



Colorado Cares Day 2011 Project Report

“Building a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in Colorado.”



Linard Cimermanis

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COMMUNITY



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Colorado Cares Day 2011

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About Serve Colorado

Overview

Serve Colorado—Governor's Commission on Community Service strives to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in Colorado. Serve Colorado works under the leadership of a board of 16 commissioners to distribute and administer Colorado's allocation of AmeriCorps*State funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The current program portfolio consists of 16 programs working to meet a variety of immediate and local needs throughout Colorado communities, including environmental stewardship, academic tutoring, youth mentoring, healthy futures, economic opportunity, and more! Additionally, Serve Colorado promotes volunteerism and service as a means to strengthen Colorado communities through days of service, special initiatives, and community partnerships.

Goals

- To effectively distribute AmeriCorps*State resources to address the needs of Colorado communities.
- To advocate for service and volunteerism as essential components in sustaining healthy Colorado communities.
- To create mechanisms which facilitate greater cooperation, communication and partnerships around service.
- To promote service and volunteerism as an integral component of education at all levels.
- To increase public awareness, appreciation, support and participation in service and volunteerism.
- To increase financial and in-kind support for volunteer initiatives from a broad range of public and private sources.



John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado

Joseph Garcia
Lieutenant Governor of Colorado

Serve Colorado

- Toya Nelson, *Executive Director*
- Mark Skinner, *Sr. Program Officer*
- Terri Jutzi, *Program Officer*
- Kathryn Gray, *AmeriCorps Specialist*
- Jenna Hansen, *Program Coordinator*
- DJ Close, *Literacy Project Fellow*
- Jack O'Dell, *VISTA Disability Inclusion*
- Jay Rivera, *VISTA Leader*

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- Neil Oberfield
- Thomas Rapp
- Angeline Roles
- Diane Stobnicke
- Bruce Cline



Joseph Garcia
Lieutenant Governor

Dear Volunteers and Community Partners,

Thank you to the Coloradans who volunteered in their neighborhoods or participated in community service projects for the 13th Annual Colorado Cares Day on Saturday, July 30, 2011. Now more than ever, Colorado Cares Day is an important time for bringing people together and strengthening our spirit of community.

Under the leadership of Serve Colorado— Governor’s Commission on Community Service, thousands of volunteers made a difference by contributing their time and talents to more that 60 service projects across 21 counties. These service projects provided aid in a number of ways—by serving the needs of our youth, improving and promoting education opportunities, preserving the environment, and fighting poverty.

Serve Colorado promotes volunteerism and service as a means to strengthen Colorado communities through days of service, special initiatives, and community partnerships. In the end, it is not Serve Colorado that fulfills this mission, but all of you – the men, women and children – who help us build a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility in Colorado.

With gratitude,

Joseph A. Garcia
Lieutenant Governor



Lindsay Morgan Tracy
Chair

Dear Partners in Service,

On behalf of Serve Colorado—Governor’s Commission on Community Service, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to volunteers who helped make the 2011 Colorado Cares Day a tremendous success throughout our state.

Coloradans of all ages and backgrounds participated in a variety of projects including school supply drives, state park restorations, and food drives. It was truly amazing to see volunteers across Colorado come together to honor our statehood by giving back to their communities. Colorado Cares Day is a reminder of the importance of civic engagement and volunteerism to our state. The service of these groups and individuals is vital to the livelihood of Colorado.

To all the volunteers and project coordinators who participated this year, Serve Colorado would like to thank you for your dedicated service. As always, we encourage you to continue your involvement in volunteerism as the impact can be seen across the state, especially with children and families in need.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Morgan Tracy
Chair
Governor’s Commission on Community Service

Colorado Cares Day 2011

Day of Service Overview

In honor of Colorado's Statehood, Colorado dedicates the last Saturday in July as Colorado Cares Day. The day is an opportunity to help strengthen our local communities through statewide service projects.

This year's service projects ranged from:

<i>Animals</i>	<i>Disaster Relief/Recovery</i>	<i>Human Services</i>
<i>Arts & Culture</i>	<i>Disaster Training Preparedness</i>	<i>Painting</i>
<i>Beautification/Clean-Up</i>	<i>Distribution</i>	<i>Poverty Fighting</i>
<i>Building</i>	<i>Education/Technology</i>	<i>Public Safety</i>
<i>Children & Youth</i>	<i>Energy/Environment</i>	<i>Seniors</i>
<i>Civic & Community</i>	<i>Essay or Oratorical Contest</i>	<i>Tutoring</i>
<i>Collections (Food, Clothing)</i>	<i>Faith-Based</i>	<i>Veterans</i>
<i>Community Renewal</i>	<i>Food Preparation</i>	
<i>Disability Service</i>	<i>Health</i>	



Volunteers from Boulder's Native Seed Collection.



Volunteers walking at the Relay Under the Stars.

