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Make a Difference Day sets records

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United Way of Larimer County's 10th annual Make A Difference Day set a record for both the number of volunteers involved and the number of projects completed.

The weeklong event in October drew 4,400 volunteers who finished more than 150 projects. Nearly 2,000 of those volunteers were youths.

In 2008, more than 3,500 volunteers completed about 90 projects.

"We knocked it out of the park," said Adam Molzer, Volunteer Center director. The volunteer center recruited the volunteers and coordinated assigning them to the various projects.

"We were thrilled with the number of folks who participated this year and the impact we were able to make for the organizations," Molzer said.

Coming into this year's event, United Way of Larimer County hoped to be able to match what had been done in 2008.

"People stepped up in amazing ways and exceeded our expectations," Molzer said.

Gordan Thibedeau, CEO and president of United Way of Larimer County, said the organization is proud of the volunteer center and the service it provides the community.

"It's astonishing what we can do when we all work together," he said.

Larimer County's Make A Difference Day is the largest volunteer event in Colorado and one of the largest in the country.

"It's a team effort," Thi-bedeau said. "Thank you to everyone who gave their time and talent to others who need them. Working together to give back to the community makes a big difference in Larimer County."

As successful as the annual event is, Molzer hopes that volunteers will decide to give their time throughout the year rather than wait for a major event.

"Find an organization that is personally interesting for you and that resonates with your passions, and support them throughout the year," he said. "One of our goals is to make this event a catalyst for cultural service in our community."

Additional Facts

Want to volunteer?

United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center coordinates volunteer projects and volunteers year-round. To find local volunteer opportunities or to find out how to be involved with Make a Difference Day 2010, visit www.uwaylc.org.