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Make a difference during Community Development Week

Littleton, Colo. --- Arapahoe County celebrates Community Development Week and invites residents to eat out, pick up a hammer, or attend a parenting conference to support our local community. Year round, Arapahoe County's Housing and Community Development division plays a key role in distributing various funds that go toward projects that make our community a better place to live. It is during this April celebration that they are inviting you to take part as well.

Join more than 300 Front Range restaurants for Dining Out for Life® on Thursday, April 26 to raise money for Project Angel Heart, a non-profit organization that provides nutritious, home-delivered meals to people living with life-threatening illnesses throughout metro Denver. By dining out for lunch or dinner at a supporting restaurant, 10 percent of the proceeds will go directly to Project Angel Heart. To find participating restaurants, go to www.projectangelheart.org.

On Saturday, April 28, National Rebuilding Day, be one of Arapahoe County's volunteers and improve the safety and the quality of life for a low-income household with elderly or disabled members. Join others as they work to repair and revitalize a Centennial home. You could help with roof and window repair and replacement, handrail and grab bar installation, wall and walkway repair and light carpentry, among other things.

Rebuilding Together is a non-profit organization that provides these free services to needy families. To volunteer, register at www.rebuildingdenver.org and click on the Volunteer button on the bar. Where it says Team, on the dropdown menu, select Community House.

Attend the Tools for Healthy Family conference sponsored by Families First on April 21. Parenting experts will present new research and innovative ideas to help parents build a happy, healthy child and family. The cost is \$40 per person and \$60 per couple. Register online at www.familiesfirstcolorado.org. Space is limited.

Doctors Care, a nonprofit organization that provides access to affordable medical care to low-income, uninsured residents of Arapahoe, Douglas and Elbert counties, will honor its volunteers at a luncheon on April 16. If you've ever been one of their volunteers, be sure to attend. Visit www.drscare.org or call 303-730-1313 for more information.

Each year, Arapahoe County uses Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds to support organizations and services that make life better for residents. The CDBG and HOME programs are important to our community because they give counties the ability to determine where funds are needed most. These funds have provided meals for elderly residents, improved the Colorado Center for the Blind, provided affordable housing, renovated sidewalks and built classrooms for infants. Show your support and attend an event. For more information, call 303-738-8060.

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