



Colorado Cares Day 2012 Project Report

“Building healthy, sustainable, communities one volunteer at a time.”



Report Sponsored by:

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About Serve Colorado

Overview

Serve Colorado strives to build healthy, sustainable communities one volunteer at a time. Serve Colorado works under the leadership of a board of 15 commissioners to distribute and administer Colorado's allocation of AmeriCorps*State funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The current program portfolio consists of 16 programs working to meet a variety of local needs throughout Colorado communities, including environmental stewardship, academic tutoring, youth mentoring, healthy futures, economic opportunity, and more! Additionally, Serve Colorado promotes volunteerism and service as a means to strengthen Colorado communities through days of service, special initiatives, and community partnerships.

Goals

- To effectively distribute AmeriCorps*State resources to address the needs of Colorado communities.
- To advocate for service and volunteerism as essential components in sustaining healthy Colorado communities.
- To create mechanisms which facilitate greater cooperation, communication and partnerships around service.
- To promote service and volunteerism as an integral component of education at all levels.
- To increase public awareness, appreciation, support and participation in service and volunteerism.
- To increase financial and in-kind support for volunteer initiatives from a broad range of public and private sources.

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Hannah G. Reed*

Colorado Cares Day



Since its introduction in 1999, Colorado Cares Day has been a state-wide day of service in honor of Colorado's statehood. It is an opportunity to help strengthen local communities through service projects.

Becoming involved in Colorado Cares Day allows one to be involved in a state-wide effort to better the world. Whether that means hosting a service project to address a need in the community or volunteering for a project that focuses on an area you have a strong passion for, every bit of service helps.

On Saturday, July 28, 2012, more than 800 eager Coloradoans gathered to celebrate the 14th Annual Colorado Cares Day completing more than 50 projects throughout the state. Some of the service projects completed were:

- Running day camps for children with working parents and improving the community by removing graffiti from buildings;
- Providing job readiness training by teaching resume writing and interview skills;
- Recruiting and training volunteers to be mentors and tutors;
- Providing food assistance by bringing meals to homebound neighbors and organizing a food drive;
- Making a public space accessible for the disabled neighbors;
- Children's quality of life was improved by building a playground;
- Organizing restoration projects for parks and opens spaces.

On this day, Coloradans of all ages will came together through service projects that strengthened communities, empowered individuals, bridged barriers and created solutions.



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Service Projects

“One of the secrets in life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks.”

-Jack Penn



“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”

-Gandhi

“In order to motivate others, you must first become a source of motivation by yourself.”

-Hazrat Ilyas Attar Qadri



“We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.”

-Winston Churchill

AmeriCorps Colorado Food Drive



In response to the shortage of food in food banks throughout Colorado, AmeriCorps programs and community partners from all over the state teamed up with Serve Colorado, AARP Colorado and Volunteers of America City Harvest Food Bank to organize the AmeriCorps Colorado Food Drive. With the placement of large barrels and boxes in various participating locations in Colorado, more than 400 lbs. of food was donated, quickly filling the barrels and boxes provided.

All of these donations greatly benefited individuals who are participants in Volunteers of America's Meals on Wheels Program. With 8.5% of the elderly living in poverty, these donations help serve meals to individuals who are ages 60 and older and homebound. All meals provided are free of charge to participants, however, contributions are greatly appreciated to continue the service benefitting many community members.



Colorado Cares Day Food Drive

The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints (Westminster Stake)

The Westminster Stake of the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints, Broomfield United Methodist Church, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter hosted a food drive to help two local food banks. The churches were confident that if the community was given a way to donate, they would generously follow through. The community did not disappoint! With the help of 300+ volunteers, more than 6,400 pounds of food was donated to Broomfield FISH and 4,000 pounds of food was donated to Westminster's Have a Heart Food Banks.



Food and School Supplies Drive

The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints (Littleton Stake)



The Littleton Stake of the Jesus Christ Church of Latter-day Saints partnered with Boy Scout Troop 555 to host a food and school supplies drive. Twenty-one volunteers helped to organize the drive, gather the donated items, and deliver the bags to the Salvation Army and Interfaith Services. The drive collected 700 bags of food and school supplies. Because of a decrease in donations, the Salvation Army had to previously turn families away who needed school supplies. However, with the community's donations to the Colorado Cares Day Drive, the Salvation Army was able to call families back and provide them with the assistance they needed.

