony conviction, we found that most people assumed it did. CCJRC and the Colorado Voting Project has prepared a brochure that outlines Colorado's voter eligibility law.

To order free brochures in English or Spanish, please contact Carol Peebles at the Colorado Voting Project (719)221-2226, or info@coloradovotingproject.org.

Farewells and Welcomes

Stephen Raher, CCJRC's co-director, resigned in June to pursue other projects. It is impossible to adequately thank Stephen for all his contributions. We wish him the best of luck. If any of you would like to email him, you can reach him at stephen@ccjrc.org through December. Christie Donner, CCJRC's other co-director, took over as Executive Director and will be moving CCJRC's headquarters to Denver in the fall. More on that to come!

CCJRC welcomes new staff member Amanda Udis-Kessler, Ph.D. Amanda hails from New York City and received her Bachelors Degree in Religion from Oberlin College and her Masters and Doctorate degrees in Sociology from Boston College. Prior to joining the staff at CCJRC, Amanda worked in a variety of nonprofit organizations, as a consultant in the for-profit sector and as an independent researcher at Grinnell College. She also teaches part-time at Colorado College and the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. We welcome Amanda and are thrilled that she has joined us.

CCJRC thanks Jim McTernan for his work this summer on helping us identify community resources that provide assistance to parolees. Jim will be a senior at Colorado College. We very much enjoyed working with Jim and wish him the best of luck in the future. We also thank the Colorado Education Fellowship Program at Colorado College that provided CCJRC with a grant to help fund this internship.

In memory of Emma

CCJRC is saddened to announce the 7/16/04 passing of **Emma Phillips**, founder of Friends & Family of the Imprisoned as well as the Colorado coordinator for Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM). Emma was a dear friend and long-time collaborator with CCJRC. Some of you may remember the many CCJRC meetings at Emma's office on Galena Street. She will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and the many friends who will miss her smile, persistence, and unwavering commitment to justice.

YES! I want to join CCJRC and help stop perpetual prison expansion in Colorado. Enclosed is my **tax-deductible** annual membership or additional contribution:

Annual membership dues:

- Individual: \$25
- Household: \$50
- Sustainer: \$100+
- Low income/student/senior: \$12
- Prisoner: \$3 (or equivalent in postage stamps)

My check is enclosed (made payable to CCJRC)

Please charge my credit card:

- Visa
- Mastercard
- Discover
- American Express
- once
- monthly
- quarterly

Name _____ Signature _____

Home Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Email _____ FAX _____

Credit Card # _____ expires _____

How do you prefer to be contacted (check only one):

- email
- U.S. Mail
- Fax
- Phone

Please return this form to:
CCJRC, 2508 1/2 W. Colorado Ave., Suite 3, Colorado Springs, CO 80904

New Prison Projects

Prison Expansion from Page 1

Additionally, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) is planning on adding 600 new beds at both its Crowley County Correctional Facility in **Olney Springs** (where prisoners recently rioted) and its Kit Carson Correctional Facility in **Burlington**. The DOC also recently transferred 121 Colorado prisoners to the CCA-owned Tallahatchie Correctional Facility in **Tutwiler, Mississippi** (where Colorado prisoners also recently rioted.)

Mass incarceration has proven to be ineffective in reducing crime and the war on drugs is a disaster. Civil, constitutional, and human rights are eroded under the guise of fighting crime through greater social control. Parolees and other felons face so many barriers to finding gainful employment and affordable housing that the political, social, and economic marginalization is likely to be permanent for many.

Woven throughout the "get tough" approach is the chronic and systemic racial and class bias that is particularly apparent in the unequal enforcement of laws, racial profiling, the war on drugs, and the criminalization of youth. Criminal justice policy, while ostensibly focused on public safety, is also strongly influenced by the economic benefit, jobs, profits or political gain that can be made in this growing industry. We believe that crime and substance abuse do pose serious problems and challenges that deserve effective, comprehensive, and humane solutions. We cannot allow criminal justice policy to be driven by political rhetoric, profiteering, and ineffective policies, like the "war on drugs."

