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Arapahoe County raises \$2,500 to prevent child abuse

Littleton, Colo. --- Arapahoe County raised more than \$2,500 in recognition of child abuse prevention month in April.

Arapahoe County staff participated in the 6th Annual SungateKids Bowlathon, *Funny Shoes for a Great Cause*. With four teams, the County raised more than \$2,000 and won the "Most Spirited" Award. The event raised more than \$50,000 to benefit SungateKids Children's Advocacy Center, a nonprofit agency serving Colorado's 18th Judicial District by offering a comprehensive approach to services for victims of child abuse/neglect and their families.

While some staff bowled, others were filling piggy banks. At the Sheriff's Office, one piggy bank, Chips, received some special treatment.

"This was such a fun way to raise money for children," said Julie Robinson, Crime Analyst. "Staff dressed Chips in protective gear and let him do a ride-along with the Traffic Team. When we told him he only had two days left with the Sheriff's Office, we're pretty sure we saw a tear in his eye, though it was hard to tell through his goggles."

All proceeds from the piggy bank campaign (\$582) were donated to Families First and their child abuse prevention programs. The non-profit strives to protect children by strengthening families through parent education classes and support groups. Arapahoe County also offered bookmarks filled with tips on what adults can do to help prevent child abuse.

"It's great to see employees donate their spare change, some almost daily," said Darcy Kennedy, Community Resources Administrative Services Division Manager.

As a community, we can reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect by creating supportive environments that empower parents and give them the tools they need to raise their children in safe, loving and nurturing homes. You can reach out to parents and children to reduce the stress that often leads to child abuse and neglect.

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

Photo captions: Human Services staff raise \$2,000 and earn the Most Spirited Award at the 6th Annual SungateKids Bowlathon, an event that raises money for victims of child abuse and neglect.

Chips, at the Sheriff's Office, was just one of the piggy banks placed in various Arapahoe County buildings, which collected money for programs that prevent child abuse and neglect. Chips also got the chance to do a ride-along with the traffic team.