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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES AND BELLCO CELEBRATE GRAND OPENING OF
NEW WESTERN SLOPE PRODUCE DEHYDRATOR FACILITY**

*Ribbon-cutting Ceremony Showcases New Produce Dehydrators
That Aim to Help Fight Hunger in Colorado*

GREENWOOD VILLAGE, Colo. (April 17, 2013) – Food Bank of the Rockies (FBR) and [Bellco](#) today are celebrating the grand opening of FBR’s new Western Slope facility, which features three produce dehydrators and a related prep kitchen, all made possible by a donation of \$100,000 from Bellco to FBR. The equipment will enable FBR to dehydrate and distribute thousands of pounds of produce to needy Coloradans each year that would otherwise go to waste. The new facility’s location allows for close proximity to the farms of the Western Slope and access to locally grown produce.

The grand opening celebration will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a Palisade Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event. It is expected to draw guests from the Chamber, FBR and Bellco, among other community members. Each attendee will be able to take a tour of the facility and learn more about the dehydrators that will allow FBR to dehydrate produce including apples, peaches, cherries, potatoes, onions, peppers, carrots and tomatoes – which will then be distributed in Grand Junction and across the state to share with people in need. Additional details about the event include:

- Date: Wednesday, April 17
- Location: 120 N. River Road, Palisade, CO 81526
- Schedule:

5:00 p.m.	Ribbon-cutting Ceremony
5:30 p.m.	Palisade Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours
	Food and drinks will be served
6:00 and 6:15 p.m.	Tours of facility and dehydration units
6:30 p.m.	Spokesperson remarks and door prizes
	Distribution of dehydrated food samples
7:30 p.m.	Conclusion

“Today’s event will allow us to witness the incredible work Food Bank of the Rockies will be doing with the new dehydrators to provide food for those in need throughout Colorado,” said Doug Ferraro, President & CEO, Bellco. “One in seven Coloradans struggles with hunger. This fact moved Bellco to donate the needed funds to Food Bank of the Rockies to procure these dehydration units. We are extremely proud to see that Food Bank of the Rockies can now provide a new range of nutritious food options to its partner agencies that it was not able to provide previously.”

“We are so excited to be here in our new facility and launch our new produce dehydrator initiative. These dehydration units will have a significant impact on Food Bank of the Rockies’

Food Bank of the Rockies and Bellco Celebrate Grand Opening

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programs. Dried fruits are expensive to purchase, but once the dehydrators are fully up and running, we'll be able to make them available to more than 2,300 children per week as a healthy snack option," said Kevin Seggelke, President & CEO, Food Bank of the Rockies.

For more information about the grand opening event and the Palisade Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours, visit <http://www.palisadecoc.com/>.

About Bellco

Bellco is one of Colorado's largest financial institutions, with more than \$2 billion in assets and 19 branches in Colorado. Founded in 1936, Bellco offers a full range of financial products and services including mortgages, auto loans and checking accounts. Today, Bellco has more than 210,000 members and over 1,000 Select Employee Groups who benefit from the advantages of a credit union, including lower interest rates on loans, higher yields on savings and access to thousands of ATMs nationwide. Bellco actively supports the community by donating funds and employee volunteer hours to many Denver-area and Grand Junction organizations. "Like" Bellco on [Facebook](#) or "follow" @Bellco_CU on [Twitter](#).

About Food Bank of the Rockies

Food Bank of the Rockies, a non-profit organization, distributed 41.3 million pounds of food last year through our direct service programs and partner agencies, serving clients in Northern Colorado, including Metro Denver, and the entire state of Wyoming. 1 in 7 Coloradans, including 1 in 4 Colorado children, struggle with hunger. Since 1978, FBR has provided more than 472 million pounds of food to our community which translates to nearly 367 million meals for people in need. Food Bank of the Rockies is a member of Feeding America. For additional information, please visit www.foodbankrockies.org. "Like" FBR on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and subscribe to our blog!

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