This year's Colorado Cares Day saw over 60 separate statewide projects that took place in 21 Colorado Counties:

<i>Adams</i>	<i>Denver</i>	<i>Larimer</i>
<i>Arapahoe</i>	<i>Dolores</i>	<i>Mesa</i>
<i>Archuleta</i>	<i>Douglas</i>	<i>Montezuma</i>
<i>Boulder</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Pueblo</i>
<i>Broomfield</i>	<i>Garfield</i>	<i>Routt</i>
<i>Clear Creek</i>	<i>Jackson</i>	<i>San Juan</i>
<i>Colorado Springs</i>	<i>Jefferson</i>	<i>Weld</i>

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- *Berthoud House of Neighborly Services Project*
- *Berthoud Community Library Painting*
- *Blanket Tying*
- *Blood Donations*
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- *Community Kitchen Clean-Up and Meal Service*
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Adams County

Community Gardens Cleanup



One of the community gardens.



A young volunteer helps to water some of the crops.

On Saturday July 30, several of the 20 community gardens in the Adams Community Gardens Co-op held cleanup and harvesting events in honor of Colorado Cares Day. At least five gardens and an estimated 30-35 gardeners participated, ranging from 3 – 80 years of age.

It was exciting that entire families participated in the maintenance of the gardens. Many of the gardeners at the Stonehocker Garden in Northglenn also participated in the Tri-County Health's Women Infants & Children Program where they receive free food directly from the gardens in exchange for their help. Additionally, senior citizens participated as gardeners, making this gardening experience truly intergenerational.

To date, the Co-op has been able to donate more than 3,000 servings to area food banks in 2011 and has also supplied a similar amount directly to the gardeners who do the work.



Adams County

Crossroads Community Garden Workday



Some of the harvested produce.

Crossroads Community Gardens Workday offered Adams County families an opportunity to volunteer their time and gardening skills to better their community. Volunteers first weeded and watered the community garden. Then, the produce was picked to go to a local food bank. The garden serves those in the community who are in need of food assistance. In total, 650 servings were harvested for the food bank on Colorado Cares Day which clearly made a huge impact on fighting hunger in Adams County.



An inspired young gardener, Jaden.



Abby and Jaden hard at work.

Adams County

Kaiser Permanente's Field Day at Shopneck Boys & Girls Club



Lacey, Emily, Rose and Josh having fun making posters for the field day activities.

In honor of Colorado Cares Day, 21 Kaiser Permanente employees and family members volunteered at Brighton's Shopneck Boys & Girls Club on Friday, July 29. The first half of the day was devoted to game playing, art and sports. The second half of the day was filled with exciting field day activities that got the kids moving (and wet!)

Over 200 children from the Brighton community had a great day celebrating the end of summer activities at the club. The children also enjoyed a nutritional meal supplied by a Hunger Free Colorado program. The treat for Kaiser Permanente volunteers was seeing the smiles on the kids' faces.



Carly and Jaden making a great poster for the three-legged race.



Gilbert and Megan are hard at work making a poster with a talented Kaiser Permanente employee.

Adams County

Westminster and Broomfield Metzger Farm and Broomfield Veteran's Museum Project

The cities of Westminster and Broomfield have a joint property that they are working on to create an open community space. For Colorado Cares Day, volunteers worked with both cities to identify and pull noxious weeds, clear trash along the perimeter fence line, and remove branches. Volunteers were also at the Broomfield Veteran's Museum to archive and create museum displays.

Additionally, a project to make quilts for the Soldiers in Afghanistan was available for those who desired to help. There was truly something for everyone this year!



WESTMINSTER



Arapahoe County

Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation Backpack Stuffing

The Aurora Public Schools Education Foundation invited volunteers to pack approximately 5,000 backpacks for their give away on August 6, 2011. They had approximately 60 volunteers that day. The majority heard or read about the event either through the internet or the Hub Section of the Denver Post.

The most exciting part of this four hour event was to have all backpacks filled and ready to give to school children during the Aurora Public Schools back to school event. The project organizers were amazed with the many volunteers who were willing to give their time on a Saturday morning to help out.



Photos of Aurora Public Schools students courtesy of the Aurora Public School Education Foundation webpage.

Arapahoe County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Aurora Delaney Farm Community Project



More than 500 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) lent a hand to their neighbors during Colorado Cares Day.

The Aurora and Arapahoe Stakes of the LDS Church sent volunteers -- in many cases whole families -- to Delaney Farm. The volunteers tackled a variety of projects, including scraping and painting buildings, removal and replacement of existing fencing, spreading gravel for parking lot upkeep, and picking up trash along Tollgate creek and the Highline Canal. A compost heap area was built for the gardens.

Aurora Parks Department appreciates the help of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint volunteers. Colorado Cares Day enabled them to accomplish many needed projects in the community.

Volunteers preparing structures for painting.



Volunteers moving materials using a wheel barrow.



Volunteers painting and detailing farm structures.

Arapahoe County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Littleton Food and School Supplies Drive

Throughout July, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints filled grocery bags with food and supplies. On Colorado Cares Day, the 2,000 bags of food, school supplies, and hygiene items were organized by Inter-Faith Services. A large SUV was filled with bags of school supplies that were donated to Arapahoe House, and three large vans and SUV's were loaded with bags of food and school supplies that were donated to the Salvation Army. Generous donations also came from Dish Network in Littleton, Golden Heart of Greenwood Village, and, as part of his Eagle Scout project, members of Austin Canady's boy scout troop donated their time.



Boy scouts and volunteers pause for a quick photo.



Another van full of donated food.



Mary and President Friday.



Volunteers pose for a group photo.

