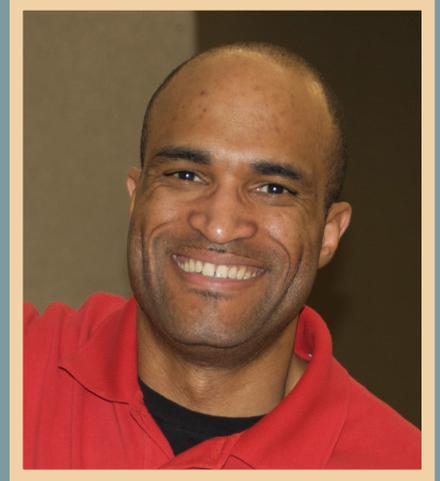
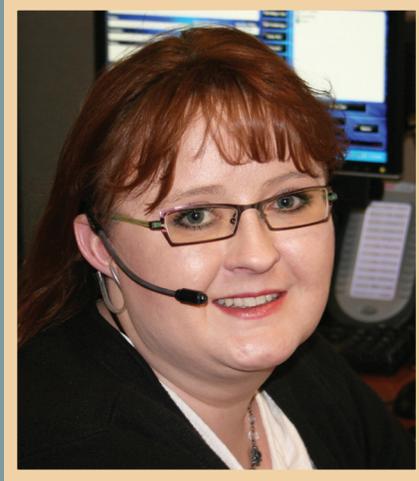
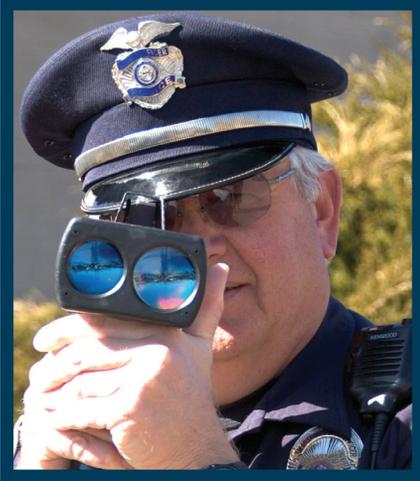


Our mission:  
Working with the  
community to provide  
service and safety

Our best resource:  
Our people

# The Faces of BPD

## 2009 Annual Report





## **Message from Chief Mark Beckner:**

We all know that quality employees are behind the success of any good organization, and that is certainly true at the Boulder Police Department. Like many government agencies across the country, we faced our share of challenges in 2009. We worked hard to continue to provide excellent service to our community while finding ways to do more with less. Sadly, this included having to say goodbye to some of our colleagues. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well. Despite these difficult decisions, we remained an organization that values our people and the role they play in helping us meet our public safety goals. When I look back on the year, I am proud of our department's accomplishments, many of which will be highlighted in this annual report. One of the important measurements for us is the crime rate. While we saw a small increase in some violent crime categories, overall serious crime in Boulder declined by 3 percent in 2009. Many factors play a role in a community's crime rate, but I believe the quality and commitment of our members contributed to this success. To demonstrate this, we decided to make this annual report about them. With 171 sworn officers and 100 civilians, we couldn't fit everyone so we asked our members to choose peers they think best exemplify the department and their work group. We hope you enjoy hearing their perspective about working at the Boulder Police Department.

# Department Accomplishments

## Responded to five homicides with arrests or other clearances made in each

- Murder is rare in Boulder, but in 2009, the city logged five homicides.
- Three of the homicides resulted in the death of the perpetrator by suicide.
- The other two - a fatal shooting involving drug acquaintances and a domestic stabbing - resulted in arrests. Both defendants were convicted.



## Maintained public safety downtown and on the Hill despite large groups of Halloween revelers and a home football game earlier in the day

- Despite concerns about a revival of the Mall Crawl, a potential Naked Pumpkin Run and an estimated crowd of about 4,000 people on Pearl Street Mall, there were no major incidents in Boulder on Halloween.
- The department used a combination of proactive communication and high visibility to help maintain the peace.
- More than 100 officers worked on the Mall and University Hill. They made one arrest on the Mall.



