



News Release

Communication Services
5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, Colorado 80166-0001
Phone: 303-795-4284
Fax: 303-738-7894
www.co.arapahoe.co.us

For release: May 8, 2009

Contact:

VAL PURSER

Volunteer Coordinator

Community Resources

Direct: 303-738-7938

E-mail: vpurser@co.arapahoe.co.us

OR

HALEY MCKEAN

Communication Services Specialist

Direct: 303-636-1945

Mobile: 303-726-6608

E-mail: hmckean@co.arapahoe.co.us

County volunteers lend a hand on National Rebuilding Day

Home repairs support independence, dignity of low-income elderly and disabled

Littleton, Colo. – Arapahoe County volunteers donned work gloves and joined Rebuilding Together™ Metro Denver to tackle home repairs and safety improvements for low-income homeowners on National Rebuilding Day, April 26.

Rebuilding Together™, a local non-profit, organized the day-long effort by 500 volunteers to rehabilitate 25 homes in metro Denver at no-cost to the low-income seniors and disabled residents, who have neither the resources nor ability to do the work themselves.

Thirty-nine county employees, private citizens and elected officials participated in the project through Arapahoe County's Volunteer Connections program.

"Arapahoe County applauds all the volunteers and the Rebuilding Together team, who dedicated their skills and time to ensure the safety, warmth and comfort of citizens in-need," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Jim Dyer. "By teaming up to make household repairs, a single day's work will help low-income elderly and disabled residents live independently well into the future."

The Arapahoe County volunteers were assigned to three homes in Sheridan, Centennial and Denver, each belonging to a low-income elderly county resident who lives alone. The team made household safety modifications, including installing a wheelchair access ramp, hand rails and grab bars, new doors and locks, and fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors, as well as resetting concrete and bricks to eliminate trip hazards. Other repairs included installing new fixtures, such as toilets, faucets, and lights, as well as plumbing, carpentry and painting.

Earlier this year, Arapahoe County awarded a Community Development Block Grant to Rebuilding Together™ Metro Denver for housing rehabilitation and homeowner fix-up projects, including a Rebuilding Day each April and October. Most supplies and materials for the housing repair services are donated. For more information, please visit www.rebuildingdenver.org.

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

* * *

To download photos, click on the following link. Captions for each photo follow on page 2.
<http://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/Volunteer%20Connections/>.

Photo captions:

Noonan: Arapahoe County Commissioner Pat Noonan helps construct a storage shed for a senior in Centennial on National Rebuilding Day.

Sakdol: Arapahoe County Assessor Corbin Sakdol performs plumbing work for a senior resident on National Rebuilding Day.

Group: Arapahoe County employees and volunteers gather for National Rebuilding Day at a senior's home in Centennial.

Gardening: Sheila Woodcock, Arapahoe County 2008 Volunteer of the Year, along with Darcy Kennedy, an Arapahoe County employee, place pavers at a senior's home in Centennial for National Rebuilding Day.