



News Release

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Volunteers contribute more than 7,000 hours of their time *Arapahoe County recognizes star volunteers at annual Awards Event*

Littleton, Colo. --- Arapahoe County's Volunteer Connections honored more than 300 volunteers at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Event Nov. 1.

In addition to the awards ceremony, a check in the amount of \$133,096.20, which represents more than 7,000 volunteer hours contributed to the County this year, was presented to the Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners to symbolically demonstrate the outstanding contributions of volunteers from the Master Gardeners program, Arapahoe County Fair and Volunteer Connections.

Several exceptional volunteers received an award for their contributions. Mary Madsen of Aurora and Kathy Mc Daniel of Centennial received the Special Achievement Award for their volunteer efforts as well as their ability to enable positive growth or change within a group.

"Mary Madsen has been a 4-H leader for more than nine years and has taken numerous leadership roles," said Shaylen Florez, 4-H Program Coordinator. "Kathy McDaniel previously worked for the County and came back as a volunteer with great dedication. She is the chair of the annual 4-H fundraiser, president of the 2007 Arapahoe County Fair planning committee and volunteer 4-H secretary. Both women have dedicated so much of their time to strengthen the County's 4-H program."

The Rising Star – Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a youth under the age of 25 who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer leadership, creativity and service to others. Maria De Martini of Littleton recently provided translation services and created a translation sheet of common phrases for Pretrial Services Officers to assist them in communicating with Spanish speaking defendants.

The First in Service – Volunteer of the Year Award presented by Chair Commissioner Frank Weddig and Saunders Construction honored Bob Eshelman from Centennial for his exemplary leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work in his service to others.

Bob Eshelman served in the Army, worked for the Assessor's Office until he retired and came back to the County to volunteer. He's served the County Veterans Services Office, taught woodworking and gardening skills to youth in the CSU Extension after-school program, recently

provided services to Arapahoe/Douglas Works! as an English as a Second Language coach and he's overseeing and mentoring juvenile defendants doing community service.

Other award winners include:

- Joe Abendschan, Johnstown and Kacey Johnson, Aurora – Outstanding Fair Volunteers
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, The Consortium for Older Adult Wellness, Volunteers of America and Kaiser Permanente – Star Connector Award for creating change through diverse partner collaborations.
- Veteran Service Officers William Bristol, Lakewood; John Paul Rossie, Littleton; Wes Howe, Centennial; and Joanne Turner, Parker – Community Motivator Award
- Special recognition was given to Henry Bohne of Douglas County's Veteran Services Office for his support in helping Arapahoe County get its Veteran Services program off the ground.

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 to learn more or visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us.

The event would not be possible without the support of our sponsors: Title Sponsor Saunders Construction; Executive Producer EON Today's office; Associate Producer Sponsors Autawash Car Care, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, Arapahoe/Douglas Works, Community College of Aurora, Commerce Bank, Magic By Barry, Members Federal Credit Union, Senior Resources, Sinsational Designs, Art by Jess Dubois; Directors Harold Massop and Associates Architects, PureCycle Corporation; Star Level Sponsors John Gay and Associates, Dominos Pizza, Safeway Food Stores, Giovanni's Day Spa, Double Tree Hotel, Dave and Val Purser, and Linda Haley. Food was partially donated by Culinary Chef Cheatham of JBC Professional Catering Service.

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

Photo captions:

Maria De Martini poses with family friends after receiving The Rising Star – Volunteer of the Year Award.

Check: Beverly Head, volunteer ambassador, presents Arapahoe County Commissioner Chair Frank Weddig with a symbolic check valued at more than \$133,000 representing the more than 7,000 volunteer service hours received by the County this year.

Volunteer Coordinator Val Purser (Mary Poppins) is presented with roses from Arapahoe County Staff Darcy Kennedy (Dorothy) and Don Klemme as a token of Arapahoe County's appreciation for all her hard work.