Arapahoe County
City of Aurora KidSpree



KidSpree Volunteer prepares for art activity.



KidSpree volunteer organizes art project.



KidSpree volunteers assist children with finger painting.

An estimated 15,000 people enjoyed nearly 50 hands-on activities and entertainers this year at the City of Aurora's KidSpree on July 16-17 at Bicentennial Park. KidSpree is the Aurora-Denver area's only festival for kids. The event features free activities ranging from educational and recreational to the arts. Nearly 500 volunteers provided essential support at the festival, assisting artists, maintaining line control, directing children through mazes and answering questions from the public.

The event includes numerous creative, hands-on art activities for children. The day provided an opportunity for thousands of children who often have limited exposure to art in a school setting to experience free, artist designed and supervised activities.

Archuleta County

Ice Cream Social and Tie Dye Party

To honor Colorado Cares Day this year, the Pagosa Springs Youth Center hosted an Ice Cream Social and Tie Dye Party to promote youth volunteerism. As people came in to the Youth Center, they were greeted, given the shirt size of their choice and led into the gym where tables were set up with bottles of water and dyes. Before doing their dyeing, participants were able to see different examples of other shirts that had been done.

From the dyeing tables, participants were sent to the ice cream tables and served their desired flavor of ice cream. The event had 21 participants and everyone said they thought it was a great idea! The four adult and four youth volunteers who helped set-up and run the event expressed their encouragement to keep volunteering after seeing the joy on participants' faces. The party also helped raise awareness of the Youth Center's other community activities.



Putting dye on one of the t-shirts.



Boulder County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Longmont The Peaks Care Center



The Peaks Care Center, Longmont.

On Colorado Cares Day, approximately 200 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Longmont came together to give the Peaks Care Center some much needed improvements. The center is a local nursing home that truly appreciated the infrastructure improvement support. Volunteers participated in several activities including building garden beds for the residents, painting walls, retaining gazebos, and updating landscaping around the facility. Residents were thankful for the much needed “face-lift” to the facility.



Boulder County

Intercambio Uniting Communities ESL Teacher Training



Volunteers getting to know one another at a training.

Intercambio offers monthly volunteer training workshops for individuals who would like to teach English to adult immigrants. The workshops are designed to be high-touch and volunteers leave with the basic skills necessary to teach English.

In July, volunteers learned how to teach pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. They learned how to involve the four language skills in all of their classes and came up with activity ideas using real-life objects. The group also participated in a short French lesson to see how it is possible to teach English without using the students' native languages.



Intercambio volunteers learning valuable language skills.



Split into smaller groups, volunteers practice teaching.

An impressive 20 volunteers completed the entire six hour training. These 20 volunteers will work with a minimum of 20 adult language learners over the next several months, teaching English and life skills, providing information on community resources and building friendships.

Boulder County

Native Seed Collections



The volunteer crew with bags full of native seeds pose at Bald Mountain.



Three leaf sumac berries held by a volunteer seed collector at Hall Ranch, Boulder County.

Volunteers on Colorado Cares Day continued the summer tradition of helping to collect seeds of native plants, trees and shrubs to help strengthen the health of Colorado's native ecosystems. Colorado Cares Day and volunteers are critical to the health of native ecosystems in Colorado. Without this effort invasive species take over important habitats lessening the abundance of plant foods for native insects, birds and mammals.

Over 100 volunteers helped collect tens of thousands of seed from five species of native plants. These seeds were collected, cleaned and many are grown out, producing an exponential amount of seed for future restoration projects on public lands.



Volunteers collect Golden Aster, Bald Mountain, Boulder County.



Seed collectors picking Three-leaf Sumac berries at Hall Ranch, Boulder County.

Broomfield County

A Precious Child Fill-A-Backpack Project

Staff members from Gov. John Hickenlooper's office and Lt. Gov. Joseph Garcia's office volunteered for a fun-filled day at the "Fill A Backpack" project, a Colorado Cares Day event sponsored by A Precious Child. The "Fill A Backpack" program provides backpacks filled with school supplies to disadvantaged children living in homeless and protective shelters, in foster care or in low income families in Broomfield, Boulder, Adams, Jefferson, Arapahoe and Denver counties.

A Precious Child is a nonprofit organization devoted to making a positive impact in the lives of disadvantaged and displaced children by improving their quality of life and meeting their most basic needs such as clothing, shoes, coats, backpacks and school supplies.



Volunteers working to stuff backpacks.



The finished product... stuffed backpacks for kids.



The Lieutenant Governor's staff hard at work.

Clear Creek County

Summit Lake Trail Construction



On August 6, 65 volunteers – youth and adults - spent the day with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) at an altitude of 13,000 feet, restoring the popular trail leading to Summit Lake just below the summit of Mt. Evans. Volunteers restored 750 feet of trail, built numerous rock structures, and replanted parts of the area, all to help prevent erosion and alleviate water drainage problems. Volunteers also built two rock viewing platforms on the lake.

Summit Lake Park's 160 acres constitute a natural botanical area which is home to delicate alpine tundra environments, found only at altitudes above 11,500 feet. The trail restored by VOC volunteers will preserve these ecosystems and lower the impact of visitors by concentrating any disturbance onto a single path. A hard day's work was celebrated with a raffle, giveaways, and a delicious lunch provided by VOC's project sponsor Which Wich.



