

## United Way project recognized as one of best in the country

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United Way of Larimer County not only set records with last fall's Make A Difference Day six-day event, it's also been named one of the 10 best Make A Difference projects nationally.

As one of the 10, the Larimer County project will be featured in the April 18 issue of USA Weekend Magazine, and United Way will receive a \$10,000 donation from Newman's Own.

"I squealed," said Jami McMannes, United Way of Larimer County Volunteer Center specialist. "I did the little hop up and down a couple of times."

McMannes said the award not only honors United Way, it also honors the 4,400 volunteers who finished more than 150 projects.

Adam Molzer, United Way Volunteer Center director, said the award is "a reflection of the commitment that this community has to service."

Mary Atchison, vice president of community investment for United Way of Larimer County, said she was thrilled but not surprised that the organization was recognized for its work.

And she said it's too soon to say how United Way will use its \$10,000 award.

"We haven't had enough time to let it sink in to even have that conversation yet," Atchison said.

Both Atchison and Molzer said the bar has now been set even higher for the 2010 Make A Difference event that will run for six days in October.

"We continue to set larger goals for ourselves, try to involve as many volunteers as are needed," Molzer said. "This takes a commitment for the whole community. They step up when the need is there."

Atchison agreed and said community members are always willing to help.

"I think that when times are tough, people really began to have a lot of understanding and concern about their neighbors," she said. "Even if they don't have the dollars, they have their talents and their skills, and those are incredibly valuable."