



News Release

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Volunteer efforts lead to thousands of dollars in savings

Arapahoe County recognizes exemplary volunteers at annual awards event

Littleton, Colo. --- If you add hour upon hour of the volunteer service provided to Arapahoe County in 2008, you would find citizens contributed more than 12,600 hours of service. In a time when the economy is at its worst, you might be surprised to see that it's a 5,000 hour increase from last year.

"This time translates into a value of \$270,912.96 in budget relief," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "In times like these we can't thank our volunteers enough for their contributions to enhancing the services of Arapahoe County."

As a token of gratitude, the County's Volunteer Connections honored more than 300 volunteers at this year's Volunteer Mardi Gras Magic Ball in February, while recognizing a number of exemplary contributors.

The coveted Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Sheila Woodcock, Aurora. Woodcock donates her time helping the County's veterans get the benefits they deserve and showing seniors how to live and thrive while dealing with long term illnesses.

The Rising Star Award was presented to two up and coming youth, Ashley Barquero, Littleton, and Christina Williams, Strasburg. Both young women were recognized for their outstanding leadership, creativity and service to others.

"By volunteering I'm making a positive impact on at-risk youth who don't get much attention," said Ashley Barquero. "It's teaching me to connect with people and that will help me start a career in social work."

Other award winners included:

- Casey Davenhill of the Cherry Creek Stewardship who received the Star Connector Award for creating change through diverse partner collaborations.
- Colton Bowen, Byers, and Julie Goldberg, Aurora, for their outstanding leadership at the 2008 Arapahoe County Fair.
- Mary Madsen, Centennial, who received the Community Motivator Award for her work in Open Space and specifically for the Arapahoe County Fair and Regional Park.
- Edyta Glowacki, Aurora, and Raylene Owen, Elizabeth, who received special achievement awards for their long term volunteer dedication and impact.

Arapahoe County also presented 15 individuals and two teams with the National Presidential Service Award. They included Beverly Head, Danine Cohen, Deborah Nazzaro, Dorothy Tragessor, Edyta Glowacki, John Paul Rossie, Kacey Johnson, Marsha Gayle Reyburn, Marty Mosman, Mary Jane Henry, Minnie Kirscht, Monique Melton, Phyllis Walsh, Ruth Wagner, Sheila Woodcock, the Arapahoe County Fair team and the Arapahoe County CSU Master Gardeners team.

Arapahoe County greatly appreciates each and every volunteer who donates their time to make Arapahoe County a better place to live. Their dedication strengthens the County's *First in Colorado, First in Service* mission.

If you are interested in volunteering at Arapahoe County, call Val Purser at 303-738-7938 or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

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

Photo captions:

Check: Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan accepts a symbolic check of almost \$271,000 that represented the 12,640 volunteer hours of service donated to the County in 2008.

Barquero: Younger volunteer Ashley Barquero receives the Rising Star Award for her outstanding service to at-risk youth.

Bockenfeld: Henry Mondragon and Arapahoe County Commissioner Rod Bockenfeld congratulate Sheila Woodcock, Arapahoe County's Volunteer of the Year.

Mask: Masks abound at the 2009 Arapahoe County Volunteer Appreciation Event. The winner of the mask contest was Debbie Urtz.