Colorado Springs and Denver County

Project Angel Heart

Colorado Springs and Denver Meal Delivery



On Colorado Cares Day, valued Project Angel Heart volunteers delivered meals to clients in the Colorado Springs and Denver areas. The project's clients are coping with life-threatening illnesses. Project Angel Heart prepares and delivers nutritious meals that are modified to meet the specific needs of each client at no cost. They serve more than 800 clients each week.

During the project, each car was assigned a specific route to visit up to 10 clients. The well organized routes ensured timely delivery of the meals. After all the meals were dispensed, volunteers were free to enjoy the rest of their day and celebrate the positive impact they made in the lives of so many Coloradans.



Denver County

Groundwork Denver Chaffee Park Neighborhood Energy Action

Forty-three volunteers turned out to offer energy-saving resources to the Chaffee Park neighborhood on Colorado Cares Day. Each home was offered the opportunity to change out the front porch light bulb to a compact fluorescent bulb. Local residents received information about public transit and driving alternatives. Volunteers also signed people up for free recycling, energy audits and street trees. There was a great response from Chaffee Park residents, and the volunteers were energized by their impact in the neighborhood.

And look at these great numbers: 100 porch bulbs were changed; 48 families signed up for recycling; 86 families signed up for street trees; 101 families signed up for energy audits. In total, estimates show that these measures will result in 41.3 tons of CO₂ reduced/yr; 31,988 KWh saved/year and \$2,879 dollars saved collectively.



Groundwork Denver Green Team interns, Basheer and Spany, swap out hard-to-reach porch bulb for canvassers.



Colorado Cares Day volunteers watch Groundwork Denver staff role play what to do at each house for their Chaffee Park neighborhood energy action.



Volunteers Tiffanie and Ilsa Jo visit with a Chaffee Park resident after he signed up for a free energy audit and alternative transportation resources.

Denver County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Denver Stake Washington Park Clean-Up

This year on Colorado Cares Day volunteers dedicated a morning to cleaning up Washington and Observatory Parks. Volunteers spread mulch in tree and shrub areas, removed suckers from trees, cleaned up the lake shore at Washington Park, and filled over 100 large trash bags with debris. Significant effort also was put into improving playground areas and making them safer by filling in fall areas near equipment.



A group of young volunteers moving wood chips.



Volunteers take a break for a photo.



Raking wood chips and having a great time doing it!



A volunteer picking up dead branches and litter.

Denver County

Clothes to Kids of Denver Laundry for a Cause



Mollie and Madeline did 5 loads of wash AND helped us sort through all of the shoes that were donated.



The Graham Family washed loads of laundry for Clothes To Kids.

On Colorado Cares Day over 20 families volunteered for Clothes to Kids by washing loads of laundry at home to help with the organization's mission to provide new and quality used clothing to low income, school-aged children in Denver County, free of charge. Children had good, clean clothes to select from as they prepared to go back to school thanks to Colorado Cares Day and this event.



Sarah and Stephanie working together.



Youth volunteer Cole washing a load.

Denver County

Colfax Community Network Family Night



Setting up the food and beverage table.



Arts and crafts.

On Colorado Cares Day, The Women's Bean Project, a community social enterprise dedicated to helping women break the cycle of poverty and unemployment, partnered with the Colfax Community Network to give families of the Network a special night.

More than 70 volunteers contributed to Family Night at the Colfax Community Network to give families a warm, nutritious meal and to share information about public health and partner programs that are available to families. The event offered the opportunity for everyone to have fun, get to know each other, and serve the community.



Volunteers taking a break in the kitchen.



Donated food... Delicious!

Denver County

Extreme Community Makeover Service Project



Photo break: taking a quick break from painting Bill's house to capture a memory for the day.



Lunch time: what it takes to feed 200 volunteers.



Watermelon water: having a refreshing drink after a long, hard day of work.

Extreme Community Makeover adopted specific blocks in the Globeville neighborhood in north Denver and identified outside home and neighborhood improvement projects with residents and organizations in this area through a door-to-door survey that took place two weeks prior to July 30. Nearly 200 people made up five different volunteer groups set to tackle 25 different neighborhood renewal projects.

It was amazing how people working together. The groups involved were the Association of Government Accountants, Habitat for Humanity, LABCOAT, Restoration Community Church, and the Valor Christian High School Girls' Basketball Team. They all made it a very successful day.

Denver County

Kaiser Permanente's Field Day at Denver Broncos Boys and Girls Club



Every kid loves face painting!

In honor of Colorado Cares Day, 25 Kaiser Permanente employees and family members volunteered at the Broncos Boys & Girls Club on Friday, July 29. Volunteers and children at the club enjoyed a fun and active end of summer field day, including three-legged races, basketball, jumping rope and the always challenging egg-spoon race. At the end of the hot day, volunteers rewarded the kids with a watermelon feast. Over 200 youth visited the facility on July 29. In addition to providing volunteer time, Kaiser Permanente also helped by purchasing the food and supplies for the special day.



Kaiser volunteers getting ready for the watermelon feast and face painting at Broncos Boys & Girls Club.



Basketball shooting contest at Broncos Boys & Girls Club field day.

