



## News Release

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### **Arapahoe County celebrates new record high in volunteer hours** *Citizens recognized for service in 150 languages during 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

**Littleton, Colo.** — It wasn't hard for Arapahoe County to find 150 ways to say 'thank you' to the citizens who contributed their time and talents to their local government in 2010 and helped to reach a new record-high in volunteer service hours.

In keeping with the year-long celebration of the County's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Volunteer Connections program thanked its volunteers in 150 languages that are as diverse as the County's heritage during the Feb. 17 volunteer appreciation event at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds and Regional Park.

The County said 'danke', 'mahalo' and 'gracias' to more than 400 citizens who contributed 33,034 service hours last year. This represents a new record high and is a marked increase over the 2010 contribution of 17,634 hours. The hours translate to \$709,249.43 in budget relief for Arapahoe County, as determined by local average wage statistics.

"In this economic downturn, we are especially grateful to the citizen volunteers who have helped Arapahoe County to maintain its reach into the communities we serve," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig. "Whether it was a one-day commitment to fix up the home of a disabled or senior resident or clean up litter along a roadway, or a year-long commitment in the 4-H program, each volunteer has helped to make a positive difference in the lives of their neighbors and friends."

Thirty-two volunteers and 13 volunteer teams received the Presidential Service Award, a national recognition issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to adults who donate 100 or more hours of service and youth who serve 50 or more hours in a year to a certifying organization.

In addition, the County presented special awards to the following individuals, who were nominated and selected by an awards committee for their exemplary volunteer contributions:

- **First in Service Volunteer of the Year** was awarded to John Paul Rossie of Littleton for his many years of commitment to the County Veterans Service Office, where he supports retired members of our armed forces who are seeking veteran benefits. Rossie served our country honorably as a Navy Boatswain Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class in the Vietnam War and continues to advocate for Navy veterans to obtain benefits to treat the effects of Agent Orange.
- **Rising Star Volunteer of the Year** was awarded to two youth volunteers under age 25 for their dedication to service. Francesca "Frankie" Menella of Centennial was honored for her contribution to the success of the Volunteer Connections program through weekly office

support. Julia Gaffney of Aurora was honored for 10 years of involvement and outstanding leadership in Arapahoe County 4-H, including serving as the 2010 4-H District Senator and 4-H Junior Leaders Council President.

- **Community Motivator Award** was received by Gina Young of Deer Trail for her contributions to the County's new humane trap/neuter/release program to control the feral cat population in Byers. Young's tireless fundraising and support resulted in 60 felines being neutered, preventing the birth of 1,400 fewer homeless cats in the community over the next five years.
- **Outstanding Fair Adult Volunteer Award** was awarded to Darlene Buglovsky of Aurora for dedicating 18 years as a 4-H Leader in the Lucky Clovers 4-H club and for supporting 4-H exhibits and the Open Class contest at the Arapahoe County Fair each year.
- **Outstanding Fair Youth Volunteer Award** was presented to Keith Johnson of Aurora, who turned heads for his leadership and enthusiasm in his first year as a volunteer at the 2010 Fair, where he worked all five days, took on many different tasks and was always ready to help out.
- **Program Manager of the Year** was presented to Shaylen Florez, a County employee in CSU Extension who supports more than 100 volunteers in the 4-H program. The youth development program logged the most hours of any volunteer effort in the county with 13,031 hours— a true reflection of their commitment to the success of our community's youth.

Arapahoe County Volunteer Connections can help residents to find a volunteer position that fits their skills, interests and availability. You can commit to a day, a month or even a role that lasts all year. To learn how to get involved, please call 303-738-7938 or visit [www.co.arapahoe.co.us](http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us).

Sponsors and in-kind supporters of the 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Event include title sponsor The Medical Center of Aurora, Amberg Entertainment, Atlanta Bread Company, Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora Schools Federal Credit Union, Aurora Sentinel, Autawash of Colorado, Bellco Credit Union, Budget Blinds of Aurora East, City of Centennial, Comedy Works, Credit Union of Colorado, EON Today's Office, Kokoro Restaurant, La-Mar's Donuts, McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant, Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen, Pepsi Cola, Pirates Cove Family Aquatic Center, Saunders Construction Inc., Subway, The Duck Store, The Egg and I, and various Arapahoe County departments and divisions.

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**Graphics:** To download photos click on the following link:  
<ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/pub/cm/Photos/VolunteerEvent>

*Captions:*

**Check.jpg-** Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Jackson accepts a symbolic check from Volunteer Coordinator Val Purser of more than \$709,000, representing the 33,034 volunteer hours donated to the County in 2010.

**CommunityMotivatorYoung.jpg-** Volunteer Gina Young of Deer Trail received the Community Motivator Award from County Commissioners Nancy Jackson and Frank Weddig (left) and Public Works employee Mary Zaitz.

**Costumes.jpg-** Colorful costumes abound at the 2011 Arapahoe County Volunteer Appreciation Event.

**FairAwardBuglovsky.jpg-** 4-H leader Darlene Buglovsky received the Outstanding Fair Volunteer Award from Commissioners Frank Weddig and Nancy Jackson (left), and Fair Manager Jim Abendschan.

**ProgramManager.jpg-** 4-H Coordinator Shaylen Florez accept the award for Program Manager of the Year from Commissioners Frank Weddig and Nancy Jackson (left), and last year's award recipient, Amy Copley of Judicial Services.

**RisingStarGaffney.jpg**- Young volunteer Julia Gaffney of Aurora (center) received the Rising Star Award for her outstanding service in Arapahoe County 4-H. [Pictured here with Commissioners Nancy Jackson and Frank Weddig (left) and 4-H Program Coordinator Shaylen Florez and Aurora Chamber CEO Kevin Hougen (right).]

**RisingStarMenella.jpg**- Young volunteer Frankie Menella of Centennial received the Rising Star Award for her outstanding service for Arapahoe County Volunteer Connections. (Pictured here with Volunteer Coordinator Val Purser, County Commissioners Frank Weddig and Nancy Jackson (left) and City of Centennial Mayor Cathy Noon.)

**VolunteerofYear.jpg**- Arapahoe County's Volunteer of the Year John Rossie (center) of Littleton is congratulated by Commissioners Nancy Jackson and Frank Weddig (left), County Veterans Service Officer Rick Stewart and Laura Stephens with title sponsor The Medical Center of Aurora.