## Saved lives with superior police tactics

- On at least two occasions, officers turned to their training to avoid having to shoot dangerous suspects.
- In one case, the suspect was coming toward firefighters with an axe; in another, the suspect said he wanted to commit suicide by cop. That suspect surrendered when faced with a Taser.

## Coordinated grant applications, bringing in money to fund safety equipment and programs

- New grants included federal recovery funds to replace outdated equipment and purchase other law enforcement tools.
- Stayed in compliance with existing grants.

## Integration of Tiburon and switch to NIBRS

- The launch of the new records management system continued with more officer training and department-specific upgrades to the software.
- The department switched how it counts crimes and expects to be certified in the FBI's preferred method, the National Incident Based Reporting System, soon.

## A conviction in the 1997 Susannah Chase slaying and successful resolutions to other major crimes

- Strong work by investigators and prosecutors led to the conviction of Diego Olmos-Alcalde for the 1997 slaying and sexual assault of CU student Susannah Chase. Alcalde is now serving life in prison.
- Later in the year, a separate jury convicted another homicide suspect, Joseph Abeyta, in a fatal 2009 shooting.
- Police arrested five men in connection with an armed robbery of a medical marijuana dispensary.

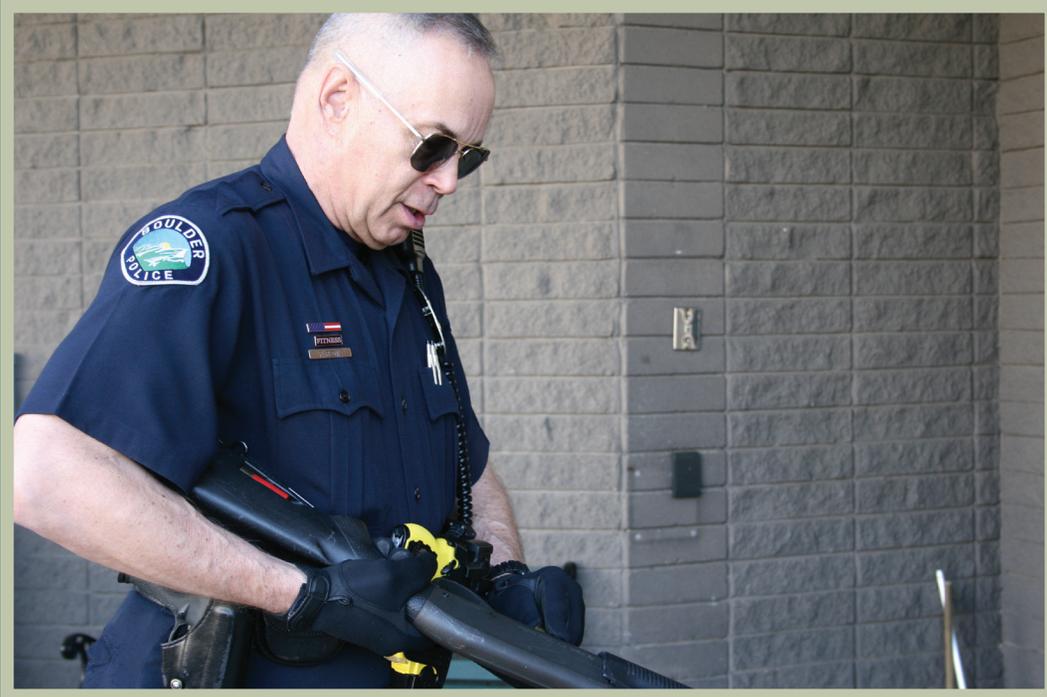


## Renovated communications center

- Gutted and remodeled 4,800 square feet to create an updated communications center for our 9-1-1 call takers and dispatchers.
- Center features 10 state-of-the-art consoles, five of which are used regularly; the other five provide room for growth and county use in emergencies.



- Much of the funding came from the monthly .50 cents 9-1-1 surcharge residents pay in their bills -- this is your money at work.
- The center is designed with redundancy to help prevent shutdowns or lack of emergency service.



