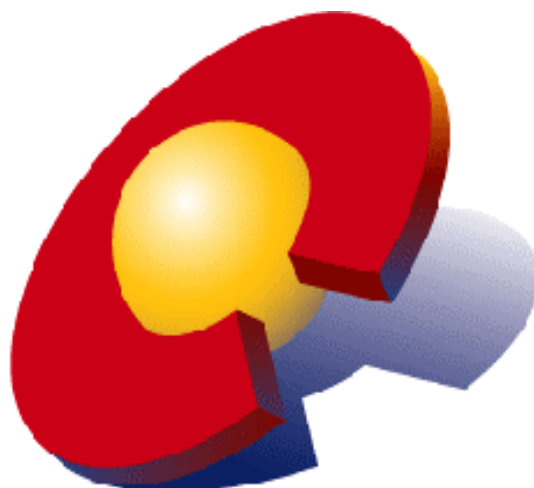


# 2007 Colorado Cares Day Report



*Colorado Cares*

Governor's Commission on Community Service  
Office of Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien  
130 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203



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## Colorado Cares Day 2007

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# STATE OF COLORADO

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**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

130 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792  
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Barbara O'Brien  
Lieutenant Governor

August 15, 2007

Dear Volunteers and Community Partners:

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you, the organizations and volunteers who contributed to the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Colorado Cares Day.

Colorado Cares is a statewide initiative that encourages, promotes, and recognizes volunteerism as a resource to meet local needs and improve communities throughout the State of Colorado. On July 28, 2007, many Coloradoans did just that when they went out into their community and gave back to our wonderful state.

Together, we made this year's program very successful. Over 8,000 Coloradoans honored their state by planning and participating in over 30 separate statewide projects. It was confirmed once again that when Coloradoans work together, they make a significant impact on their communities.

Again, I would like to offer my congratulations to all those who participated in this wonderful event. The large number of projects completed across the state were a true testament to the wonderful spirit that Coloradoans are known to display year-round.

Thank you for your efforts to make Colorado a better place for all of us. We hope that we can continue to count on your support for this important program.

With Sincere Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara O'Brien".

Barbara O'Brien  
Lt. Governor



## Colorado Cares About... The Environment



**“Community service and volunteerism is a fabulous way to celebrate citizenship on Colorado’s statehood day, as we believe citizenship and community service go hand in hand. What better way is there to show our pride in Colorado than by pausing to give back to the state and its citizens?”**

**Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr.**

### Lake Appreciation Day at Cherry Creek State Park

#### *Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County)*

On Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Cherry Creek State Park celebrated Lake Appreciation Day and Colorado Cares Day. The park offered several different volunteer opportunities including mullein head weed management, water quality testing, and shoreline clean up. Over 60 volunteers participated and accumulated nearly 240 volunteer hours. As part of his Colorado Cares Day commitment, Governor Bill Ritter and his wife, Jeannie Ritter, attended and took an active role in the Cherry Creek event.

These activities included a fishing program with free fishing rods for the first 30 kids and free pontoon rides as well. There were about 50 children at the fishing clinic and 40 visitors enjoyed the pontoon rides. The day provided the park with much needed volunteer assistance and some fun for all! Projects included; shoreline clean-up, noxious weed removal and wetlands trail renovations. There were also leisure activities associated with the event; fishing, pontoon boat rides and a free evening program at the campground amphitheatre.

## Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado Mahan Lakes Project

### *Volunteers of Colorado Mahan Lakes/Gore Range Trail (VOC) (Summit County)*

**“Achieving improvements in the quality of life for all of us requires contributions from all of us.”**

**Lt. Gov. Barbara O’Brien**



On Saturday and Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 107 volunteers, from Colorado (one even from Columbia) braved torrential rain and washed out roads to restore over a mile of the Gore Range Trail. The trail tread was moved out of gullies and drainage structures were added to control erosion. This work makes the 50-mile plus trails safer, more sustainable and more enjoyable to hike.

This project was an excellent example of many partners coming together to care for one of Colorado’s most scenic yet most heavily used counties. Summit County based Friends of Dillon Ranger District worked with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) and the White River National Forest, Dillon Ranger District to plan and stage the project. To help support and promote volunteer stewardship, Lt. Governor Barbara O’Brien visited the project and got a first hand briefing on what volunteers were accomplishing Saturday on Colorado Cares Day.