Our website, www.ccjrc.org has a lot more information, including publications entitled **Colorado Prison Facts 2004, Incarceration and Correctional Spending in Colorado, and Private Prisons and Public Money.**

[The full text of the DOC population projections at http://www.doc.state.co.us/Statistics/pdfs/Projections/June2004.pdf.](http://www.doc.state.co.us/Statistics/pdfs/Projections/June2004.pdf)

[The new DOC Annual Statistical Report at http://www.doc.state.co.us/Statistics/pdfs/OPARreports/STATReports/2003Complete.pdf.](http://www.doc.state.co.us/Statistics/pdfs/OPARreports/STATReports/2003Complete.pdf)

You can order a hard copy from :
Department of Corrections
2862 S. Circle Drive, Suite 400
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
(719) 579-9580

Advocates for Recovery Joins CCJRC!

People in recovery have relied on anonymity to protect them from stigma and discrimination. While anonymity is still a very useful and necessary context for many, Advocates for Recovery was formed to provide a vehicle for people in recovery to **come-out and publicly acknowledge and celebrate their recovery** and advocate for policies that best promote recovery from addiction. In joining CCJRC, AFR wrote, *"Advocates for Recovery supports the mission of CCJRC, believing that many members of the recovery community would benefit from the reforms advocated by CCJRC. AFR has joined CCJRC and is excited about the opportunities to collaborate with CCJRC on issues of mutual concern to our communities."* We are inspired by AFR and welcome them to our growing coalition. For more information on AFR, you can contact Erik Stone at eriks@signalbhn.org. Also, see **calendar** on page 4.

3 CCJRC SEPTEMBER, 2004

Concerned Citizens of Lamar Battle to Stop Cornell Private Prison

In 2003, an ad-hoc committee of local government officials and business leaders decided they wanted to have a private company build a prison in Lamar as a form of economic development. This ad-hoc committee issued a request for proposals and Cornell Companies, Inc., submitted a bid to build and operate a 500-750 bed private prison on November 17, 2003. Cornell was the only private prison company to submit a bid.

Lamar is located in southeastern Colorado, approximately 100 miles east of Pueblo. As with most private prison plans, the public is left in the dark until the ink is dry on the contracts or they are fed misinformation and spin on the glorious economic opportunity without full disclosure of the real impacts of becoming a prison town. The ad-hoc committee also failed to provide residents with a full picture of Cornell's abysmal track record including the fact that **Cornell was forced to close** its New Morgan juvenile facility in Pennsylvania after it lost its state license due to the substantiated sexual abuse of 16 juveniles, the physical abuse of 14 more and the escape of 6. Despite this, Cornell has just opened a private prison for juveniles in Canon City.

Consequently, a group of local residents formed an organization called **Concerned Citizens of Lamar (CCL)** to demand full disclosure and public participation before the City leaders moved forward with the prison project. There are many residents in Lamar that oppose the prison but are afraid of retaliation if they speak out -- and they should. Members of CCL that have come forward have been ridiculed in the press and one of its members has been suspended from his job at the utility company and the local paper filed a Temporary Restraining Order against him that was lifted after a court hearing. However, he still has not been able to go back to work.

CCL has started a campaign to place a measure on the local ballot that would change the city charter to require voter approval before the Lamar City Council could enter into a contract with Cornell. On August 16, 2004, CCL filed its petition with the City Clerk for approval. CCL was gearing up to gather signatures to get it on the local ballot but the City Attorney filed a lawsuit in Prowers County District Court to challenge the content of the petition before the City Clerk even accepted the petition. Cornell sought a formal commitment from the DOC that it would contract to use this prison but DOC declined. Cornell had indicated that a commitment from DOC was necessary before it would build the prison but we have not heard that it has abandoned this project. We will keep you posted and CCJRC will continue to support CCL's efforts.

CO Prisoners Riot in CCA Prison in Mississippi

Earlier this year, the Colorado Department of Corrections started to **transfer prisoners** from Colorado to a private prison operated by the Corrections Corporation of America in Tutweiler, Mississippi. Currently over 120 Colorado prisoners are incarcerated at the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility.

On July 21, 2004, Colorado **prisoners staged an uprising** in the exercise yard when the guard on duty left his post. No one was injured but there was some property damage to the prison. Prisoners that have written to CCJRC indicated that the uprising was the last ditch effort to bring public attention to their mistreatment by CCA guards. According to reports we received, **prisoners filed grievances with prison staff** but they went unanswered. Then Colorado prisoners resorted to a hunger strike but that, too, **failed to result in any change**. Finally, prisoners decided to riot to bring public attention to their mistreatment.

