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Teens, Adults Join Together to Build a Healthier Larimer County

Board Representation

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of Larimer County*

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Poudre School District

Poudre Valley Health System

Thompson School District

Town of Berthoud

Larimer County, CO—Teenagers and adults will team up to learn how they can make our community a healthier, more supportive place for youth and families. They also will commit to practice what they learn through community service.

This powerful combining of minds and energy will take place on **Saturday, April 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at The 2006 Family and Youth Summit**, to be held at the **First National Bank Exhibition Hall—The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds**. The Summit is an interactive, fun-filled, one-day conference for youth (12-18), parents, youth service providers, educators, and others will that provide tools and skills to help youth and families make smart, healthy lifestyle choices, such as avoiding substance abuse, violence and teen pregnancy.

The Summit will revolve around the Five Promises of America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth®: **Caring Adults** who are actively involved in children's lives; **Safe Places** in which children can learn and grow; **A Healthy Start** toward adulthood; **Effective Education** that builds **Marketable Skills**; and **Opportunities to Serve** and help others.

Colorado State Representative Angie Paccione will kick off the event by sharing how she has benefited from receiving the Five Promises in her own life and how she works to deliver them back to youth. Angie's opening welcome will be followed by several motivational speakers and breakout sessions, such as: Healthy Habits for Healthy Families; Being Ordinary in a Supermodel World: A Guide for Young Women; and Engaging Youth: Volunteer Development. **Ken Lonquist**, a nationally known singer/songwriter, will help wrap up the day with an interactive, rib-tickling, song-writing session that will revisit the Five Promises.

According to Art Bavoso, president of Third-Sector Enterprises and co-chair of the conference's steering committee, "The Summit is a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults to get together and gain some fantastic knowledge on how to make themselves and their families the best they can be. It won't be just sitting down and listening to people speak – it will be about interacting with others and collaborating."

Johnna Bavoso, McWhinney Enterprises senior vice president of people services and the other co-chair of the conference's steering committee, adds, "This is one event that should not be missed. All the information, tools and resources families need to make and keep promises to our youth can be found at The 2006 Family and Youth Summit."

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Teens, Adults Join Forces

The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) is hosting The Summit with support from many organizations within Larimer County, as well as the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. To register for this event online, go to www.healthylarimer.org. To receive a registration form by mail or for more information, contact HCC at (970) 495-7503 or krs4@pyhs.org. Registration fees are \$15 for students, \$30 for adults and \$50 for a family of three or more. The deadline to register is April 15.

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The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County 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.