Hearts Out for Headstart

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP)



The Pagosa Springs Youth Center AmeriCorps team partnered with the local Kiwanis Club and Pagosa Springs Headstart Early Childhood Education Program to repaint the early childhood center building. It took four days and 11 volunteers to repaint the entire building. The majority of the painting was completed by AmeriCorps members and a professional painting crew came in for all the final touches.



To celebrate the repainting and all of the volunteers' hard work, the AmeriCorps team members also hosted a barbecue for the families of the head start program.

Ranch Hall Maintenance

Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Hall Ranch spans 3,205 acres and is well known for its vast and varied wildlife habitat. In turn, it requires a great deal of work to keep up its beauty. Boulder County Parks and Open Space hosted a cleanup at Hall Ranch. With the help of five volunteers, approximately two acres were cleaned. Clean-up activities included: cutting branches, pruning shrubs, picking up branches and other activities that increased the area's natural beauty.



**Parks &
Open Space**

Relay Under the Stars

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP)



Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners partnered with Students Taking Action Against Underage Drinking to host Relay Under the Stars. Community members formed teams, which walked all night, collecting pledges to be distributed to local families in need. This is the town of Dove Creek’s version of Relay for Life, which is a nation-wide initiative to help communities fight back against cancer. In addition to the individual donations made, the County Commissioners, the town of Dove Creek, Community Health Clinic and many more organizations made donations. Around 80 participants were able to raise \$2,300 for a family struggling to pay recent medical bills. The event also honored two children in the community who are cancer survivors. They were both named the “Grand Marshals” of the event and were awarded gift cards.

Extreme Community Makeover Work Day

Extreme Community Makeover

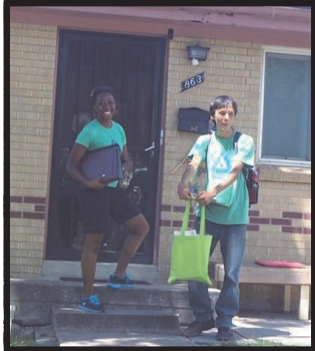
Extreme Community Makeover partnered with Street Kidz, Globeville K.A.R.E.S., Denver Community Church, and individual volunteers to repair the Globeville neighborhood in Denver. The 70 volunteers completed 16 projects including such tasks as painting, clothesline repairs, picnic table construction, fence/gate repairs and weed removal. The project allowed for neighbors to bond while addressing physical repairs and improvements that needed to be made.



Groundwork Denver

Groundwork Denver

Groundwork Denver partnered with Volunteers of America and Starbucks to bring more energy-efficient choices to the Villa Park Neighborhood. The 20 volunteers worked to exchange the incandescent light bulbs with energy-friendly CFL light bulbs. They also



provided other energy-saving resources such as free home energy audits and free trees for future planting.

Of the 110 houses that participated:

- 90 switched to more energy-efficient light bulbs;
- 71 signed up for an energy assessment;
- 28 signed up for a free tree, and
- 92 requested to receive more energy information.



This project not only helped residents discover a new way to engage in energy-efficient practices, it will also help them save money by reducing their energy costs.

Riverside Cemetery Revival

Fairmont Heritage Foundation



The Fairmont Heritage Foundation partnered with The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints Capitol Hill Ward, AmeriCorps volunteers, and Riverside family members to help maintain the environmentally sustainable landscape under development at Riverside Cemetery. Riverside, founded in 1876 without water rights, today is a National Historical District. The Riverside Revival, in its fourth year, is an effort to preserve the cemetery while educating the community about sustainable and native plants that are available to create a beautiful landscape. Twenty-five volunteers helped mulch, weed, and prune in the garden helping to preserve its historical integrity. The Fairmont Heritage Foundation works to preserve Colorado's past by planting for its future.

Denver Senior Law Day

Boomer's Leading Change in Health

Boomers Leading Change in Health partnered with the Colorado Bar Association for Senior Law Day. The event offered exhibits and workshops focusing on topics relevant to and effecting the elderly. Such topics included Medicare 101, consumer and fraud protection, reverse mortgages and assisted living issues. The 12 members of Boomer's Leading Change in Health volunteered in assisting seniors with these legal topics. They helped by monitoring workshops, collecting evaluations, checking attendees in and distributing materials. The event helped ensure that senior citizens were well informed of the issues that effect them at this stage in their lives.



Thank you to the Colorado Cares Day sponsors!