[The complaints we have received include:](#)

- ▶ Some prisoners have been locked down 24 hours a day for weeks at a time. Even in ad-seg units, prisoners are required to have 5 hours a week out of their cell. Prisoners in ad-seg are being double-bunked.
- ▶ Gratuitous brutality and excessive use of force by guards
- ▶ Lack of medical care. Prisoners submit "kites" to seek medical treatment and they go unanswered but money is taken out of their account for making the request.
- ▶ Food is lukewarm, at best, and uncovered food trays are stacked on top of each other so that food from the lower tray is stuck on the underside of the upper trays. When prisoners complained to the guards they were told, "if you don't like it-don't eat it."
- ▶ Prisoners aren't provided with cleaning supplies for their cells for months. One prisoner wrote that he had to resort to cleaning his cell with a t-shirt and shampoo.

Following the riot, one prisoner (who was not involved in the riot but was in the exercise yard at the time) said he was taken to a cell, stripped to his boxer shorts and left in the cell for two days without a mattress or blanket. The water was turned on only for 10 minutes every 6 hours. He also said that prisoners were denied their due process rights after being charged with Code of Penal Discipline Violations by not being advised of the charges, the COPD hearing was done at the cell door by a prison guard and was not tape recorded, as required, and prisoners were not allowed to call witnesses.

The Department of Corrections has **no plans** to move the Colorado prisoners and the Warden has stated that prisoners will be required to pay for the damage, including taking any money that prisoners receive from the outside.

Litigation Update

Effort to halt expansion of the Colorado State Penitentiary

In January 2003, House Bill 1256 was introduced that authorized the use of Certificates of Participation (COP) to fund construction of a **\$100 million expansion of the Colorado State Penitentiary** and a \$200 million expansion project at the University of Colorado's medical school. The purpose behind lumping these two projects together was purely political. Some legislators felt strongly in favor of the prison, others felt strongly in favor for the medical school expansion-combine these two groups, and you have a majority.

To continue to expand prison capacity, cash strapped states, like Colorado, must either rely more heavily on the private prison sector or resort to "creative" financing schemes, usually involving some form of **public debt**. Unfortunately, Colorado is choosing to do both and end-round the state Constitution in the process. The Colorado Constitution explicitly requires voter approval for any multi-year, public debt. Not wanting to take the risk that voters would reject debt financing, the legislature chose a more surreptitious route of using COPs that are very similar to government bonds but are issued, marketed and sold by the private sector. Private investors are repaid in annual installments for a prescribed period of time (in this case--15 years for the prison and 25 years for the medical school). The state then "leases" the facilities via an annual appropriation by the state Legislature. Once the debt is retired, the state would own all right, title and interest in the prison and medical school facilities.

Although CCJRC was able to get House Bill1256 amended in committee to require voter approval, that provision was stripped out on the Senate floor vote. The bill sponsors claimed that because the "lease" would have to be renewed annually, it wasn't a multi-year debt that would trigger prior voter approval. Although the Legislature can legally default on the COPs, Colorado Treasurer Mike Coffman testified on COPs before that, **"the fact remains that a future Legislature does not really have the latitude to not make the annual appropriation. The practical consequences of a decision not to make the annual appropriation, which include credit rating downgrades and quite probably being shut out of the capital markets indefinitely, are so severe that no Legislature will seriously contemplate facing them."** Coffman concluded by saying he felt that CoPs should be submitted to voters for approval. He was ignored and Governor Owens signed the bill into law.

Consequently, on October 7, 2003, **CCJRC** and four of our members, Ari Armstrong, Phil Cherner, Christie Donner and Stephen Rahe, **filed a lawsuit** in Denver District Court, claiming that House Bill 1256 was **unconstitutional** because it violated both the single-subject rule (by lumping the two unrelated projects together) and failed to secure voter approval of the financing scheme. On October 29, 2003, Peter Blake wrote in a column in the *Rocky Mountain News* in which he said, "Logrolling votes and running up debt without a vote of the people -- those are the Colorado legislature's most popular vices. The state constitution forbids both, but hey, everything's constitutional until a court says it isn't, so why not take an occasional flier and see if anyone cares enough to sue?...[S]omeone did care enough to sue the state in an effort to nullify the bill. The plaintiff is the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition."

