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Volunteers spread holiday cheer to seniors in Arapahoe County

Elves for Seniors program provides holiday home decoration assistance

LITTLETON, CO – Today is Colorado Gives Day and Arapahoe County Volunteer Connections wants to remind you that giving time is as valuable as giving financial donations.

Elves for Seniors, a new program from Volunteer Connections, paired groups of volunteers with senior citizens in their communities looking for holiday decorating assistance. Many seniors who still live independently need assistance getting their homes ready for the holidays and request help with hanging lights, setting up trees and other holiday decorating. Seniors often request this kind of assistance through Senior Resources and the Chore Services program but the type of help workers can provide is restricted as those programs are grant funded. Volunteer Connections came up with Elves for Seniors to meet this need.

On Saturday, Dec. 3, volunteer groups went to 12 houses across Arapahoe County, serving 15 seniors. More than 50 volunteers donated their time and cheer in groups of two or more volunteers. Many groups were families with children as young as six or Arapahoe County employees.

“I haven’t decorated in years because it felt so overwhelming,” said Gail, a senior living in Arapahoe County who is also blind. “I was very excited about this. To do it with other people, it’s special. It’s a great gift.”

Volunteers will return in January to remove the decorations. This program will continue in 2017.

There are many seniors who also need help shoveling snow after a storm. Volunteers are paired with a senior within walking distance and must commit to the entire season. Please contact volunteer coordinator Nira Duvan at nduvan@arapahoegov.com or 303-738-7938 to volunteer.

For all volunteer position descriptions and volunteer applications, visit www.arapahoegov.com/volunteer.

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