# Colorado Cares Day Volunteers Improve Aurora Reservoir

*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the City of Aurora Parks and Open Space Department (Arapahoe County)*



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) from the Arapahoe and Aurora Stakes took part in Colorado Cares Day projects on July 28 at the Aurora Reservoir. Their work included installing more than 8,000 linear feet of post and cable fence, restoring riparian habitat through wetland plantings and enhancing the archery range north of the reservoir dam.

More than 500 volunteers participated. This year's theme aimed to include volunteers young and old: "Families and friends working to enhance Aurora's parks and open space." Aurora Parks and Open Space Department staff and Church leaders have been planning since last summer. Aurora's Mayor Ed Tauer was on hand to thank the volunteers for their service and dedication to the enhancement of parks and open space.

"We planned this day around families and wanted to see volunteers of all ages working together on different projects," said



Justin Clark, Park Ranger for the City of Aurora Parks and Open Space Department. “This was a very successful Colorado Cares Day.”

Volunteers from the Aurora and Arapahoe Stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are part of over 50,000 members in the Denver area. They have always enthusiastically supported Colorado Cares Day.

- ***Jackson Lake State Park*** (Morgan County) – The State Parks Visitor Center organized general park maintenance, beach clean up and trail maintenance.
- ***Dominican Sisters Home Health Agency*** (Denver County)– The Agency coordinated a clean-up effort by mowing and trimming bushes, shrubs, lawns and hedges on the grounds of the Convent.
- ***Southern Ute Tribal Lands*** (La Plata County) – Trail reconstruction and renovation of trails and footpaths in various locations on Ute tribal lands.
- ***Dutch Creek Trail*** (La Plata County) – Trail maintenance and reconstruction along the Dutch Creek Trail and surrounding area.
- ***Mesa Verde National Park*** (Montezuma County) – Fence construction at various sites inside the park.
- ***Durango*** (La Plata County) – Mapping various sites throughout Durango to help the fire department protect property against wildfires.
- ***Sterling Colorado Route*** (Logan County)– From the sixty-six mile markers 300-303, seven volunteers cleaned over three miles of Route 66.
- ***Roland Moore Park*** (Larimer County) – Volunteers worked with the Fort Collins Parks department to spread mulch at the park and in the adjacent flowerbeds.
- ***Cotton Wood Glenn Park*** (Larimer County) – Volunteers worked with the Fort Collins fire department to remove branches at the park and to do some light trimming.

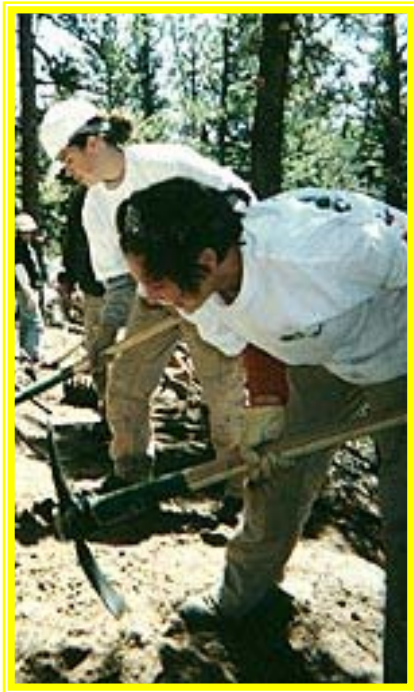




# Colorado Cares About... Youth Development

## Youth Corps Volunteers Natural Areas Projects

*Mile High Youth Corps and Environmental Volunteerism* (Denver County)



- Eight Corps members built trail at Guanella Pass in the Pike National Forest.
- Eight Corps members removed Russian olive trees and gathered and stacked deadfall at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, National Wildlife Refuge.
- Eight Corps members worked at the San Rafael Community Garden installing landscape improvements with Denver Urban Gardens.
- Eight Corps members removed noxious weeds from Hutchinson Park East with Denver Parks & Recreation – Natural Areas.

