

we feed. we shelter. we support.



*we care*

**Organization Info:**

Name of Organization: Volunteers of America Brandon Center

Website: <http://www.voacolorado.org/Services/We-Shelter/Emergency-Housing/Brandon-Center>

Address: P.O. Box 140809, Denver, Colorado 80214 (Physical address is confidential)

Mission Statement: Volunteers of America in Colorado seeks to identify and serve the basic needs of the most vulnerable individuals and families within the community.

Contact Person for Questions (name, email, and phone number):

Amanda Wentz, Project Manager

[brandon@voacolorado.org](mailto:brandon@voacolorado.org)

(303) 620-9190

Please check the most appropriate issue dealt with by your organization:

Children     Elderly     Hunger/Homelessness     Disaster Relief     Animal Welfare  
 Health/Wellness     Environment     Human Rights     Families     Soldiers/Supporting Troops

**About Your Issue Area:**

What is the deeper issue behind your organization?

The Brandon Center serves women and children who are homeless, or who are fleeing domestic violence. Women and children who reside at our facility have a wide variety of backgrounds. Some are leaving an abusive partner; others have lost their homes or are experiencing severe mental illness. The staff of the Brandon Center utilizes the organization's core values: Service, Respect, Integrity, and Accountability, to assist those in need in the most effective manner possible.

What programs or services does your organization offer?

Brandon Center/Theodora House is an emergency shelter for homeless women and homeless women with children. The shelter provides assistance to those seeking refuge from domestic violence and offers individual and group counseling, parent education, housing referral assistance, a children's program, GED classes, and employment skills assistance. Every woman receives case management and develops a case plan with her assigned case manager; the length of stay is determined by the needs of each woman or family. Additionally, 10 of our beds are utilized for homeless women veterans and homeless

women veterans experiencing domestic violence in collaboration with Veterans Affairs.

Do you have an interesting story about your organization or clients to share with the students?

N/A

### **How Can Students Help?**

How can students help through specific, tangible cash grants? (ex: \$25 feeds 1 dog for 1 month; or specific items/supplies that will benefit your programs)

\$32.00 feeds and shelters one person for one night. Supplies we always need include diapers, baby wipes, travel-sized toiletries, deodorant, towels, and shaving razors.

How can students help through group service projects? (What is useful to your organization and educational to students?)

- Students could prepare and serve a dinner for the residents in our Theodora Wing (32 adult women) with their parents. The Brandon Center also has an Adopt-a-Room program where families (adult chaperones must be involved) can give one of our rooms a makeover that includes painting the walls, providing new bedding, and furnishing decorations like artwork and lamps.
- Groups of students or classrooms can make care-kits for residents that include towels, washcloths, and small toiletries. You can also get creative with kits you assemble off-site; maybe a sleep-well kit with a blanket, decorated pillowcase, and bedtime book!

Do you provide individual volunteer opportunities for youth? (If so, what ages, and what types of volunteer opportunities do you provide?)

Due to the nature of our facility, all on-site volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult chaperone. See above for specific opportunities offered.

Are there opportunities for students to be recognized by your organization? (A Mention in Newsletter, Site Visit of Facility, Celebration and Mingling with Clients, etc.)

Yes. We can recognize particularly helpful students or student groups in our newsletter, or by sending a special thank you from the children residing at the Brandon Center.