



News Release

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For Release: February 16, 2010

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Volunteer service hours reach record-high in 2009

Arapahoe County recognizes volunteers at annual awards event

Littleton, Colo. — Volunteer service hours in Arapahoe County hit a record-high last year, with more than 400 citizens contributing their time and talents to the County in tough economic times.

Volunteers contributed a total of 17,364 service hours in 2009, a marked increase over the 2008 contribution of 12,600 hours. That translates to \$358,392.96 in budget relief for Arapahoe County, as determined by local average wage statistics.

“In a time when families and businesses are struggling, Arapahoe County is extremely grateful to the citizens who donate their time to help enhance our services and maintain our reach in the communities we serve,” said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. “From supporting youth and seniors to helping keep our open spaces beautiful or energizing fairgoers, each volunteer makes an important impact. We really appreciate their help.”

Arapahoe County’s volunteer program, Volunteer Connections, honored those citizens on Feb. 11 at its volunteer appreciation event, sponsored by the Marriott Denver Tech Center.

Twenty-two volunteers 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 bestowed its own special awards to the following individuals and groups, who were nominated and selected by an awards committee for their exemplary volunteer contributions:

- **First in Service Volunteer of the Year** was awarded to Minnie Kirscht of Aurora and Anna Papineau of Aurora for their many years of leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work in serving customers of the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! workforce center and Judicial Services.
- **Special Achievement Award** was given to Vincent DiMarcella of Castle Rock for lending his business expertise to plan a re-employment program for clients of Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, as well as teaching culinary skills to at-risk youth through the Arapahoe County CSU Extension.
- **Rising Star Volunteer of the Year**, recognizing a volunteer under age 25, was given to Edwin Gaffney III of Aurora, who demonstrates outstanding leadership in Arapahoe County 4-H, including serving as the 2009 4-H District Senator, 4-H Foundation Youth Representative and 4-H Junior Leaders Councilman.

- **Community Motivator Award** was presented to Mindy Trautman of Greenwood Village for her five years of service as a 4-H youth club leader, where she leads and inspires youth to serve in the community.
- **Star Connector Award** was awarded to the Kidz Night Out team, a group of citizens who have come together to meet a community need by offering a monthly evening of supervision for foster children, while their foster parents enjoy a night off.
- **Program Manager Award** was given to Amy Copley of Aurora, who manages a volunteer program for the County's Judicial Services Court-Notification and Useful Public Service programs.
- **Outstanding Fair Adult Volunteer Award** was awarded to Katy Vincent of Strasburg, for planning and implementing the 2009 County Fair petting zoo.
- **Outstanding Fair Youth Volunteer Award** was presented to Ridge View Academy of Watkins, whose students, ages 16 to 19, have offered support in many areas of the County Fair for the past four years.

Lastly, special recognition awards were given to Dave Purser, Suzanne Savage and Len Kusovac for their unique contributions to the County.

Volunteer Connections can help residents find a volunteer position that fits their skills, interests and availability. Commit to a day, a month or even a role that lasts all year. To learn more, call 303-738-7938 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

Sponsors and in-kind supporters of the 2010 Volunteer Appreciation Event include: Marriott Denver Tech Center, Imagination Circus Arts, Saunders Construction, Comedy Works, EON Office Products, Bellco Credit Union, City of Centennial, Colorado Credit Union, Columbine Kiwanis, Colorado Athletic Club, All-State Insurance, Centennial Airport, Chateau Shutter Co., Outback Steakhouse, Summit Steakhouse, Benedicts Restaurant, and all of the following Arapahoe County programs: Arapahoe County Fair, Human Services Arapahoe/Douglas Works!, CSU Extension, Veterans Service Office, Judicial Services, Open Space, Senior Resources and Weatherization.

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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 Commissioners Pat Noonan and Frank Weddig (left) accept a symbolic check from Volunteer Coordinator Val Purser (right) of more than \$358,000, representing the 17,364 volunteer hours donated to the County in 2009.

VolunteerofYear.jpg- Commissioners Pat Noonan and Frank Weddig congratulate Arapahoe County's two Volunteers of the Year, Minnie Kirscht and Anna Papineau (center), and Volunteer Program Manager of the Year Amy Copely (left).

Gaffney.jpg- Young volunteer E. Gaffney receives the Rising Star Award for his outstanding service in Arapahoe County 4-H. (Pictured here with Commissioners Pat Noonan and Frank Weddig and 4-H Program Coordinator Shaylen Florez).

CostumeWinner.jpg- Colorful costumes abound at the 2010 Arapahoe County Volunteer Appreciation Event. The winner of the costume contest was Gail Baird.