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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Super Men, Wonder Women To Be Honored by Youth, Community

Larimer County, CO – Super Men and Wonder Women are walking the streets of Loveland and Berthoud everyday. To some, they may look like teachers or grandparents or your next door neighbor, but to the kids in whose lives they have made a difference, they are real-life heroes.

Local youth have nominated more than 65 adults – their heroes – who will be honored at the 4th annual *Heroes Among Us* event. The special dinner and recognition ceremony will be held **Wednesday, April 27, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.** at the First National Bank Exhibition Hall at The Ranch (Larimer County Fairgrounds). The adult role models, as well as the youth who nominated them, will be served “hero” sandwiches by many local leaders, including: **Jim Alderden**, Larimer County Sheriff; **Tracy Cornutt**, Partners Mentoring Youth of Larimer County executive director; **Glenn Gibson**, Larimer County commissioner; **Bob Hix**, United Way of Larimer County director of resource development; **Mark Jackson**, school counselor; **Dan Johnson**, Thompson School District (TSD) superintendent; **Lynn Langton**, TSD director of human resources; **Mark McDaniel**, Loveland police officer; **Gary Patzer**, Loveland police officer; **Gene Pielen**, Loveland City Council member; **Bob Rummell**, Loveland Reporter-Herald general manager; **Walt Skowron**, Loveland City Council member; **Gaye Stockman**, Loveland Chamber of Commerce president/CEO; **John VanEden**, City of Loveland human resources director; **Tom Wagoner**, Loveland police chief; and **Renee Wheeler**, Loveland assistant city manager. **Loveland Mayor Larry Walsh** will present certificates to all the heroes.

Rob Frank, of Operation Homecoming USA (located in Branson, Missouri) and one of the adults honored in 2004, will give the keynote address. Frank will be introduced by Tristan Tweebeeke, the boy who nominated him and who is now a 2nd-grade student at Sarah Milner Elementary School in Loveland. Other speakers and presenters include Teresa Hinz, member of the Colorado Chill women’s basketball team; Bob Seale, Young Life Northern Colorado (YLNC) executive director; and Lane Sandifer, YLNC volunteer leader. The Conrad Ball Middle School Jazz Band will provide musical entertainment.

“The purpose of *Heroes Among Us* is to publicly recognize adults in our community who serve as positive role models for youth. We also hope the event raises awareness about the importance of mentoring and that more adults are inspired to volunteer to work with youth through the Partners Mentoring program,” said Kim Sharpe, Healthier Communities Coalition of Larimer County (HCC) coordinator.

Heroes Among Us is sponsored by HCC, Healthy Kids Club, FirstCall 211, Larimer County 4-H program, Macdonald Financial Services, Partners Mentoring Youth, Subway®, Thompson School District and Yancey’s Food Service.

For more information about becoming a youth mentor, contact Partners Mentoring Youth at (970) 613-2187 or HCC at (970) 495-7503.

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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 is on improving the lives of our youth.

Board Representation

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