- ***Graduation of AmeriCorps NCCC Summer of Service*** (Denver County) – The ceremony was a celebration of the three weeks of service provided by the 14 through 17 year olds that participated for the last three weeks cleaning riverfronts, building trails and removing invasive species that damage the Colorado ecosystem.
- ***Karlis Family Center*** (Jefferson County) – Youth volunteers participated in the cleaning of the Karlis family Center both on the inside of the facility and also by doing yard work.
- ***Jefferson County Fair Garage Sale*** (Jefferson County) – The garage sale was initiated in order to raise funds for this years Jefferson County Fair. Donations were needed as well as volunteers to set up and run the sale.
- ***Denver Parks Natural Areas*** (Denver County) – A Mile High Youth Corps crew removed noxious weeds and other invasive non-Colorado plant species. In close coordination with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department, the group helped in the clean up of the natural areas.
- ***Denver Urban Garden*** (Denver County) – A Mile High Youth Corps crew maintains and continues to improve a community garden in partnership with Denver Urban Gardens.
- ***Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge*** (Denver County) - A crew from the Mile High Youth Corps removed noxious weeds and other invasive non-Colorado plant species in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.
- ***Mile High Youth Corps Pike National Forest: Guanella Pass Improvement*** (Denver County) – Making improvements to the trails in the Pike National forest at the Guanella Pass trail head is what the Mile High Youth Corps undertook, in cooperation with the National Forest Service.
- ***Perry Park Ranch*** (Douglas County) – General clean up, fence building, painting and light construction work for a general horse ranch operation. Volunteers also had the opportunity to ride horses after they had finished their chores.
- ***Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education and Youth Leadership Program*** (Weld County) – Youths from all over Colorado were invited to attend this program which links mentors to young people interested in aviation through the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Program.



## Colorado Cares About... Community Service

### Latter-day Saints Celebrate Colorado's Statehood by Giving to the Community



*The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Boulder County)*

Nearly 100 members of the Boulder Colorado Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints painted housing structures on Sat., May 12, for the Boulder County Housing Authority in Louisville and Lafayette. The volunteers completed their 2007 Colorado Cares Day project over two months ahead of the actual day of July 28.

Regular folks took up scrapers, brushes, put down drop cloths and climbed ladders. They painted trim and balconies on two-story affordable housing units at Louisville's Regal Square and painted one-story housing structures for seniors and those with handicaps at Lafayette Villa West. These efforts helped maintain the properties as part of the Colorado Cares initiative encouraging service to honor Colorado's statehood on Aug. 1, 1876.

The Boulder County Housing Authority purchased the paint, which cost roughly \$3,000 and provided some of the painting supplies. Church members supplied scrapers, drop cloths, masking tape, rags, buckets, and ladders in a variety of sizes.



Michael G. Williams, president of the Boulder Colorado Stake, said, “We are particularly pleased to be able to work with Boulder County in this effort that helps keep attractive, affordable housing available.” He added, “After many, many reschedules due to rain, we ended up with a delightful day and the real enjoyment of working on a common project for a common purpose.”

## Food Drive Makes a Difference

*Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Information Technology Services  
Third Annual Food Drive (Bent and Powers Counties)*



In support of Colorado Cares Day, the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Information Technology Services, organized its third annual food drive. The goal this year was to surpass last year’s collection and then deliver them to the needy of Bent and Prowers counties.

The total number of items collected was 5,584 items (nearly 6,000 pounds) for this year's food drive. With the amount of high protein foods like peanut butter and canned meat, it was a very successful food drive.

The trip to Bent County and to Prowers County was successful. The Food Banks – Bent County Food Endeavor located in Las Animas and the Life Center located in Lamar – both appreciated the donations. In fact, more food was brought to each center, than either had on hand before the donations had arrived. For the volunteers, it was a great feeling to help their fellow Colorado citizens.

Approximately 15 staff from the Office of Information Technology Services played key roles in making this years food drive a reality. The food drives have been so successful that staff has made the food drive for Colorado Cares Day an annual tradition. Supporting Colorado Cares Day is the best way of supporting the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Information Technology Services mission of: “People Who Help People”.

- ***Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity*** (Larimer County) – Numerous volunteers worked together with their local chapter of habitat for humanity by helping to construct a house for a local low-income family.
- ***Berthoud Habitat for Humanity*** (Larimer County) – Numerous volunteers worked together with their local chapter of habitat for humanity by helping to construct a house for a local low-income family.
- ***Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*** (Larimer County) – Through the help of the organization and the partnership of the Banner Health’s blood mobile, volunteers and other individuals successfully donated blood.



## Colorado Cares About... Education

### Red Hawk Ridge Elementary and Latter-day Saints, Together Improve School

*Red Hawk Ridge Elementary School* (Arapahoe County)



Red Hawk Ridge Elementary School and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints took a very active role in partnership towards its Colorado Cares Day activity and had a wonderful experience in fulfilling the goals of the event. Volunteers handed out over 1,200 bags with fliers attached to homes in nearby housing developments surrounding the school asking for food donations.



The community responded generously from the homes involved and collected around 300 bags of food. As a result, the partnership was able to completely stock the closet at the school's food bank and had 15-20 boxes of food to set aside for later use. In addition, around 35-40 volunteers show up with work gloves and trash bags to weed the school grounds. The final project was to help the principle of the school assemble packets for the upcoming year.

