

## Colorado Has Top Volunteer Communities In Country

FORT COLLINS, Colo. (CBS4) —



Susan Shattuck volunteers at the Larimer Humane Society.

Coloradans are generous souls and now they can brag of having two of the top volunteer communities in the country, according to a new study which ranks the state 17th in volunteerism.

Two Colorado communities are near the top of the volunteer list.

Susan Shattuck began volunteering at the Larimer Humane Society after she lost her tech job.

"I promised myself if I did get laid off I would stop here on the way home and sign up and I did," Shattuck said.

The new National Study of Volunteers says Larimer County has an unusual number of people who give their time.

"Without volunteering there are a lot of things in the community that would not get done," volunteer Nikki Beecher said.

The national study says that in 2008 just over 26 percent of Americans volunteered. Among large cities Denver ranked 9th with nearly 31 percent volunteering; while Fort Collins-Loveland ranked 7th among top mid-sized cities with more than 39 percent giving their time.

"It really confirms what we witness every day. It just an outpouring of support, a commitment to community," Adam Molzer with the United Way Volunteer Center said.

Volunteers at Larimer Humane Society donate almost 52,000 hours a year.

"So we'd have to hire anywhere from 25 to 30 people to replace what our volunteers give in time," Cary Rentola with the Larimer Humane Society said. "Without volunteers the Larimer Humane Society would not be able to do what it currently does."

The Corporation for National and Community Service conducted the survey.