



News Release

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Arapahoe County honors hundreds of volunteers for their service

Volunteer service for County government reached nearly \$581,000 in time spent in 2014

Littleton, Colo. – Arapahoe County commemorated the work and time 400 volunteers gave in 2014 during an appreciation event April 21 in Aurora. In 2014, County volunteers spent 25,758 hours in local government sharing their time and talents in a variety of ways allowing the county to carry out our mission of being 'First in Service.' County Commissioners gave big thanks for their service at the event that featured a catered dinner, bingo, a caricature artist and gifts courtesy of many generous sponsors.

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." said Commissioner Nancy Jackson. "Volunteers may not have more time than anyone else but they have the heart and because of them we are able to extend our reach and make a positive difference in many lives. We greatly appreciate the citizens who shared their time volunteering with Arapahoe County in 2014. Their services play a major role in helping us reach our mission of providing 'Service First,' being 'Fiscally Responsible' and enhancing 'Quality of Life.'"

A record-high 57 volunteers received 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.

In addition, Arapahoe County presented its own Exceptional Volunteer Award to volunteers for their exemplary contributions supporting the preservation, restoration and operation of the County's historic site, the 17 Mile House Farm Park:

- **Garry O'Hara** was recognized for his service providing his expertise and knowledge of the historic site. We appreciate his enthusiasm in volunteering in many different projects related to the 17 Mile House Farm Park.
- **Vonnie C'deBaca** was honored for her service to the 17 Mile House during the County's Fall Festival. She helped with the open houses and started the annual Christmas decorating project. We appreciate her sharing her artistic talent with her paintings of the 17 Mile House as well.
- **Carol Epps** was recognized for her service, helping with the 17 Mile House Farm Park Open Houses, the Fall Festival, holiday decorating and most valuable – helping clean the barn and 17 Mile House. We appreciate her love of western history and thank her for all her donated items and helping manage the collections displayed at the House.
- **Bonnie Bowman** was honored for her service, assisting during the open houses, school programs, and helping manage the collections displayed at the House. We appreciate her great ability to share the 17 Mile House story with the public as well.

- **Ruth Race Dolan** was honored for her generosity and service to the County. She previously lived and grew up at the 17 Mile House and shares many of her personal belongs with the public. We appreciate her love of the 17 Mile House and the donations of furniture, historical documents and photos she has made over the years.
- **Jack Race** also previously lived and grew up at the 17 Mile House. He was honored for his service, helping with open houses, attending the Fall Festival as an honored guest and sharing stories and songs of his childhood growing up at the House.
- **Nita and Herb McKnight** were recognized for their service, spearheading the effort to clean the barn and tackle the daunting project of sorting through hundreds of donated items. We appreciate their passion for local history and dedication to preserving the House.
- **Sherrie and Gary Wolf** were recognized for their service, spending many hours helping clean the barn and presenting the farm's history to the public. We appreciate their time spent sorting through hundreds of glass bottles.
- **Karen and Kevin Sear** were honored for sharing their family history with the public. Kevin is the great great grandson of the Cumming's family who previously owned the property. They committed to all areas of the volunteer program. Karen focuses on the inventory and collection management as well as the school program. Kevin keeps the computer records and creates the many brochures and fliers for each activity the historical society works with at the House.

Arapahoe County Volunteer Connections offer 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 arapahoe.gov 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.arapahoe.gov/Pub/Communication%20Services/Photos/Volunteer/Appreciation%20Event%202015/>

Descriptions of the photos:

Check.jpg: Arapahoe County Commissioners Rod Bockenfeld, Nancy Jackson, and Nancy Sharpe accept a symbolic check from Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Olinger for more than \$580,000, representing the value of 25,758 hours donated to the County in 2014, presentation by Community Resources Director, Don Klemme (right).

17 Mile House Volunteers.jpg: Volunteers awarded the Exceptional Volunteer Group of 2014 for their exemplary contributions supporting the preservation, restoration and operation of the County's historic site, the 17 Mile House Farm Park.

Presidential Award Winners.jpg: Winners of the Presidential Award Winners, 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.

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