The Rocky Mountain Regional Financial Office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans announced the Phillips County Chapter has earned a “Chapter of Excellence” award for its contributions to the local community in 2009. The award honors the chapter for their outstanding work to address local needs.

“The Thrivent Financial members of the Phillips County Chapter are deserving of this award,” said Ralph Yernberg, manager of Lutheran community services for the Rocky Mountain Region of Thrivent Financial. “They show their care and compassion for others by organizing and participating in outreach projects that make a difference in their community. It’s all about people helping people.”

As a membership organization, Thrivent Financial is focused on meeting its members’ needs around financial security, as well as helping to improve the quality of life in the communities where members live. As a result, Thrivent Financial creates programs to encourage members to, in turn, help congregations, schools, nonprofits and individuals in need. Each Thrivent Financial member is a member of one of nearly 1,400 local chapters through which they can participate in charitable, educational or social activities.

We listen to our members and our members are listening to what their community needs,” said Brad Hewitt, senior vice president of fraternal operations for Thrivent Financial. “We are proud that we can put our tools and resources to work through our members to deliver this kind of targeted help.”

This 2008 Chapter’s leadership board was comprised of Carroll Bussell, President; Rhoda Renzelman, Vice-President; Amy Einspahr, Records Director; Susan Roll-Walters, Financial Director; Orville Tonsing, Assistant Financial Director; Brenda Girardi, Congregational Service Team Director, Phyllis Hadeen, Communications Director; and Cherrie Brown, Community Service Team Director.

In order to earn the Thrivent Financial “Chapter of Excellence” status in 2008, a chapter had to meet six key hallmarks including conducting youth-adult volunteer programs and using 100 percent of the funding available to support service projects through the chapter’s programs.

Anyone with ideas for future projects in 2009 should contact Orville Tonsing or Susan Roll-Walters to obtain the information to apply for funding.