THE DENVER POST
COMMUNITY

The Denver Post Community's goal is to improve and enrich the quality of life through support of programs that benefit children, the arts, literacy and education and the provision of basic human services.
Find out more at: www.denverpostcommunity.com

Volunteers of America is a national, non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. **Find out more at: www.voacolorado.org**



AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of more than 37 million, that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial to them and society as a whole.
Find out more at: www.aarp.org

Metro Volunteers is Denver's leading source for volunteer engagement, volunteer leadership training and volunteer advocacy.
Find out more at: www.metrovolunteers.org





Instead of heading to the office like any normal work day, Kaiser Permanente employees exchanged their lab coats and stethoscopes for neon-green volunteer shirts and a pair of tennis shoes. A total of 108 employees volunteered in completing six different projects.

They worked with seven different non-profit partners, dedicating 785 hours to the surrounding communities. The six projects are highlighted below.

Denver Broncos Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente teamed up with Denver Broncos Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver to throw an end-of-the-summer fun day before school started again. Sixteen Kaiser Permanente volunteers played games with the young boys and girls all day, as well as helped with fun art and science projects. At the end of the day, keeping with their emphasis on healthy life styles, Kaiser Permanente provided a healthy taco bar and watermelon to the participants of the day.



Bessie's Hope Kaiser Permanente



Kaiser Permanente joined forces with Bessie's Hope to help brighten the day of seniors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. It is estimated around 60 percent of seniors do not receive personal visits and they start to feel alone because of it. Bessie's Hope works to eliminate that problem with frequent visits to nursing and assisted living homes. Kaiser Permanente was glad to be a part of

this initiative on Colorado Cares Day. Sixteen volunteers visited St. Andrew's Village in Aurora and Porter's Place in Denver and talked with 50 seniors; brightening the day of each senior they came into contact with.

Denver's Dragon Boat Festival

Kaiser Permanente

Five Kaiser Permanente volunteers assisted in preparations for one of Denver's most unique summer family events, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival. The festival serves as an entertaining way to build bridges of awareness, knowledge and understanding between the diverse Asian-Pacific American communities and the general public through athletic competition. Volunteers participated in setting up the course on Sloan's Lake by preparing the staging area for boat teams, gathering supplies and assembling tents for meeting areas.



Colorado Fourteeners Initiative

Kaiser Permanente



A team of 25 Kaiser Permanente volunteers partnered with the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative to help protect and preserve the fragile environment of Colorado's highest peaks. Their hard work helped maintain hiking routes and minimized damage to native alpine ecosystems. Volunteers worked to reconstruct two areas of a trail leading to the summit of Mt. Bierstadt, which is one of the state's most heavily traveled peaks. It is estimated that over half a million people climb Colorado's fourteeners during the year.

Project C.U.R.E.

Kaiser Permanente

Nineteen Kaiser Permanente volunteers partnered with Project C.U.R.E. (Commission on Urgent Relief and Equipment) to sort, pack and ship 117 cartons that will serve more than 3,000 people in developing countries. Kaiser Permanente employees also regularly contribute medical equipment to the organization to help Project C.U.R.E. reach their goal of assisting the world in meeting its need for medical supplies, equipment and health care infrastructure.



Rebuilding Together Metro Denver

Kaiser Permanente

Sixteen Kaiser Permanente volunteers worked with Rebuilding Together Metro Denver to refurbish and repaint a home to address health and safety disparities. The family who benefitted from the renovations was a grandmother supporting two handicapped adults and a 12-year-old grandson. The volunteers spent eight hours refurbishing the bedroom and bathroom, painting the living room and dining room walls. They also repaired the kitchen cabinets and installed a banister.



Roxborough Food and School Supplies Drive

Roxborough Stake of the Jesus Christ Church of Latter-day Saints



The Roxborough community food and school supplies drive utilized more than 150 volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints, Cub Scout Youth of the Church, Hands Across Roxborough, and “RatPak.” The drive stuffed approximately 250 bags of donated goods. The participants were excited to be involved in helping the community.

Ready, Set, School!

Wind Crest Retirement Community

Wind Crest Retirement Community and Interfaith Community Services came together to host “Ready, Set, School!” The school supplies drive benefitted low-income families who are not able to properly prepare their children with supplies for the first day of school. The group of volunteers were able to stuff 120 bags full of necessary school supplies such as pencils, highlighters, pocket folders and new backpacks. All the donated items were delivered to Interfaith Community Services, which provides basic human services to low-income families using community resources. On top of the bags of school supplies, Wind Crest Retirement Community’s “Treasure Chest” also donated \$150 to the cause.