Denver County

Habitat for Humanity Adopt-A-Day Women Build Project

The Habitat for Humanity build was held on August 13 at a construction site located on Irving Street in Denver, Colorado. Eighteen of the Commercial Real Estate Women, (CREW) Community Outreach committee worked on the dry wall construction. Thank you to CREW Denver's 2011 Community Outreach Sponsor Perkins Coie and women build volunteers who gave their time and talents to this construction site. Other non-profits served by the Community Outreach committee in 2011 include the Work Options for Women, Women's Bean Project, and Junior Achievement.



The wonderful ladies that make up the Denver CREW.

Led by President Cyd Petre, the CREW Denver organization is comprised of nearly 200 of the most influential, energetic and enterprising professionals in the commercial real estate arena. CREW's Denver program, which is part of the national CREW Network, provides opportunities for personal and professional growth through educational sessions, monthly programs and national learning opportunities.

Denver County

Fairmount Heritage Fund Riverside Revival



On Colorado Cares Day, 33 volunteers donated their time, supplies, and equipment to revive Riverside Park. Volunteers mulched and pruned trees and shrubs, pulled weeds, and completed an irrigation system. The new irrigation system ensures that the native trees and shrubs planted on Earth Day will get enough water to establish in several years and will no longer need to be watered manually. The park looked great after all of the hard work of the volunteers!



The gardens within the cemetery.

Dolores County

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP) Relay Under the Stars



2011 Relay Under the Stars participants and volunteers.



RSAPP AmeriCorps member Kristy and STUD volunteers "Getting Things Done."

Relay Under the Stars is an annual event hosted in Dove Creek. The event is organized by the Students Taking action against Underage Drinking (STUD) group. STUD is a group of 22 high school students that do various prevention activities and events with the overall goal of lowering the rate of underage drinking in the Dove Creek community and surrounding areas.

All proceeds from this event stay in Dove Creek and go to local families in need. Teams paid a \$300 entry fee to join, and various local businesses and individuals donated money and door prizes. The event ran for six hours and a member from each team was required to be walking at all times. Food was provided for all of the teams and volunteers. To keep energy high, games were played all night including a water balloon toss, egg toss, limbo, tug of war, frozen t-shirt contest, egg race, dance competition, and more! Heather Fury, a local cancer survivor, was selected and honored as this year's Grand Marshall of the event. Approximately 65 individuals and volunteers joined the event and 25 businesses and individuals made donations. The 2011 Relay Under the Stars event raised about \$2,400 to support local families in need.

Douglas County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Littleton Roxborough Food Drive

For Colorado Cares Day 2011, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Littleton participated in a community food drive. To begin, they passed out flyers on Wednesday July 27, to the majority of the homes in Roxborough. Then, on Saturday July 30 they drove by and picked up bags of food families left on their porches.

The Church had over 50 people help pick up and drop off bags and collected over 300 bags for the Food Bank of Roxborough. They filled two truck beds, a van, and a jeep with bags and bags of donated food.



Bags and bags of donated food.



Young volunteers promoting the food drive.



Loading the pick-up truck.



A volunteer's van full of food.

Douglas County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Highlands Ranch Stake Food Drive

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Highlands Ranch Stake, along with Windcrest Retirement Community, held their annual food drive for Inter-Faith Community Services on Colorado Cares Day. Thanks to Sports Authority, who donated boxes and a delivery truck to transport the goods, 8,500 pounds of food were donated to the food bank!



Volunteers extend their thanks to the community for their generous donations.



Boxes of donated food items.

El Paso County

El Paso County Bar Association Lawyers for Literacy Project

To celebrate Colorado Cares Day, member attorneys from the El Paso County Bar Association collected new and gently used children's books to be donated to the local Children's Literacy Center. Over 180 books were collected and taken to the Center. The books will go home with children who attend the center to provide them with reading material so they can continue to practice their reading and speaking skills at home.

This great event also allowed the Bar Association to create a new "Lawyers for Literacy" program, where attorneys will go into the schools to read books that focus on the rule of law and/or the Constitution. They will also continue to collect books at future events for the Center, which will function as one of the main supporters of their book drives.

Several special guests were in attendance at this event, including President of the El Paso County Bar Association, Henry B. Eastland and House Representative Pete Lee.



Garfield County

Colorado River Clean-Up



Volunteers pose for a group photo.



Some of the trash collected from the banks.

On Saturday and Sunday, July 30 & 31, a river cleanup was held along the banks of the Colorado River between Grizzly Creek and South Canyon near Glenwood Springs. This is an easy white water section of river that is heavily used by both private and commercial rafting parties, in addition to fishermen, hikers, bicyclists, kayakers, canoeists, and others. The high traffic and flotsam from drainage areas many miles above section ensures that some amount of trash will be left behind. For the second year, the volunteers focused on cleaning up this section to help ensure its beauty and the safety of visitors. Oh, and the volunteers also had a blast in the rapids between areas where they stopped to pick up trash. The event's organizers were especially pleased to see this event triple in size from last year, peaking with 13.

State Representative Roger Ben Wilson of Colorado House District 61 (Eagle, Garfield, Gunnison, Hinsdale, and Pitkin counties) participated in this year's float. Not only did he help out in the trash pickup, he used his truck to haul away the day's collection of debris when the trash containers at Two Rivers Park in Glenwood Springs were found to be filled.



