

AmeriCorps

The Teller County Community of Caring has received a substantial grant from AmeriCorps to fund a Promise Fellow to serve the families of Victor and Goldfield in 2004. CC&V and the City of Victor are sharing the cash match requirement for the grant.

The AmeriCorps program is known as the domestic Peace Corps, serving in every state in the nation. AmeriCorps members, or Promise Fellows, are hosted by non-profit and governmental agencies for the sole purpose of providing local youth with more of the resources and services they need to make it in today's world.

The Community of Caring application to fund an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, led by Mary Bielz, was the number one grant in the state of Colorado out of 10 applications. It is unusual for these grants to be given to rural communities, and will help focus attention on the needs of the area.

The grant will provide a volunteer to serve the children of Victor and Goldfield. The 2000 census identified 120 children in the area with nearly 60% living in poverty. The Promise Fellow will work directly with these children in the critical areas of access to health care, lack of activities, and availability of drugs and alcohol. Connections to civic and service groups will be enforced, and hopefully new and meaningful programs will be developed that will be tailored to the needs of this community.