On January 7, 2004 Denver District Court Judge McMullen ruled that HB 1256 was constitutional without granting CCJRC an evidentiary hearing. On June 11, 2004, CCJRC requested that the Colorado Supreme Court hear the case directly and by-pass the Court of Appeals. CU and DOC filed a similar request. On August 2nd, 2004, both of the petitions were denied by the Colorado Supreme Court. CCJRC filed its Notice of Appeal in the Colorado Court of Appeals and will continue this case. **Because of this lawsuit, the prison and CU construction projects are on hold.**

CCJRC THANKS its attorney, Paul Grant, for his tremendous effort in this case!

Litigation Update

CCJRC continues to fight against private prison in Pueblo

Through legislation passed in 2001 (which CCJRC opposed), the Department of Corrections was authorized to seek bids from private prison companies to build and operate two new prisons in Colorado. In September 2002, Wackenhut was awarded one of the contracts to build a 750 bed private prison in Pueblo. **CCJRC monitored this bidding process** very closely and organized the first **town meeting** to raise awareness about Wackenhut's proposal. We also compiled background research on significant problems at other Wackenhut facilities to counter the lack of full public disclosure.

This campaign in Pueblo has been protracted, complex, and multi-faceted including public education, research, community organizing, open records act requests, media, and two separate lawsuits, one filed against the Pueblo County Commissioners in October of 2002 and one filed against the Pueblo City Council in October 2003. These lawsuits alleged violations of the Open Meetings Law by these governmental bodies in relation to their endorsement of Wackenhut's proposal to the DOC during the bidding process and resolutions passed by the City Council related to the sale, annexation and rezoning of the land the prison is to be built on. Both of these lawsuits have been resolved. The County Commissioners made an acceptable settlement offer and paid our attorney's fees.

On October 8, 2003, CCJRC and Pueblo residents Tawnya Stringer, Nick Stringer, Steve Wilson and Linda Wilson (who currently live across the street from where the proposed prison would be located) filed a lawsuit in Pueblo District Court to reverse the annexation and rezoning and to force the city to allow more meaningful public participation. During the litigation, the **City confessed that it had violated proper procedure** in rezoning the property Wackenhut wants to buy.

The District Court ruled without holding an evidentiary hearing that the City Council did not violate the Open Meetings Law. CCJRC has decided not to pursue an appeal because the Pueblo City Council rescinded the resolutions we argued had been passed in violation of the Open Meetings Law, anyway.

The City and Wackenhut had a closing date of 6/23/04 on the sale of the land but there's another hurdle that Wackenhut and the City have to overcome. The land the City wants to sell to Wackenhut was deeded to the City from the federal government in 1948 as part of the federal Surplus Property Act of 1944. For the City to sell the property to Wackenhut, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must sign a release on the property. The City of Pueblo filed a request with the FAA requesting the release but the City did not include an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement as required under federal law.

The City's position is that the project should be excluded from having to conduct an environmental assessment. In response, CCJRC submitted extensive information to the FAA explaining why the City is not exempt and should be required to conduct the Environmental Assessment. The FAA has not yet responded to either the City's request for a Release or CCJRC's request for an Environmental Assessment. Currently, the sale of the land to Wackenhut cannot be completed and this prison project is on hold.

CCJRC thanks our attorney Steve Harris for his excellent representation in our lawsuit against the Pueblo County Commissioners and Sunny Maynard for her excellent representation in our case against the Pueblo City Council.

We also are deeply grateful to Pueblo residents Tawnya Stringer, Nick Stringer, Steve Wilson and Linda Wilson for joining us as Plaintiffs. The fight continues!

Volunteer to Help Register New Voters

CCJRC is one of many partners working with the **Colorado Progressive Coalition (CPC)** on their massive statewide voter registration drive to register more people of color, low- and moderate-income people, and young people. So far, CPC's voter registration drive had registered over 15,000 new voters and **with help from CCJRC members** and friends we can help CPC reach its goal of 27,000 new voters! The deadline for registering new voters is Monday, October 4th and CCJRC members and friends are needed to help register new voters in your community, at local meetings, in your congregation, or anyplace else you think would work.

To get voter registration forms and the rules for registering new voters, please call or email **Bill Vandenberg at CPC at 303.866.0908** or **coproggressive@aol.com**. Please mention that you are connected to CCJRC because we are eligible for a grant from CPC for participating if we can mobilize our members and friends to register voters and submit the forms to CPC!

3 CCJRC SEPTEMBER, 2004