Volunteers searching for debris along the river.



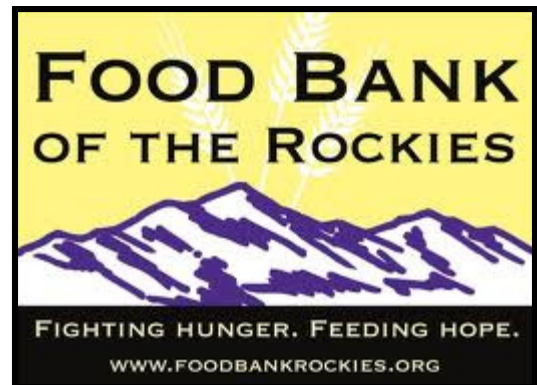
Unloading the trash from the rafts.

Garfield County

Food Bank of the Rockies Food Drive

A community food drive was held on Colorado Cares Day to help the Food Bank of the Rockies fill their Mobile Food Pantry, which delivers food all over the Western Slope. This was the first Colorado Cares Day and Food Drive for the High Country Retired Senior Volunteer Program in conjunction with Colorado Mountain College and Colorado Animal Rescue, Inc.

Volunteers collected donations of non-perishable food, including pet food. The group also delivered food boxes to six Colorado Mountain campuses. All in all, three hundred and twenty pounds of food were collected!



Jackson County

Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation



CDOT volunteers show off some of the food collected.

A food drive was held on Colorado Cares Day for the only food bank in Jackson County; Walden Food Bank, hosted by Mountain View Baptist Church. Volunteers and Pastor "Tex" sorted and categorized donations that were then prepared into food boxes to meet the needs of each individual family.



Boxes and boxes of donated food.

Jefferson County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Columbine Powderhorn Playground Build



Volunteers lift the final piece of the play structure into place at the end of the day.

In partnership with Foothills Park and Recreation District, nearly 250 volunteers from the Columbine Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints built a brand new, state of the art play structure at Powderhorn Park in South Jefferson County. The volunteers were also able to plant 28 new trees and vastly improve the condition of the park in just one day of hard, dedicated work. Their efforts to build a new playground will be truly enjoyed by youth in this community.



Workers are busy assembling parts of the playground structure and leveling ground in preparation for the surface material.



Volunteers carry a large slide to attach to the play structure.

Jefferson County

Kaiser Permanente Wheat Ridge Middle School School Supply Packing

In honor of Colorado Cares Day, 30 Kaiser Permanente employees and family members packed school supplies for over 5,000 students. State Representative Sue Schafter attended the project and pitched in to help pack the school supplies. The supplies will be distributed by the Jeffco Action Center to students as they get prepared for the 2011-2012 school year. This project was especially helpful to those in the community who could not afford to purchase new school supplies this year because of tough economic times.



Students and parents waiting to pick up their packed school supplies.



KAISER PERMANENTE®

Larimer County

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Loveland Stake 16 Projects in Northern Colorado



The Van and Reed families of Loveland completed a variety of tasks at the Loveland Habitat for Humanity Restore.



Taking a break at the Loveland Community Kitchen are Joan of the Kitchen organization and church member, Loveland Mayor Cecil Gutierrez, and Gale from the LDS Church Loveland Stake Presidency.



Checking on efforts at the Habitat for Humanity's "A Brush With Kindness" are Loveland Mayor Cecil Gutierrez, Gale (Counselor in LDS Loveland Stake Presidency), and Shelly, Construction Supervisor for "A Brush of Kindness".

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Loveland Colorado Stake, had 16 different projects across Loveland, Berthoud and Fort Collins. There were over 500 volunteers from the 10 different wards (church congregations) that comprise their Stake. The agency projects in Berthoud included the Community Library, Habitat for Humanity Restore and House of Neighborly Service. In Loveland they included House of Neighborly Service, Habitat for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Community Kitchen and Angel House. On the list in Fort Collins was Respite Care and Habitat for Humanity ReStore. In addition to these agencies the Church also had six larger projects which included Fort Collins City Parks, Boyd Lake State Park, two for the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources, a blood drive and blanket tying. Projects included cleaning-up (inside and out), painting of bird boxes that will be auctioned off in September to raise money for several wild life conservancy agencies in Larimer County, construction, helping customers in the ReStores, painting of walls, washing windows, donating pints of blood and finishing blankets that will be given to agencies in Larimer County that have individuals in need.

Larimer County

Serve Colorado/AARP Colorado “Book on into Reading” Book Drive

In honor of Colorado Cares Day, AARP Colorado, with assistance from Serve Colorado and Volunteers of America, hosted a book drive in Larimer County. Donations of new children’s books were dropped off between July 18 and August 8 at the following locations: Fort Collins Senior Center, Learning Express Toys, King Soopers Marketplace, House of Neighborly Services, and Salt and Light Learning. The collected books were distributed to children through a local nonprofit, Homeless Gear, on August 13 for Colorado Cares Day. Because of the strong spirit of giving, hundreds of kids received new reading materials just in time for back-to-school.



Free books donated by folks in the community.



Volunteers read to children and families during the event.



