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Fort Collins-Loveland volunteer efforts near the top

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Loveland-Fort Collins area ranks seventh among the nation's mid-sized cities in volunteering, according to the newest Volunteering in America report.

The report analyzed data from 2005 to 2008 collected in a monthly survey of about 60,000 households by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The Loveland-Fort Collins metro area tied with Greenville, S.C. with a 38.3 percent volunteer rate. Provo-Orem, Utah, was the top mid-sized area with a volunteer rate of 62.9 percent. Greeley ranked 25 out of the 75 mid-sized areas with a 32.8 percent volunteer rate.

Loveland-Fort Collins volunteers contributed \$200.7 million worth of volunteer time from 2005 to 2006, while the value of Greeley's volunteerism was \$192.9 million.

On the large cities list, Denver tied Washington, D.C., for No. 9 with a 30.9 percent volunteer rate. Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. was the top large city with a 38.4 percent rate.

The report also found that the number of volunteers in the nation from 2007 to 2008 increased by about 1 million. In Colorado, there were 1.2 million volunteers who committed to 154.1 million hours of service from 2006 through 2008, which was valued at \$3.1 billion.