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Kairos Outside First Weekend in Colorado

For over 25 years, Kairos Inside has served in the prison institutions of Colorado. On Nov. 14, 2008 a Kairos Outside Weekend will be held in Colorado at the Patty Hyde Barclay Family Reunion Lodge at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, overlooking beautiful Mt. Epsilon. This will be the first Kairos Outside Weekend in Colorado. Jean Mares, who has served Kairos Inside for 15 years, will be Lay Leader #1. Volunteers are answering the call to team from Arvada, Aurora, Broomfield, Colorado Springs, Denver, Golden, Ft. Collins, Greeley, Lakewood, Louisville, Mead, Parker, Thornton, and Westminster, Colorado.

Kairos Outside is a Christian faith-based program designed to support the female loved ones of men and women who are or have been incarcerated. The Kairos Outside program is a special weekend retreat where participants share with others how the incarceration of a loved one is affecting family life. Weekend retreats become a safe place where participants can share their experiences, share their faith and find comfort and support.

Ms. Mares was interviewed on an 850 KOA Radio Show, You Get the Blessing, in May. From that interview, a retired school psychologist heard the call to team. A woman from Evergreen, who heard the interview, got in touch via the International Office to say she had been looking for a support group. But the first call Jean received was from a Kairos grad at Delta, who was out of prison and on his way to work. He just wanted to thank her and ALL Kairos volunteers for what they do. Talk about a blessing!!!

A series of articles in the Rocky Mountain News last year noted that 1 out of every 3-4 inmates getting out of Colorado prisons end up in shelters in the Denver metropolitan area because of broken family ties. Getting the companion family ministry of Kairos Outside going in Colorado will hopefully help to heal the family system and change those numbers. Family support during and after incarceration helps to reduce the recidivism rate.

For more information, call (407) 629-4948 and speak to our Executive Director, John A. Thompson, Jr., or visit the Kairos website at www.kairosprisonministry.org.

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