



**Citizens Project**

**YES, I want to stand up  
with Citizens Project for  
equality and diversity in  
the Pikes Peak region!**

All new and increased gifts in 2006 will be matched by  
the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado

Enclosed is my check, payable to **Citizens Project**, for:

- CP Supporter \$50       CP Partner \$100
- Community Builder \$250       Master Planner \$500
- Cornerstone \$1,000       Other

Please charge my (circle one):    Visa/MasterCard

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up as a (circle one): monthly/quarterly donor. My  
first monthly/quarterly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
is enclosed.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Do not share my name with issue groups
- Do not recognize my donation publicly
- Send info about including Citizens Project in my will
- Send me a "Create Community" bumper sticker
- Sign me up for the email Activist Network & eNews

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Citizens Project  
PO Box 2085, Colorado Springs, CO 80901**

**Thank you! Contributions are tax-deductible.**

*Mission*

Citizens Project spotlights issues in the  
Pikes Peak region and mobilizes people to  
strengthen the traditional values of our  
nation: equal rights, individual freedoms,  
separation of church and state, civic  
engagement, and respect for diversity.

*Vision*

We envision a community embracing a  
vibrant democracy in the Pikes Peak region  
where equal rights are protected, individual  
freedoms are secure, differences are  
respected, and people fully participate in  
civic and community life.

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*"Citizens Project runs  
on a no-frills, shoestring budget.  
We do a lot with a little"*

-Sharon Berthrong, Board Member

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**2006 Board of Directors**

- Cynthia Nimerichter , Chair
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- Sharon Berthrong ~ Tim Dorpinghaus
- Susan Edmondson ~ Burl Kreps
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- Radha Pyati ~ Kimberley Sherwood
- Julia Tanner ~ Greg Varner
- Dee Vazquez ~ Ron Walden



**Citizens Project**

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Promoting

***Equality,  
Democracy,  
Freedom, and  
Diversity***

in the Pikes Peak  
Region

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**Citizens Project**

P.O. Box 2085  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901  
Phone: 719-520-9899  
Fax: 719-520-0118  
www.citizensproject.org

## Fighting for Equal Rights & Tolerance in the Pikes Peak Region

Citizens Project (CP) was founded in 1993 to address threats to pluralism and religious freedom in local schools. We have expanded on this work through mobilizing activists and building coalitions that promote tolerance, social equality, religious freedom and diversity in our region. Citizens Project has gained national recognition for our work.

### *Creating Community & Celebrating Diversity*

Citizens Project is a community of people from all different ethnic, religious, political and cultural backgrounds. We recognize how embracing differences strengthens democracy and freedom, allowing all people to fully participate in civic and community life. Over 750 individuals contribute to Citizens Project each year, making our work possible.

### *Educating the Public*

Citizens Project works to educate the public about issues related to our mission through our bimonthly newsletter *Freedom Watch*, which reaches 100,000 readers of the *Independent* weekly newspaper. We also hold public forums and discussions where people can learn about and discuss issues together. We use newspaper and radio to publicize events and raise awareness about the need for protecting rights and freedoms.

## Education, Organizing, and Advocacy

Citizens Project mobilizes people on issues pertaining to our mission when we can make a significant impact. Recent issue work includes:

✓ **Election Reform VICTORY!**—In 2005, letters from 26 CP Activist Network members helped sway State Senator Ed Jones to be the swing vote for the Election Reform bill in committee. The bill passed into law and it expands voter rights, requires voter-verified paper records, increases inspection of voting machines, and requires random audits.

✓ **Diversity in Civic Participation**—CP mobilized supporters to encourage City Council to include GLBT, people with disabilities, and women on a proposed Diversity & Strategic Planning Advisory Board. Although the council killed the plan amid the controversy, CP helped raise awareness about the under-representation of diverse groups.

✓ **Diversity in Public Schools**—CP continued to support students at Palmer High School—and throughout District 11—in their efforts to gain full recognition of a diversity of clubs, including their Gay-Straight Alliance. We also opposed an effort to establish as a central goal of the school district, “...the definition, defense maintenance and nourishment of heterosexual, two-parent families...” on the basis that it excludes many diverse families.

✓ **Opposing Prayer in Public Meetings**—CP supports religious freedom so that no sectarian religious expression is imposed within public institutions. We recently opposed a D-11 School Board proposal to establish

### *Organizing and Advocacy*

Citizens Project promotes civic participation, monitoring the city council, county commission, school districts and the state legislature.

We mobilize people through our email Activist Network with over 625 members. Network members receive email alerts about pressing issues along with information and talking points about decisions being made by public officials. They get contact information for their representatives and an easy way to send messages to their elected officials.

### *Voter Education*

✓ **Candidate Surveys**—A signature CP publication reaching 100,000 readers of the *Independent* newspaper, the Candidate Survey lists candidates running for office and their positions on a variety of issues.

✓ **Candidate Forums**—CP co-sponsors and produces public candidate forums where candidates for local and state office speak and answer questions from the audience.

✓ **Public Record**—In 2006 Citizens Project published the third edition of this guide to city, county and state elected officials, including their voting records, which was distributed to 100,000 readers of the *Independent* weekly newspaper.