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## **Troubled youth learn the value of volunteering**

*Arapahoe County recognizes Ridge View Academy for their volunteer services during the 2008 Arapahoe County Fair*

**Littleton, Colo ---** The success of the 2008 Arapahoe County Fair would not have been possible without the help of more than 600 volunteers. One specific group, The Ridge View Academy, which is part of the Colorado Youth Corrections Department, filled more than 150 volunteer slots and was honored last week for their commitment to help Arapahoe County.

“Our mission is to provide an environment where youth feel safe, learning thrives and accountability for behavior is a source of pride,” said Bill Woods, Executive Director. “This opportunity gave the boys a sense of fulfillment. You could see the pride on their faces as they helped put smiles on fairgoers.”

The impact of volunteering was evident in the boys. Ricky M., age 17, always thought that doing something positive was boring, but by volunteering at the Fair, he changed his mind and realized that it can be fun. Josef H., age 19, learned that by working as a team you can accomplish anything.

“I’ve made bad choices in my life but through volunteering I’ve learned that I can make good choices and prove to the community that I can help make a difference,” said Julian C., age 17.

Val Purser, Volunteer Connections Coordinator, knows that volunteerism transforms and provides personal self-fulfillment to those who give to our communities. “Without a team of volunteers much of what goes on in our world would never happen.”

A variety of volunteer opportunities with Arapahoe County are available year round. Call 303-738-7938 to learn more.

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**To download the new logo click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CA/>**

*Captions:* Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan presents a Plaque of Appreciation to Bill Woods, Executive Director of the Ridge View Academy.

Arapahoe County Staff show their appreciation for the volunteer commitment of the Ridge View Academy boys and their staff.