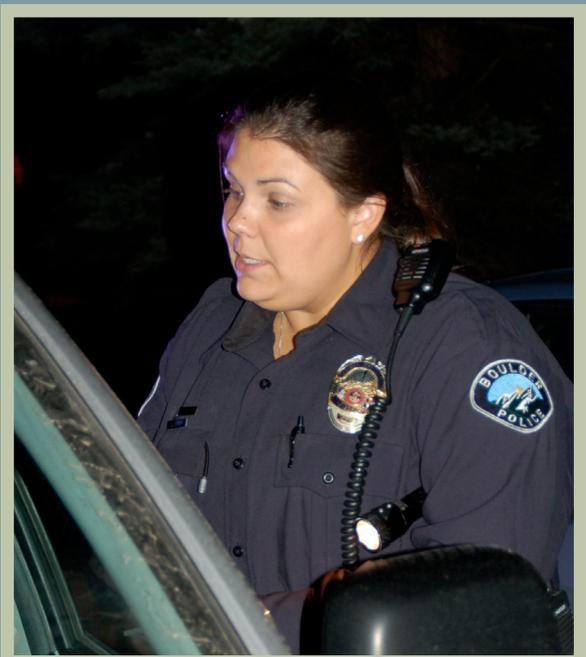
**Officer Dick Reznik, Watch I**

"We spent a lot of time this year working with the homeless on health and safety issues. This has contributed to closer working relationships with the homeless shelter, overflow shelters, the Carriage House, and other resources. It takes partnerships to solve problems."



**Sgt. Michael Everett, Watch II**

"I am proud of the response, coordination, and leadership that patrol supervisors showed during 2009, especially at the scenes of five homicides. These are some of the hardest cases our department works."



**Officer Sarah Cantu, Watch III**

"I feel that my work unit provides citizens of Boulder with a feeling of comfort and security. My co-workers and I work the 'graveyard shift.' We strive to provide safety while most residents are at home in bed."

# Patrol

The Boulder Police Department's Patrol Division is highly visible in the community and works to be both pro-active and responsive to problems. In 2009, officers worked closely with the Hill and Mall communities, reinvigorated the Bike Patrol Program, and responded to more than 77,000 calls for service, including five homicides.



**Officer Dan Bergh, Hill Team**

"Our team works to develop relationships with students. I believe this rapport helps safeguard lives."

# 2,770

**Arrests**

# 3,062

**Major crimes reported**

# 27,225

**Officer-initiated contacts**



**Officer Beth McNalley, 2009 recruit**

"What made my class of recruits different from those at other agencies was how diverse we were. We represent a wide variety of life experiences, ages, previous work experience, etc. But we all came together and worked as a team to succeed throughout the year."



**Officer Keith Steinman  
Watch II and SWAT**



**School Resource Officer Marcus Askins**

“My most memorable experiences in 2009 involved talking to parents and school staff after some of the school and workplace shootings around the country. Each person expressed appreciation for having a uniformed officer inside the schools. It feels good to be a part of that.”



**Officer Sue Barcklow**

"We support the patrol officers and the work they do. We help the community and individuals when they call us. We provide services, information and resources. Most of the work I do involves contact with people who are happy to see me. I make a difference and can see their appreciation every day."

## Community Services



**Officer Larry Gibson**

"Without question, our greatest coup last year was a reduction in gang violence. This didn't just happen. It was the result of years of successful anti-gang presentations, education, suppression, and personal contact by School Resource Officers."

- Collaborated with schools to increase safety, including walk through tours of all schools by all officers
- Implemented improved radio system at Fairview High
- Maintained lead role on the Boulder Valley Gang Task Force
- Launched a new seatbelt contest at Boulder High; gave out nearly 400 raffle tickets rewarding safety
- Checked more than 200 child car seats
- Participated in the KYGO Christmas Crusade for Children and other events
- Hosted a variety of crime prevention programs and Safety First classes



### **Officer Karl Veitch, Traffic**

“How would I describe the service we provide? Driver education, one motorist at a time! The Traffic Unit addresses traffic issues from neighborhood traffic concerns to collision investigation and mitigation. We’re also a resource for other department members on traffic-related issues, from successfully completing an accident report to how their radar works.”

