



News Release

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Arapahoe County celebrates volunteers during National Volunteer Week *Volunteer service for County government reached 25,000 hours in 2013*

Littleton, Colo. — Arapahoe County recognized the volunteers who shared their time and talents with their local government in 2013 at an appreciation event April 8 during National Volunteer Week. Eleven citizens received the County's Exceptional Volunteer Award at the event, which featured a catered dinner, trivia games, a caricature artist, gifts and door prizes, courtesy of many generous sponsors.

"We greatly appreciate the citizens who chose to volunteer with Arapahoe County in 2013," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Nancy Doty. "Volunteers make a positive difference by helping us extend our reach to youth, seniors, veterans, the disabled and many neighbors and friends. Their smiling faces and helpful hands bring so much value to our programs and services, and they are a vital link to helping us meet our mission of being 'First in Service.'"

More than 400 citizens contributed 25,038 service hours to Arapahoe County in 2013, which translates to more than \$554,000 in budget relief for the county, as determined by national average wage statistics.

Arapahoe County presented a record-high 48 volunteers with the Presidential Service Award, a national recognition issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, to adults who donate 100 or more hours of service and to youth who serve 50 or more hours in a year to a certifying organization. Together, these 48 volunteers contributed more than 18,000 hours to Arapahoe County in 2013.

In addition, Arapahoe County presented its own Exceptional Volunteer Award to the following volunteers for their exemplary contributions in 2013:

- **Rochelle Chiles of Centennial** was recognized for her service to Arapahoe County 4-H and the Arapahoe County Fair. Chiles has served on the Fair Planning Committee and 4-H Horse Council for 15 years, assisting with the 4-H horse project and shows, dog show and home economic and general exhibits. Her service in 2013 was vital to the success of the County Fair.
- **Pat Jacobsen of Centennial** was honored for her contributions to the Judicial Services Division, where she served at the front desk, greeted visitors and handled upwards of 100 calls daily from clients in the Pretrial Supervision and Community Service programs. Jacobsen helped to connect citizens to services in the judicial system and freed up County staff to complete other projects.

- **Nisha Miranda of Highlands Ranch** was recognized for her service at the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center, where she greeted customers who were seeking job search assistance and offered guidance on the computers in the resource center. Her strong customer service and bright smile made a difference to clients who were seeking employment.
- **Marsha Reyburn of Centennial** received the award for her service at the County's Weatherization Division. For five years, Reyburn has assisted with outreach to citizens who receive Low-Income Energy Assistance, who are automatically qualified for free weatherization to improve their home's energy efficiency. Her support helped the Division to weatherize 5,000 homes during that period.
- **Sandi Castro, Cathy Barrentine, Kathy Leslie, Sam Cruz, Lucille Morrison, Diane Maestas, and Rene Tillman** received the Exceptional Volunteer Group Award for their contributions as Information Ambassadors at the County's Human Services office in Littleton, where they worked in shifts to greet citizens, offer directions and information and provide a warm welcome.

Arapahoe County Volunteer Connections offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities to fit all skill levels, interests and availability. Citizens can commit to a day, a month or even a role that lasts all year. To learn how to get involved, please visit www.arapahoegov.com or call Volunteer Connections at 303-738-7938.

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To download photos of the award recipients, click on the following link:
<ftp://ftp.arapahoegov.com/Pub/Communication%20Services/Photos/Volunteer/>

CAPTIONS

Check.jpg – Arapahoe County Commissioners Nancy Sharpe, Bill Holen, Nancy Doty and Nancy Jackson accept a symbolic check from Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Olinger (right) for more than \$554,000, representing the value of 25,308 volunteer hours donated to the County in 2013.

PresidentialService.jpeg – Arapahoe County presented the Presidential Service Award to volunteers who contributed 100 hours of service or more to Arapahoe County in 2013.

Pat.jpg – Pat Jacobsen of Centennial received Arapahoe County's Exceptional Volunteer Award for supporting clients at the Judicial Services Division. [Pictured with Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Olinger and Judicial Services employee Linda Mullen, who nominated Pat for the award.]

Nisha.jpg – Nisha Miranda of Highlands Ranch received Arapahoe County's Exceptional Volunteer Award for assisting job-seekers at the Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center. [Pictured with Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Olinger and A/D Works! employee Ron Perea, who nominated Nisha for the award.]

Marsha.jpeg – Marsha Reyburn of Centennial received an Exceptional Volunteer Award for conducting outreach for the Arapahoe County Weatherization Division. [Pictured with Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Olinger and Weatherization employee Donna Garrett, who nominated Marsha for the award.]

InfoAmbassadors.jpeg- Sam Cruz, Lucille Morrison and Diane Maestas accepted the Exceptional Volunteer Group for their service as Information Ambassadors at Arapahoe County's Arapahoe Plaza facility in Littleton. [Pictured with Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Olinger and Human Services employee Julie Schilling, who nominated the group for the award. *Not pictured: Sandi Castro, Cathy Barrentine, Kathy Leslie and Rene Tillman*]

Editor's Note: Award recipient Rochelle Chiles was unable to attend the event.