Volunteer storytellers were onsite to read to the children throughout the book drive.

Larimer County

Homeless Gear Outdoor Gear and Clothing Drive



Homeless Gear volunteers take a break for a photo.

Homeless Gear held a collection drive and fundraiser BBQ with the help of Sam's Club in Fort Collins. The Sam's Club Store Manager (Scott) cooked and the Supervisor of Cashiers (Marsha) served the food in the Sam's Club parking lot where the event was held. During the event, Homeless Gear spread awareness about their cause and also collected outdoor gear, clothing, and hygiene products to benefit the homeless in Northern Colorado.



The Homeless Gear tent in front of Sam's Club.

Mesa County

Raven's Roost Cleanup



Volunteers paint tires on the landing strip.



Group pictures of the volunteers.

On Colorado Cares Day this year volunteers conquered several work projects at Raven's Roost, which serves as a safe, nurturing place for people to grieve after a personal loss or tragedy. Volunteers noticeably improved the appearance of the property by painting a beautiful mural, re-painting an outside retaining wall, scraping and re-painting the front entrance, and re-painting tires along the landing strip on the property. Concerned about safety, volunteers moved wood away from the building to decrease the risk of fire, coated fireplace rocks with polyurethane, and moved dirt to help protect and insulate water pipes from freezing. With their generous donation of time and effort, volunteers helped Raven's Roost to function better so individuals and families in need can get the care and support they need during difficult times.



A volunteer excited to be helping out.



Teamwork gets the job done!

Mesa County

Serve Colorado/AARP Colorado “Book on into Reading” Book Drive

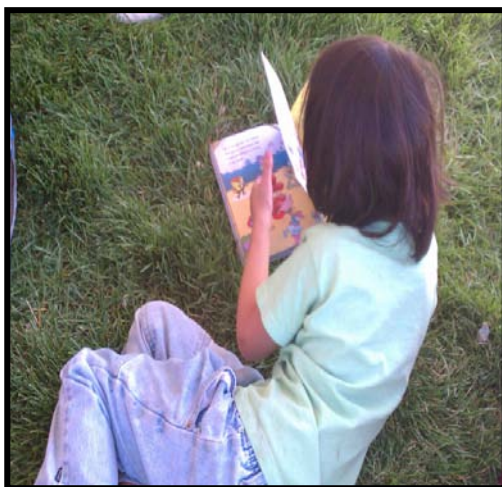


The book giveaway table.



Agency booths during the Colorado Care's Day event.

On Colorado Cares Day, Mesa County RSVP, AARP Colorado, the Fruita Chamber of Commerce, Grand Valley Moms, Mesa County Library, Western Colorado Math & Science Center and Serve Colorado hosted “Book into Reading”, a free book give away. Books were collected from the Colorado State Retired Teachers Association, Barnes & Noble, the Fruita Thrift Store, Colorado Miss Teen Chloe Brown and area residents. The event raised awareness for Gov. John Hickenlooper's initiative to have every Colorado child reading proficiently by the



This little gal plopped down under the nearest shade tree in the Civic Park and began to read.



Head of Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Reeves Brown reading the proclamation for Colorado Care's Day. Maureen Smile of AARP wearing red.

Montezuma County

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP) AmeriCorps*State Program Kids at Play Program



Bill, Aaron and Colby demonstrate a drill at the Kids at Play Football Camp.

Four Corners Young American Football League, Cortez Parks and Recreation and AmeriCorps members formed a non-contact football camp for 15 kids in the first through third grades at no charge. It was a great opportunity to introduce the game of football, teach basic skills, introduce the concept of teamwork and get kids out playing.



Tanner hands off the ball to Jude during a drill.

Montezuma County

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP) AmeriCorps*State Program Rocks Medicine Horse Project



AmeriCorps members and volunteers preparing the site for placement of the rock wall.



The great group of volunteers.

The RSAPP Rocks Medicine Center project consisted of building a rock wall around the newly-erected sign in front of the Medicine Horse Center on County Road J, south of Mancos. Volunteers prepared the sign area by shoveling and raking it into a circular shape and they then hauled and stacked rock, forming a wall around the sign. The rocks were gathered and hauled from an adjacent corral and performance area at the Center.

The local Mancos Valley Medicine Horse Center, a nonprofit organization, is affiliated with a facility in the Animas Valley, near Durango, Colorado. The Center has been providing equine assisted therapies and experimental education services to the Four Corners community since 1999.

Besides the volunteers, company employees and volunteers from C.A.R.E. (Cleaning and Restoration Experts), with offices in Cortez and Durango, prepared and served a complimentary lunch to the volunteers following the morning-long project. In total there were 21 volunteers for the project and six volunteers from the C.A.R.E. company who supplied the grill and equipment to prepare and serve a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, and watermelon to the volunteers.

Pueblo County

Pueblo Community College (PCC) AmeriCorps*State Program Water Day at Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo



AmeriCorps member Lynn manning the face painting table.



A line of children waiting for the water

PCC AmeriCorps partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Pueblo to host a Water Day Extravaganza. Through donations by Wal-Mart, Care & Share, Catholic Charities Diocese of Pueblo, and McDonald's, they were able to provide snacks and the equipment needed to support this project. The kids enjoyed a waterslide along with water activities throughout the afternoon. It was a much needed relief from the heat for all who participated!

