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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Loveland Youth Gardeners Plant Better Future for Children –
Designated As “Site of Promise”**

Larimer County, CO – The Loveland Youth Gardeners (LYG) plant more than flowers and vegetables, they also plant the seeds of success. LYG offers 5 Promises to youth which research shows can increase the chances that they will transition successfully into adulthood. These promises include: ongoing relationships with caring adults, safe places with structured activities during non-school hours, a healthy start, marketable skills, and opportunities to serve the community.

Because the LYG fulfills these promises, it will be designated as a “Site of Promise” on Thursday, August 5, at 1:15 p.m. The announcement will take place at the gardens – 545 N. Roosevelt Avenue.

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*

“We know from both research and experience that the five promises – these building blocks – help our young people to succeed in life and we are proud that LYG is being recognized as one of the Sites of Promise in Loveland,” said Joanna Rago, LYG director. “Loveland Youth Gardeners has been providing the five promises since its beginning in 1996. We look forward to additional collaborations with other organizations involved in Larimer’s Promise and being part of this nationwide effort to support our youth.”

This recognition is part of a nationwide effort to provide a sound start for youth. U.S. General Colin Powell established the “America’s Promise” initiative in 1997. Organizations that deliver at least three of the 5 Promises qualify as Sites of Promise. The Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) coordinates the local America’s Promise effort – Larimer’s Promise.

Other Sites of Promise include Poudre Valley Hospital and its Healthy Kids Club, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County, Partners Mentoring Youth of Larimer County, the Fort Collins Youth Activity Center, the Northside Aztlan Community Center, the Lee Martinez Farm and the Center for Community Justice Partnerships. These agencies are featured on the “Promise Station” at www.larimerspromise.org.

For more information about how to become a Site of Promise, Larimer’s Promise or HCC, contact Kim Sharpe at 495-7503 or visit www.larimerspromise.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.