Pikes Peak Restoration Project

Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Sedimentation (the deposition of sediment due to uphill erosion) has become a major concern nationwide and is quite possibly the biggest environmental issue facing Pikes Peak today. Funding from the following sources: the Colorado Water Conservation Board, The City of Colorado Springs, The U.S. Forest Service, and the National Forest Foundation is being utilized to remediate some of the damage. Rocky Mountain Field Institute works along the Pikes Peak Highway doing channel stabilization, revegetation, and other erosion work with both short and long-term volunteer crews. For their Colorado Cares Day project, 20 volunteers planted approximately 100 alpine transplants onto a previously bare hillside (at 13,000 ft!). These plants are of tremendous importance both functionally and ecologically. Nothing prevents erosion better than well established vegetation.



Colorado River Cleanup

AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA members participated in a clean-up of the Colorado River between Grizzly Creek and South Canyon (near Glenwood). Heavy rains flooded the river the night before, but that didn't stop them! Despite the high and dangerous waters, VISTA members were able to come to the rescue of a panicked man who had fallen from his raft. He was holding onto a mid-river boulder for dear life. The more experienced rafters in the group were able to get the man to shore where he was reunited with his friends and family. After the adrenaline rush of the rescue, VISTA members cleaned up trash around the area, leaving it cleaner than when they started.



Vulnerability Index Initiative

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners worked with the Regional Housing Alliance of La Plata County, Manna Soup Kitchen, the Bridge Emergency Shelter, the Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper and Community Solutions on the national *100,000 Homes Campaign* to spearhead *Colorado Counts* and the *Vulnerability Index* in southwest Colorado. This campaign is intended to help local agencies begin the process of addressing bigger issues in the community by identifying and filling service gaps. Activities included identifying survey administration sites, giving the surveys to individuals, tracking the information, and working on the implementation team to manage donations dedicated to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable interviewees. This process is part of an effort to address the need for affordable housing as well as the problems of homelessness and food insecurity.



Boys and Girls Clubs Summer Brain Drain Prevention

United Way of Larimer County's Generation United

United Way of Larimer County's Generation United, A Young Leaders Society, hosted a celebration event for the Boys and Girls Clubs kids who participated in the summer reading loss prevention program. Generation United works to increase graduation rates in Larimer County and empower the next generation. The summer reading program aims to prevent students from falling behind in their academic performance during the summer months. For this event, Generation United partnered with Island Lake Marina, Design Metal Manufacturing, the Office of Juvenile Justice, Houska Automotive, Jimmy John's and Domino's Pizza. The 16 volunteers helped recognize the students for their participation in the summer reading program by providing them with a fun-filled day in the sun.



The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints–Loveland, Colorado Stake, hosted 18 separate Colorado Cares Day projects. Each of the 11 congregations in the Loveland Stake “adopts” a non-profit agency that they work with all year long. Colorado Cares Day was an opportunity for the congregations to continue to build meaningful relationships with these agencies and the people they serve.

Partners for these projects included Loveland Habitat for Humanity, Berthoud Community Library, Loveland Parks and Recreation, North Colorado Medical Center, and many more. The combined projects had 540 volunteers providing more than 1,600 hours of service. Of the many projects completed, some impressive ones include:

- 36 pints of blood was collected for the North Colorado Medical Center;
- 111 blankets were donated and were distributed to non-profits dedicated to helping the homeless or those in hospitals and nursing homes; and
- 725 combined hours were spent beautifying city parks and county open spaces.



Adopt-A-Vet Blankets for Veterans

Colorado Mesa University AmeriCorps

Colorado Mesa University's AmeriCorps members focused their service project on serving local veterans. This project was very special, as one of the AmeriCorps members currently serves in the military. The first and main part of the project required 20 volunteers to hand tie fleece blankets for the senior veterans who reside in a living center near the VA Hospital in Grand Junction. Each of the 45 hand-made blankets included a note of thanks and were delivered by local biker veterans, who were more than honored to deliver the blankets to their fellow veterans. The second portion of the project was collecting toiletries and canned food items to help a local organization, Vets Helping Vets. This organization provides custom-created care packages to veterans. The day of the event, everyone met at the Colorado National Guard Armory in Grand Junction to raise awareness of veterans and to show their appreciation. The founder of Vets Helping Vets came to lend a helping hand and made touching remarks, making the event that much more meaningful.