*“Stuff for Students” School Supply Drive* (Denver County) – Volunteers deliver and then collected twenty-five barrels that were delivered to metro Denver Wal-Mart stores for the supply drive. The effort was co-sponsored by Channel 9 and Volunteers for America.



## Colorado Cares About... Public/Private Partnerships

### Highlands Ranch Community Works to Give Something Back



On July 28<sup>th</sup>, for the second year in a row, area churches joined forces to coordinate a food drive to benefit Inter-Faith Community Services, the largest provider of emergency support of food and shelter in the area. Flyers and paper bags were distributed to neighborhoods and the community responded by donating over 16,500 pounds of contributions.

The recipients were thankful for the help because there is a greater need for their assistance during the summer months when children no longer receive meals at school. Unfortunately, donations typically decrease during the summer months at a time of the most need.

The congregations involved were from The Highlands Ranch Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, St. Andrew United Methodist Church, and two Catholic churches: Pax Christi and St. Mark. FedEx Kinko's, Safeway, Mesa Systems and Victory Packaging also generously contributed to the efforts and to the event's success.



## Community Works Together to Preserve Historic Farm

### *Shoenberg Farm Buildings* (Jefferson County)



Shoenberg Farm has been at great risk of being lost to the state of Colorado and the local Westminster community. A number of initiatives have been undertaken in order to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the farm buildings, so they can continue to stand as a physical reminder of the rich history of Colorado and Westminster residents can enjoy the diverse architecture and interest that Shoenberg Farm brings to the community.



Over 50 Volunteers worked with the city of Westminster and other private groups to help clean the historic farm buildings and grounds. Afterwards, a BBQ was held for the volunteers and the public.

- ***Northeastern Junior College*** (Logan County) – Volunteers painted and repaired the residence halls and the hall doors.
- ***Xeriscape Trailer Park*** (Weld County) – Volunteers helped the residents who have disabilities with yard work and house maintenance projects. In addition, the volunteers worked to assemble a park swing set for the children.





## **GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The Governor's Commission on Community Service, under the office of Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien, is a strong advocate for volunteerism and civic engagement. By Executive Order, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor oversees the Governor's Commission on Community Service, which is guided by an advisory board of fifteen commissioners. One role of this Commission is to foster community service and volunteerism in the state.

### **Volunteerism Initiatives of the Commission**

#### **AmeriCorps**

The Commission administers Colorado's AmeriCorps State programs. Also referred to as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages Americans in full or part-time volunteer service.

To date, more than \$20 million in federal funds have passed through the Commission to local organizations that operate AmeriCorps programs, which address critical community needs in the areas of education, environment, human needs, public safety and homeland security.

#### **Colorado Cares**

Colorado Cares encourages and recognizes volunteerism as a tremendous resource to meet local needs and improve neighborhoods and communities throughout the state. Colorado Cares was created in 1999 as a day of service in recognition of Colorado's statehood and to encourage Coloradoans to give back to their community.

Community, faith-based and governmental volunteer groups have organized thousands of service projects and engaged tens of thousands of volunteers statewide in activities ranging from renovation of senior citizen housing to drought prevention projects involving the eradication of water-thirsty tamarisk trees in state parks.

Contact the Governor's Commission on Community Service

**130 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203  
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## Project List By County

County where event took place.	Project Category	Project description
Arapahoe	Environmental	Volunteers worked together to ; set 1,100 fence posts, Plant 100 cottonwood trees., 600 Sedge & Rush plants, and place crusher-fine rock at an archery range for maintenance and improvement
Arapahoe	Environmental	Volunteers made a difference for Cherry Creek State Park doing a variety of projects and activities throughout the day including: shoreline clean up, noxious weed removal and wetlands trail renovations.
Arapahoe	Other	Volunteers worked in two groups; one group worked to expand a garden area, dispose of branches, and pull weeds. A second group organized a store that the school has.
Arapahoe	Other	Door to door Food Drive to benefit Interfaith Community Services and Salvation Army. School Supply Drive for Arapahoe House
Arapahoe	Public/Private Partnerships	Volunteers are holding a food drive/ school clean-up for Red Hawk Ridge Elementary School. A school clean-up, weeding, picking up trash, and cleaning windows at the school was also done.
Bent	Public/Private Partnerships	The Office of Information Technology Services for the Colorado Dept. of Human Services hosted a food drive to benefit a food bank in Bent County.
Boulder	Other	Volunteers scraped old paint off then applied new paint to housing structures in Louisville and Lafayette for the Boulder County Housing Authority.
Clear Creek	Youth Development	A Mile High Youth Corps Crew made improvements to trails in the Pike National Forest at the Guanella Pass Trail Head.
Denver	Education	Volunteers of America & Channel 9 sponsored the "Stuff for Students" school supply drive. Barrels placed at local area Wal-mart Schools allowed for people to contribute to schools in need of supplies.
Denver	Environmental	Clean-up, mowing and trimming of bushes on the grounds of the Convent/Agency.
Denver	Youth Development	A Mile High Youth Corps crew will removed noxious weeds from a Denver Parks and Recreation Natural area.
Denver	Youth Development	A Mile High Youth Corps crew will removed noxious weeds for the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, National wildlife Refuge.
Denver	Youth Development	A Mile High Youth Corps Team worked on a Community Garden in partnership with Denver Urban Gardens.

