

Volunteer Connection

Volunteer Connection is Boulder County's primary source for volunteerism. Visit www.volunteerconnection.net to search for volunteer opportunities with more than 400 agencies or call 303-444-4904 to make an appointment with a referral counselor.

Bravely Open Space — Oct. 26: *Day!* Help build fish structures for Longmont. Work on shore in a boat, constructing and king artificial fish homes. Projects run from 9 a.m. to noon. Minimum age is 14 with adult.

Medicare Ombudsman. Help people 65 and older and people with disabilities access the health-care system. Solve complex puzzles and translate concepts into straightforward unbiased information. Experience with medical care, benefits, insurance, advocacy, or education most helpful.

Mentors for Middle School Students. Assist students at Longmont and Manhattan Middle Schools and their families to identify and participate in pro-social afterschool programs. Must be at least 18. Serves youth ages 11-15.

Court Appointed Special Advocate. Advocate for abused and neglected children in the legal system giving the child a voice in court.

Reader Training — Oct. 27. Educate and explore racism with elementary and middle school students in the Boulder community.

Bereavement Volunteer. Assist surviving family member with the grieving process during the year following the death of their loved one. Assistance may be by one or one-on-one visits, depending on the bereaved's needs. Commitments vary.

Visitor. Provide companionship and practical help to patients and their families. May provide comfort by sitting with patients, listening, reading to or reminiscing with them, or writing letters for them. May also run errands, do light housework, fix a meal, rake a lawn, walk a dog, or provide caregiver with a break.

Afterschool Program. Help with the elementary afterschool program. Work one-on-one with

NONPROFIT

Spotlighting community programming and benefits

Alternatives for Youth

Our Mission: Alternatives for Youth's mission is to promote academic persistence and success of youth by instilling values that lead to positive choices and positive community impact and by encouraging social, cultural and self development.

We Serve: Youth, especially disadvantaged and at-risk, in St. Vrain Valley School District through afterschool programs, Folklorico Dance Group, Girls Group, Summer Program, parent meetings, an anger management and conflict resolution program for students at-risk of expulsion and suspension, and a school for expelled and suspended students.

Brief History: In 1978, Alternatives for Youth (AFY) was established as Alternatives For Youth Out of School in Boulder and worked primarily with students who had dropped out of school. Following the 1980 police shooting of two Hispanic youth and an attendant rise in racial tension, El Comité invited AFY to Longmont to assist in healing the community. AFY's success was such that a group of local citizens rallied, formed a board of directors and incorporated. Since then, the agency has focused primarily on helping youth, especially at-risk and disadvantaged, to succeed in school and life.

Proudest Accomplishment: Our proudest accomplishment is *always* when a youth has come through one of our programs and gone on to great things — graduated from high school, completed college, become a business owner, started a satisfying career.

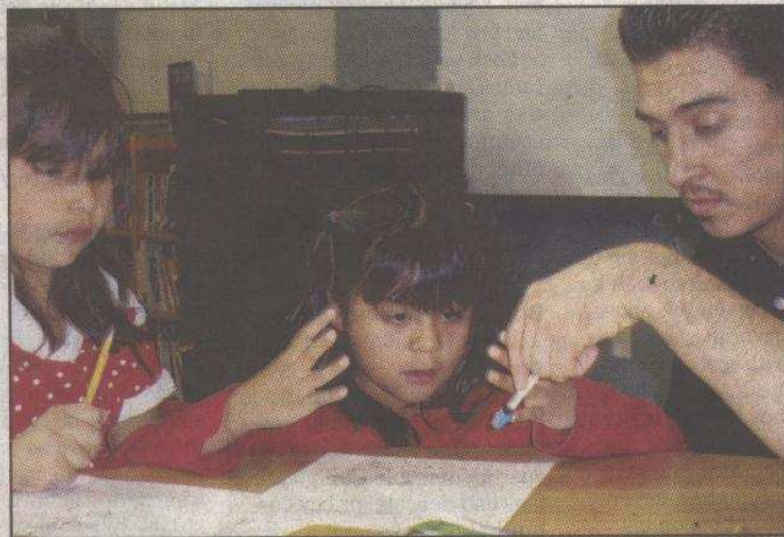
Greatest Need: AFY's programs are offered for free or at low cost to participating youth. Our greatest needs are for volunteers, financial donations, which can be made on our Web site, and donations of camping gear and snowshoes for our expulsion school.

Future Plans: To continue to provide our present services and to



AFY | Courtesy photo

Alternatives for Youth's Folklorico Dance Group, celebrating Mexican heritage through the practice and performance of traditional Mexican dances.



AFY | Courtesy photo

A tutor assists students with their math homework in Alternatives for Youth's afterschool program, Homework Club.

expand our services for our community's youth, especially disadvantaged youth, so that all youth can succeed in school and in life.

Contact Information: 303-776-8184 or www.alternativesfor-youth.org.

If you'd like your organization to be profiled in *Nonprofit Spotlight*, fill out the survey at www.dailycamera.com/lifestyles/nonprofit. You must be registered as a 501(c)3 to participate.

Benefits

THIS WEEK

Boulder County CROP Hunger

Moving Mountains A benefit to provide scholarships for The Women's Wellness Institute's Girls

Colorado Greyhound Adoption Meet and greet available greyhounds for adoption on the fourth