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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City's Youth Centers Help Kids Become Successful Adults - Recognized as "Sites of Promise"

Fort Collins, CO – Kids who frequent the Youth Activity Center (YAC), the Northside Aztlan Community Center and The Farm at Lee Martinez Park have a whole lot more than a good time by going to these places. They also have a higher chance of successfully transitioning into adulthood.

All three City of Fort Collins-operated facilities deliver five promises to the children they serve – promises that research shows are what every child needs to help them be physically, mentally and emotionally well. The promises include providing: a healthy start, ongoing relationships with caring adults, safe places with structured activities during non-school hours, marketable skills and opportunities to serve the community.

Because the YAC, Aztlan Center and The Farm deliver these promises, they will be designated as "Sites of Promise" as part of the national America's Promise initiative on Tuesday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m. during the City Council meeting. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at City Hall West, 300 Laporte Avenue.

"As an organization that upholds the five tenets of America's Promise, we are pleased to be receiving the designation of Sites of Promise for the Youth Activity Center, the Northside Aztlan Community Center and The Farm," said Peggy Bowers, program administrator, City of Fort Collins Recreation. "It is our mission to continue to meet these criteria."

The three city facilities also will be included on www.larimerspromise.org, a new Web site that features information about agencies and efforts in the county that are delivering the five promises to our youth.

America's Promise is a national alliance founded in 1997 by U.S. General Colin Powell. The county's involvement with America's Promise is coordinated by the Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC).

Other Sites of Promise in Larimer County include Poudre Valley Hospital, the Boys & Girls Clubs and the Partners Mentoring Youth.

For more information about how to become a Site of Promise, America's Promise or HCC, contact Kim Sharpe at 970-495-7503 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.

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*