



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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NEWS RELEASE

Date: 08/28/14

Contact: Jennifer Finch, 970-336-7203

Re: Weld Volunteer Honored

WELD COUNTY VOLUNTEER HONORED BY CHANNEL 7 NEWS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COUNTY SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

WELD COUNTY, CO – Weld County volunteer Lee Athmann was recently recognized as a 7Everday Hero by Channel 7 News for his hours spent volunteering with the Weld County Senior Nutrition program.

Athmann volunteers 30 hours each week through the Weld County Area Agency on Aging to help provide lunches to Weld County seniors. With Athmann's help, the Frederick lunch program has grown from 17 attendees to more than 40 seniors each week, with the addition of a Tuesday senior lunch starting in September.

Weld County Senior Nutrition and Community Services Supervisor Meredith Skoglund said Athmann was critical in establishing a lunch in Frederick at the Carbon Valley Recreational Center.

"He's been working on getting this lunch since 2012, solely as a volunteer," said Skoglund. "If he knows that something needs to get done he will do anything to make it happen. We asked all of the nutrition sites if they wanted an extra meal day, so he went to his community and the recreation center to make sure there was a place to hold the lunch. He has an incredible drive to succeed."

Skoglund said Athmann extends his reach outside of Frederick, helping with donations at the Mead site, which wasn't receiving enough bread donations.

"He's reaching out throughout the county to make sure they have enough bread," Skoglund said. "He's friends with everyone there; he's just outstanding. He's one of a kind, that's for sure."

"I am very proud of the work Lee is doing for the senior residents in Weld County," said Commissioner Sean Conway, Coordinator for the Department of Human Services. "It's wonderful to see him recognized by Channel 7 News as an Everyday Hero, because that's exactly what he is."

If a person is at least 60 years old, or under the age of 60 and residing in a subsidized housing complex that offers a nutrition meal site on location, they are able to attend the lunch at no cost to them. Each of the 21 sites has the opportunity for attendees to voluntarily contribute whatever they can afford to offset the cost of the meal. Guests under 60 years old are welcome, but are required to pay a guest fee.

Reservations and cancellations are required and must be made 24 hours in advance. For locations and to make a reservation, call the Weld County Area Agency on Aging at 970-346-6950, ext. 6120. For more information about the county's Senior Nutrition program, visit www.weldgov.com, and click on the Department of Human Services tab.

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