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## **Tri-County Health Department Presents Hero Awards**

Tri-County Health Department has given their second annual “Public Health Hero Award” to three local recipients. The award is designed to recognize an individual, business or agency who has worked to improve public health. Nominees have to be from a field other than public health and were selected by Tri-County Health Department employees. Engraved plaques were presented at a reception hosted by Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department. The awards were presented to Arapahoe County employee John Newhouse; Rocky Mountain Youth; and Peggy Jarrett and Mary Beth Meier of Platte Valley Medical Center.

Anticipating a severe West Nile virus season in 2003, Arapahoe County re-assigned John Newhouse from his regular duties as an animal control assistant supervisor to mosquito control. Newhouse created a comprehensive mosquito reduction program including inventory, site inspections, response plan and a documentation system. This program set the standard for mosquito control. His technical skills and dedication to mosquito control prevented West Nile virus exposures and possible fatalities in Arapahoe County.

Rocky Mountain Youth is a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with community partners to provide a full range of high-quality services to children and adolescents regardless of the family’s ability to pay. Well-known for community outreach, Rocky Mountain

Youth offers nursing and medical services at Community Health Services, a school-based clinic in Commerce City. They also provide services and education to uninsured children in Aurora through mobile vans. Dr. Jenni Burns, Kim Gracey and Mazy Zold and accepted the award.

In 1993, Tri-County Health Department organized a new immunization clinic in partnership with Platte Valley Medical Center. Since that time, Peggy Jarrett, Director of Community Outreach for the hospital has worked with nurses to provide immunizations for residents living in the Brighton area. Mary Beth Meier, a hospital volunteer, donates her time each month to provide clerical support for the clinic. The clinic is the only immunization site held in Brighton and the appointments are scheduled at convenient times for working parents.

Tri-County Health Department is the largest local health department in Colorado, providing services for more than one million residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. Services include certified birth certificates, immunizations, family planning, women's cancer screenings, nutrition services, West Nile virus prevention, and inspections of restaurants and child care facilities. Extensive information about Tri-County's numerous services is available online at [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org).

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Digital photos available. Contact [gsky@tchd.org](mailto:gsky@tchd.org)