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## **Arapahoe County employee receives Excellence in Service Award** *Arapahoe County employee Linley Severson receives the 2008 Joan Schroer Excellence in Service Award*

**Aurora, Colo.** – Arapahoe County employee Linley Severson received this year's Joan Schroer Excellence in Service Award from SungateKids Child Advocacy Center not only for excellence in case work, but also for the spirit of cooperation between and among agencies that serve abused children and families.

"Joan Schroer, for whom the award is named, set the standard during her tenure with the Littleton Police Department, and Linley Severson not only lives up to the standard, but often exceeds it," said Diana Goldberg, Executive Director of SungateKids. "Her casework is outstanding, and her ability to work with others both within and outside her own agency is remarkable. Her devotion to children is contagious and she inspires those around her to work even harder on behalf of the children we serve."

As member of the Family Empowerment Team for the Department of Human Services, Severson is responsible for investigating concerns of child abuse/neglect, assessing child safety and risk and evaluating the family for any services they may need. She then works with the family to empower them to provide a stable, safe and caring environment for their children so they will not re-enter the system again.

"Winning this award is an honor," said Linley Severson. "I strive daily to put my whole heart and soul into my work. This award helped me to see that a caseworker can make a difference in not only our family's lives but in the way our agencies continue to work towards a common goal."

Severson feels fortunate that people allow her into their lives daily with no hesitations, and believes she could not be where she is now without the guidance of her mentors April See, Dawn Goodman, Diane Ward and Josie Berry, Arapahoe County staff.

Arapahoe County continues its commitment to protecting the safety of children and helping families become self-sufficient.

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**Photo caption:**

*Arapahoe County employee Linley Severson receives this year's Joan Schroer Excellence in Service Award from Diana Goldberg, Executive Director of SungateKids.*