AmeriCorps member, Charlotte Ruiz, took the initiative to head the planning committee on this event and was able to secure all major details within a month's time. PCC AmeriCorps like to recognize her hard work in making the first Water Day Extravaganza a success.



AmeriCorps member Dee at the wading pool.



AmeriCorps member Danita handing out snow cones.

Routt County

State Parks and Wildlife

Stagecoach State Park Clean-Up Event

For Colorado Cares Day, volunteers participated in a clean-up of the Stagecoach Reservoir and surrounding areas. The event was open until later afternoon for park visitors to volunteer and help pick up litter along the park's trails and shorelines. Stagecoach Reservoir was in desperate need of a clean-up. The receding water levels left piles of debris and trash along the shoreline. Seven volunteers helped pick up litter by contributing 14 total hours of work in recognition of Colorado Cares Day. In total, the collected litter filled seven grocery size bags and included many fishing hooks, lines, and lures which are safety concerns for people and wildlife in the park.



Entrance to Stagecoach State Park.



Misty view of the marina.



San Juan County

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP) AmeriCorps Program Silverton Community Garden Clean-Up



Young volunteers cleaning up an adopted grave.



The project coordinator directing volunteers.

The Silverton Community Garden Clean-Up started at the local Cemetery early Saturday morning. Volunteers put solar lights on three graves that were adopted and will be cared for throughout the year. They then proceeded to the Visitors Center where weeds were pulled from the flower beds in front of the building.

The most exciting part of the event was the fact that youth volunteers adopted three graves, two of which memorialized brothers, one who died in 1908 (2 years of age) the other in 1910 at 4 ½ months old. The one brother does not have a grave stone, so the volunteers hope to raise money so we can have a headstone placed during the annual community cemetery clean-up. In fact, a relative of the two boys was located in Pagosa Springs and has agreed to meet with the Historical Society about how to execute the project. In total, the project had five youth volunteers, four from elementary school and one from middle school.

Weld County

Frederick Community Cleanup

In celebration of Colorado Cares Day, the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps (WCYCC) cleaned up and beautified the community of Frederick, Colorado. Volunteers assisted Frederick's Department of Public Works in weed pulling, weed cutting, and general clean-up at the parks and open space areas. In total, 13 volunteers collected approximately 12 45-gallon bags of weeds. These volunteers represented WCYCC's Corps Members, ranging in age from 14 to 24, and AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members serving at community organizations throughout Weld County. This beautification work helped to maintain the community of Frederick and sustain a quality living environment for residents.



AmeriCorps VISTA Erin happily closes a bag of weeds.



WCYCC crew leader Kate diligently removes weeds.



WCYCC corps member Jonathan watches as corps member Kyle carries over a final bag of weeds.

Colorado Cares Day 2011

2011-2012 AmeriCorps*State Programs

Boomers Leading Change in Health AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Susan Kayler-Daley Website: www.BLCiH.org

Boys & Girls Club Outreach and Enrichment Initiative

Contact: Julie Mordecai Website: www.ColoradoBoysandGirlsClubs.org

City/DPS Collaborative – Urban Education Service Corps

Contact: Roxanne Nice Website: www.DPSAmeriCorps.wordpress.com

Colorado HIPPYCorps

Contact: David Tisdale Website: www.cpcfonline.org

Colorado Youth Corps Association Education Award Program

Contact: Jennifer Freeman Website: www.cyca.org

Community Building Partnership for Youth in Transition

Contact: Nicole Vera Website: www.CBPYTAmeriCorps.org

Energize La Plata

Contact: Peter Tregillus Website: www.sucap.org

Frontier Asset Building AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Shawn Young Website: www.FrontierAssetBuilding.org

Job Training Environmental and Conservation Initiative

Contact: Ellen Piangerelli Website: www.MileHighYouthCorps.org

Colorado Mesa University AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Angie Bertrand Website: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/AmeriCorps/>

Pueblo Community College AmeriCorps Project

Contact: Cristina Guerra Website: www.PuebloCC.edu

United Way AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Adam Molzer Website: www.uwaylc.org

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP)

Contact: Cathy Cowles Website: www.RSAPP.org

Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Yvonne Morfitt

The School-Based Mentoring Program

Contact: Libby Foster Website: www.PartnersRouttCounty.org

Weld County Youth Conservation Corps

Contact: Tami Grant Website: www.co.weld.co.us



Acknowledgements

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Dan Jensen- *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Littleton*
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Keegan Kuhlmann- *Project Angel Heart*
Cathy Lasnik- *AARP Colorado*
Kimberly Lehman- *State of Colorado Parks and Wildlife*
Gordon Loui- *Kaiser Permanente*
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Kathy Zinter- *Colorado School and Public Employee Retirement Association (CSPERA)*
Special thanks to Gabriel Keeler for volunteering his time on the creation of this report.

PROJECT COORDINATORS

Remember to save the date!

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Day of Service

Monday, January 16, 2012

Attention Project Coordinators:

Honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by bringing the King Day of Service to your community.

Save the date and start planning your service projects now! For more information, please visit:

www.colorado.gov/servecolorado



serve
COLORADO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

We thank you in advance for your continued service.



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