Trail Cleaning and Maintenance

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners partnered with Fresh Start Horse Rescue and Positive Youth Advocates to clear horse trails. Fresh Start is a non-profit organization providing a fresh start for horses that are abused, neglected, unwanted, or surrendered by loving guardians who can no longer care for them, by rescue, rehabilitation, and placement in permanent, loving homes. Fresh Start also works closely with other organizations to provide equine therapy for disabled children through horseback riding. Trail clearing and maintenance is necessary to provide a safe environment for therapy to take place. The five volunteers worked very hard to clear approximately one quarter mile of trails.



Community House Cleaning

Pueblo Community College AmeriCorps

The Senior Resource Development Agency called the Pueblo Community College AmeriCorps office to ask if the AmeriCorps members would be willing to assist in a daunting community service task. A local elderly woman's living conditions had become unmanageable and unsafe and needed to be improved immediately.

AmeriCorps team members came together and collectively decided that this was going to be their Colorado Cares Day community service project. As they entered the home, they quickly realized that this project was a monumental task. Two members tackled the living room under the supervision of the homeowner and five members worked on the kitchen for four and a half hours straight. Two other members sat down with her dog and started to cut his hair as it was matted, knotted and was attracting flies. By the end of the day, they had ten bags of trash sitting out by the alley. The AmeriCorps team members stayed and worked very hard despite the surroundings and monstrosity of the project.



Silverton Kids Care

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners

After hearing endless horror stories on the news about the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund needing help, the kids of Silverton decided to create a project and do just that. They hosted a bake sale at the American Legion Hall and sold everything from cakes and cookies, to brownies and cupcakes. With the help of 13 volunteers, 11 of whom were young children, they sold out of everything and raised \$317 for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief fund. The children were proud to be a part of something benefitting someone in need.



**American
Red Cross**

AmeriCorps*State Programs

Interested in learning more about AmeriCorps or becoming an AmeriCorps*State Member? AmeriCorps*State programs funded by Serve Colorado span a wide array of geographic areas and service categories. The following are 2011-2012 AmeriCorps*State programs:

Boomers Leading Change in Health AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Barbara Raynor *Website:* BLCIH.org

Boys & Girls Club Outreach and Enrichment Initiative

Contact: Julie Mordecai *Website:* ColoradoBoysandGirlsClubs.org

City/DPS Collaborative – Urban Education Service Corps

Contact: Roxanne Nice *Website:* DPSAmeriCorps.wordpress.com

Colorado HIPPYCorps

Contact: David Tisdale *Website:* CPFConline.org

Mesa County AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Angie Bertrand *E-mail:* angieb@htop.org

Colorado Youth Corps Association Education Award Program

Contact: Jennifer Freeman *Website:* CYCA.org

Community Building Partnership for Youth in Transition

Contact: Nicole Vera *Website:* CBPYTAmeriCorps.org

Energize La Plata

Contact: Peter Tregillus *Website:* SUCAP.org

Frontier Asset Building AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Shawn Young *Website:* FrontierAssetBuilding.org

Job Training Environmental and Conservation Initiative

Contact: Ellen Piangerelli *Website:* MileHighYouthCorps.org

Pueblo Community College AmeriCorps Project

Contact: Cristina Guerra *Website:* PuebloCC.edu

United Way AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Adam Molzer *Website:* UWayLC.org

Regional Substance Abuse Prevention Partners (RSAPP)

Contact: Cathy Cowles *Website:* RSAPP.org

Saguache United Methodist Church AmeriCorps Program

Contact: Yvonne Morfitt

The School-Based Mentoring Program

Contact: Libby Foster *Website:* PartnersRouttCounty.org

Weld County Youth Conservation Corps

Contact: Tami Grant *Website:* CO.Weld.CO.US



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Boulder County Parks and Open Space

Kristy Chadd

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Extreme Community Makeover

Stephanie Fry

Groundwork Denver

Patricia Carmody

Fairmount Heritage Foundation

Susan Kayler-Daley

Boomers Leading Change in Health

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Patricia Carmody and Ruth Haight

Roxborough Food and School Supply Drive

Barbara Morris, M.D.

Wind Crest Retirement Community

Kyle Rodman

Rocky Mountain Field Institute

Bruce Cline

AmeriCorps VISTA

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