



News Release

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Arapahoe County honors more than 1,200 volunteers for service

Volunteer service for County government surpassed \$874,000 in time spent in 2016

LITTLETON, CO – Arapahoe County celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Volunteer Connections program and the work and time 1,231 volunteers gave in 2016 during the appreciation event held April 26 at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in Centennial.

In 2016, County volunteers spent 37,131 hours volunteering in local government, 4,500 hours more than 2015, sharing their time and talents in a variety of ways. The time donated is valued at \$874,816. Since the Volunteer Connections program began in 2005, volunteers have increased steadily and have donated more than \$5.3 million in time.

County Commissioner Nancy Jackson, Sheriff David Walcher and department directors thanked the volunteers for their service at the event that featured a catered Italian dinner, caricature artist, games and gifts courtesy of many generous sponsors.

"You each have made a positive difference in helping Arapahoe County fulfill its mission of being first in service to our citizens and enhancing the quality of life for all who reside here," said Commissioner Nancy Jackson.

"We greatly appreciate that you chose Arapahoe County as a place to serve in 2016. You have helped us to reach youth, seniors, veterans, the disabled and many neighbors and friends."

Of those recognized, 146 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. This group alone volunteered 24,845 hours in 2016.

In addition, 12 volunteers were recognized as Volunteers of the Year for their outstanding service and commitment to the County. Arapahoe County also presented awards to several groups of volunteers who have shown an extended commitment to various departments and programs including the Sheriff's Office, Human Services, Senior Resources, 4-H and Open Spaces, and events such as the Arapahoe County Fair.

The event concluded with Volunteer Coordinator Nira Duvan thanking volunteers for a decade of service.

"The numbers are impressive but that's not what you actually accomplished," said Duvan. "You provided companionship and joy to isolated seniors, educated youth, supported county agencies and employees

allowing for more cost-efficient government, created beautiful natural spaces, brought together communities and created a bridge between local government and the residents of Arapahoe County.”

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. Volunteer registration is open for the Arapahoe County Fair, July 27- 30. To learn how to get involved, please visit www.arapahoegov.com/volunteer or call Volunteer Connections at 303-738-7938.

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Download 2016 Volunteer Connections Year in Review infographic at <http://arapahoegov.com/DocumentCenter/View/4544>.