



Board Representation

Boys & Girls Clubs
of Larimer County

City of Fort Collins

City of Loveland

Colorado State University

Department of Health &
Exercise Science

Office of the General Counsel

CSU Cooperative Extension
4-H Program

Colorado State Patrol

District Attorney's Office

Enck Resources

Estes Park School District R-3

FirstCall United Way 211

Health District of
Northern Colorado

Larimer County Department
of Health & Environment

Macdonald Financial Services

McKee Medical Center

Partners Mentoring Youth
of Larimer County

Poudre School District

Poudre Valley Health System

Thompson School District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kim Sharpe at (970) 495-7503 or krs4@pvhs.org

Fax: (970) 495-7617

www.healthylarimer.org

*****NOTE TO NEWS PRODUCERS – B-ROLL AND RADIO NEWS RELEASE
AVAILABLE. SEE ATTACHED ADVISORY.*****

**Loveland, Fort Collins Named One of 100 Best Communities for Young
People**

Larimer County, CO – America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth today announced that Loveland and Fort Collins together are winners of a first-ever national competition to identify *100 Best Communities for Young People*. The winning communities – ranging from small towns to urban neighborhoods across America – are being celebrated for their commitment to provide healthy, safe and caring environments for young people.

The Loveland and Fort Collins communities jointly are receiving the *100 Best* honor, in part, for their collaborative programs on behalf of children and youth. Examples of these programs include: The Coalition for Activity & Nutrition to Defeat Obesity Youth Committee (CanDo), providing children with opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity with the goal of reducing childhood obesity; the Parent Education Network, a network of providers focused on improving parent education and support services for every parent in Larimer County; Caring & Sharing, a forum for youth-serving agencies to share work being done by their programs, identify gaps and work to make sure services are not being duplicated; and The Youth Engagement Team, established to increase youth access to leadership and decision making roles.

“Fort Collins is a place where kids really matter, and we’re so pleased that America’s Promise has recognized our long-standing commitment to youth,” said Darin Atteberry, Fort Collins city manager. “There are many people and organizations in our community who provide great facilities, a wide array of activities for youth of all ages and effective support programs. Our young people are a key part of what makes Fort Collins such a great place to live, and we want to keep focused on their future.”

(more)

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1029 Luke Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
ph: 970-495-7503
fx: 970-495-7617
web: healthylarimer.org

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“It is an honor to be recognized for fundamental community values associated with nurturing youth and building for the future,” said Larry Walsh, Loveland mayor. “Quite simply, we believe in our youth and as a county, we are investing and developing tomorrow’s leaders, today.”

Both cities are considered a “Community of Promise” in the local America’s Promise initiative – Larimer Promise – because each resolved to deliver Five Promises to our children – promises that research shows are what every child needs to help them successfully transition into adulthood. The promises include providing: Caring Adults who are actively involved in children’s lives; Safe Places in which to learn and grow; a Healthy Start toward adulthood; an Effective Education that builds Marketable Skills; and Opportunities to Serve and help others. Larimer’s Promise (www.larimerspromise.org) is coordinated by the Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC).

“We are so excited that Larimer’s Promise and all the youth-focused efforts in Loveland and Fort Collins – indeed throughout Larimer County – are considered among the very best,” said Kim Sharpe, HCC coordinator. “This award celebrates the hard work of so many dedicated people throughout our community with whom we have the privilege to work to ensure our kids grow up in a healthy, caring environment.”

America’s Promise Founding Chairman General Colin Powell launched the *100 Best* competition in May in partnership with Capital One Financial Corporation. Loveland and Fort Collins jointly applied as Larimer’s Promise through HCC for a place on the prestigious list.

Larimer’s Promise and the other winners were chosen by a distinguished selection panel of civic, business and nonprofit leaders, including United Way of America President Brian Gallagher, U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue, former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, baseball great Cal Ripken Jr. and former Denver mayor Wellington Webb. The selection panel evaluated *100 Best* entries that required detailed information about each community’s efforts to fulfill the Five Promises. A complete list of winners can be found at www.americaspromise.org.

To honor the *100 Best* communities, the America’s Promise Alliance will hold a special recognition event November 2, 2005, in Washington, D.C. The Alliance also will sponsor a year-long celebration, including a special “Red Wagon Day” in each of the winning communities and a series of regional forums across the country that will enable communities to share their success stories and effective strategies that enrich the lives of young people.

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The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) is an alliance of nonprofit, education, health, business, government and citizen leaders who collaboratively identify, develop and implement strategies to improve the health and well-being of county residents. Established in 1994 and located in Fort Collins, Colorado, HCC’s special focus since 2002 has been on improving the lives of our youth.