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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 13, 2005**  
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## **Local Nonprofit Receives National Award for “Great Idea” – Helping To Place More Caring Adults in Kids’ Lives**

Larimer County, CO – The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) received a \$1,000 award from America’s Promise for implementing a “great idea” – the annual Heroes Among Us event. Heroes Among Us is a dinner and awards ceremony that honors adults in the Loveland and Berthoud communities who have been nominated by area youth for being their heroes or role models.

America’s Promise issued 20 awards to communities across the nation for their exemplary ideas that might inspire other “Communities of Promise” to initiate similar programs that successfully fulfill the Five Promises of America’s Promise. HCC is the coordinating agency for Larimer’s Promise, the local arm of the national America’s Promise initiative.

Heroes Among Us helps fulfill one of the Five Promises of America’s Promise – developing and nurturing ongoing relationships between youth and “Caring Adults.” The other promises are: “Safe Places” to be during nonschool hours, a “Healthy Start,” “Marketable Skills,” and “Opportunities to Serve” the community.

“It was a great batch of entries, and I was impressed to see the time, talent and commitment that Communities of Promise invested in these projects,” said Patti Powers, America’s Promise director of best practices and alliance tools. “Most of the projects are highly replicable, and I hope their great ideas inspire other District communities to take on similar efforts for their children and youth.”

“We’re very excited to receive this recognition from America’s Promise,” said Kim Sharpe, HCC coordinator. “We plan to use the award money to help sponsor this year’s Heroes Among Us event.”

The fourth annual Heroes Among Us will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2005, at the First National Bank Exhibition Hall, The Ranch (Larimer County Fairgrounds in Loveland).

For more information about Larimer’s Promise, please visit [www.healthylarimer.org](http://www.healthylarimer.org) and click on the Little Red Wagon located on the homepage, or contact Kim Sharpe at (970) 495-7503 or [krs4@pvhs.org](mailto:krs4@pvhs.org).

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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.

### ***Board Representation***

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Larimer County*

*City of Fort Collins*

*Colorado State University*

*District Attorney’s Office*

*Enck Resources*

*FirstCall 211*

*Health District of Northern Larimer County*

*Larimer County Department of Health & Environment*

*McKee Medical Center*

*Poudre School District*

*Poudre Valley Health System*

*Thompson School District*

*Wingshadow Inc. Eagle Homes*