Denver	Youth Development	AmeriCorps*NCCC celebrated the completion of its Summer of Service program with a graduation ceremony on Saturday July 28. Summer of Service participants, all 14 to 17 years old, did an extraordinary job cleaning up riverfronts, building trails, removing invasive species, and completing a variety of other projects to improve and beautify Denver's urban environment.
Douglas	Other	Food Drive. Sorting and boxing of donations collected by the generous families in Highlands Ranch and Roxborough.
Douglas	Youth Development	General clean up, fence building & painting, light construction work to benefit a horse ranch that works with children with disabilities.
Eagle	Other	Volunteers collected goods to be auctioned, with all proceeds going to charities throughout the Vail Valley.
Garfield County	Other	Volunteers worked at the Colorado Animal Rescue Shelter of Glenwood Springs assisting in dog-walking and getting oriented on the volunteer activities of the shelter.
Jefferson	Other	Volunteers participated in a community service day with activities held throughout the day designed to benefit the following organizations: Jeffco Action Center, Warm Hearts/Warm Babies, Project Angel Heart, Pajama Program, and Inter-Faith Community Services.
Jefferson	Public/Private Partnerships	Volunteers helped the City of Westminster to clean the historic Shoenberg Farm buildings and grounds.
Jefferson	Youth Development	Volunteers cleaned the Karlis Center, both inside and outside doing yard work.
Jefferson	Youth Development	Jeffco Fair Committee hosted a Garage Sale to raise funds for next year's community fair.
La Plata	Environmental	Volunteers helped the Durango Fire Department protect property against wildfires by mapping various sites throughout Durango.
La Plata	Environmental	Volunteers did trail construction on various Southern Ute tribal lands.
La Plata	Environmental	Volunteers did trail maintenance and reconstruction along the Dutch Creek Trail.
Larimer	Environmental	Volunteers worked with the Ft. Collins Parks Department to clear branches and spread mulch at public parks in the area.
Larimer	Health	A Blood drive was held using the Banner health Bloodmobile
Larimer	Other	Volunteers gathered to help at Habitat for Humanity
Larimer	Other	Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints did a variety of projects throughout Larimer county. Groups worked with Habitat for Humanity in both Berthoud and Fort Collins. Family groups worked with the Fort Collins Parks department spreading mulch at Roland Moore Park and removing branches at Cottonwood Glen Park. Others were tying quilts for Loveland service agencies.
Logan	Environmental	7 volunteers cleaned 3 miles of route 6 (4-lane highway)
Logan	Other	Volunteers painted doors and walls in three residence halls of Northwester College.

Montezuma	Environmental	Volunteers completed fence construction at various sites in Mesa Verde National Park.
Morgan	Environmental	Volunteers worked together doing general park maintenance, beach clean up and trail maintenance at Jackson Lake State Park.
Prowers	Other	The Office of Information Technology Services for the Colorado Dept. of Human Services hosted a food drive to benefit a food bank in Prowers County.
San Juan	Environmental	Volunteers did trail maintenance along the Pass Creek Trail.
Summit	Environmental	Volunteers worked to rehabilitate an old road to a single-track trail and reinforce a closer that was not sufficient enough to keep motorized vehicles out.
Weld	Other	Volunteers worked at a mobile home park for persons with disabilities. Projects included Xeriscaping, yard and house maintenance, and assembling a swing set for children of the park to play on.
Weld County	Youth Development	Civil Air Patrol aerospace education and youth leadership program worked with youth interested in aviation through the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Program.

**Plan now for next year!**

Colorado Cares Day July 26, 2008

Community Build Day - A National Day of Service - August 2, 2008