# Traffic Enforcement

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# 3,405

Accidents

# 11%

Decline in injury  
accidents citywide

**The Traffic Unit combines education with enforcement in hopes of changing dangerous driving behaviors. Some of the unit's 2009 accomplishments included:**

- An 11 percent decline in accidents at the city's three busiest and collision-prone intersections
- Training that doubled the number of officers who can operate state-of-the-art accident reconstruction programs
- Investigation of four traffic fatalities
- Boosting the proficiency level of officers who participate in accident investigations
- The arrest by observant Traffic Officer Jason Duffy of a serial bank robber dubbed "The Shaggy Bandit" by the FBI

# 15,304

Traffic summonses

# 781

DUI arrests

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From left to right, Sgt. Jim MacPherson, Officer Mark Bliley, Accident Reconstruction Specialist Karen Yokomizo-Burton, Officer Jason Duffy, Officer Kyle Moore, Officer Brad Frederking, Cmdr. Kurt Weiler

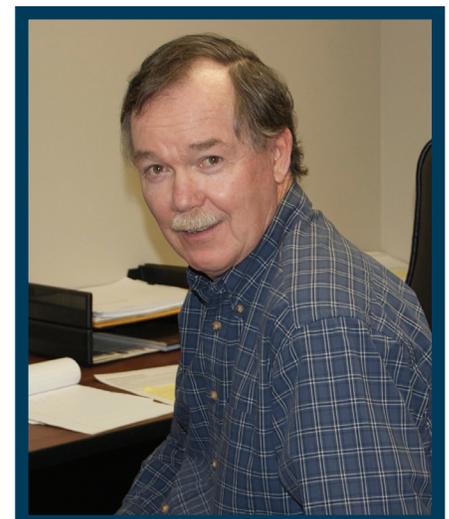


Photo Enforcement  
Coordinator Bob Hendry



### **Detective Chuck Heidel**

"I think our biggest service is preventing crime by solving crime. Many of the individuals we arrest are repeat offenders, and some of the crimes we investigate are 'gateway' crimes to bigger offenses. There's probably no way to measure this, but I think we'd all be surprised at the number of crimes that weren't committed because of our work."



### **Detective Collin Stephens**

"What makes our unit different? In one word - opportunity. The Boulder Police Department's Detective Section allows younger detectives to continue their work on cases they began. In many departments, crimes such as sex assaults and robberies immediately go to specialized groups for investigation. Boulder allows on-call detectives to complete these investigations to enhance their breadth of knowledge and broaden their investigative skills."

# Detectives

The Detective Section had an incredible year. It included the trials and convictions of Diego Olmos Alcalde, who sexually assaulted and killed Susannah Chase in 1997, and Joseph Abeyta, who fatally shot a man in the middle of a quiet neighborhood in January 2009. In addition to these milestones, detectives worked two murder-suicide cases and a domestic stabbing.



Crime Scene Analyst  
Kathy Bottone

## Some of this section's other accomplishments included:

- Selection of a new computer forensics detective and the start of efforts to create an in-house computer crimes lab
- Investigation and arrests of prolific pattern crime suspects
- Participation in three Boulder County Shoot Team officer-involved shooting investigations
- Dismantlement of a marijuana grow house and thorough investigations of two poppy seed tea deaths
- Implementation of a new crime-mapping system
- Completion of more than 40 Computer Voice Stress Analyzer tests for personnel, criminal cases and an outside agency assist

## Crime Analyst Mel Rhamey

"We average nearly 100 inquiries a year from citizens on a variety of subjects. For the department, we collect and disseminate crime information in order to find patterns, name possible suspects, and identify future targets. The goal of the crime analysts is always to help the department increase arrests and clearances."

# 62%

**Violent crimes cleared  
in 2009**

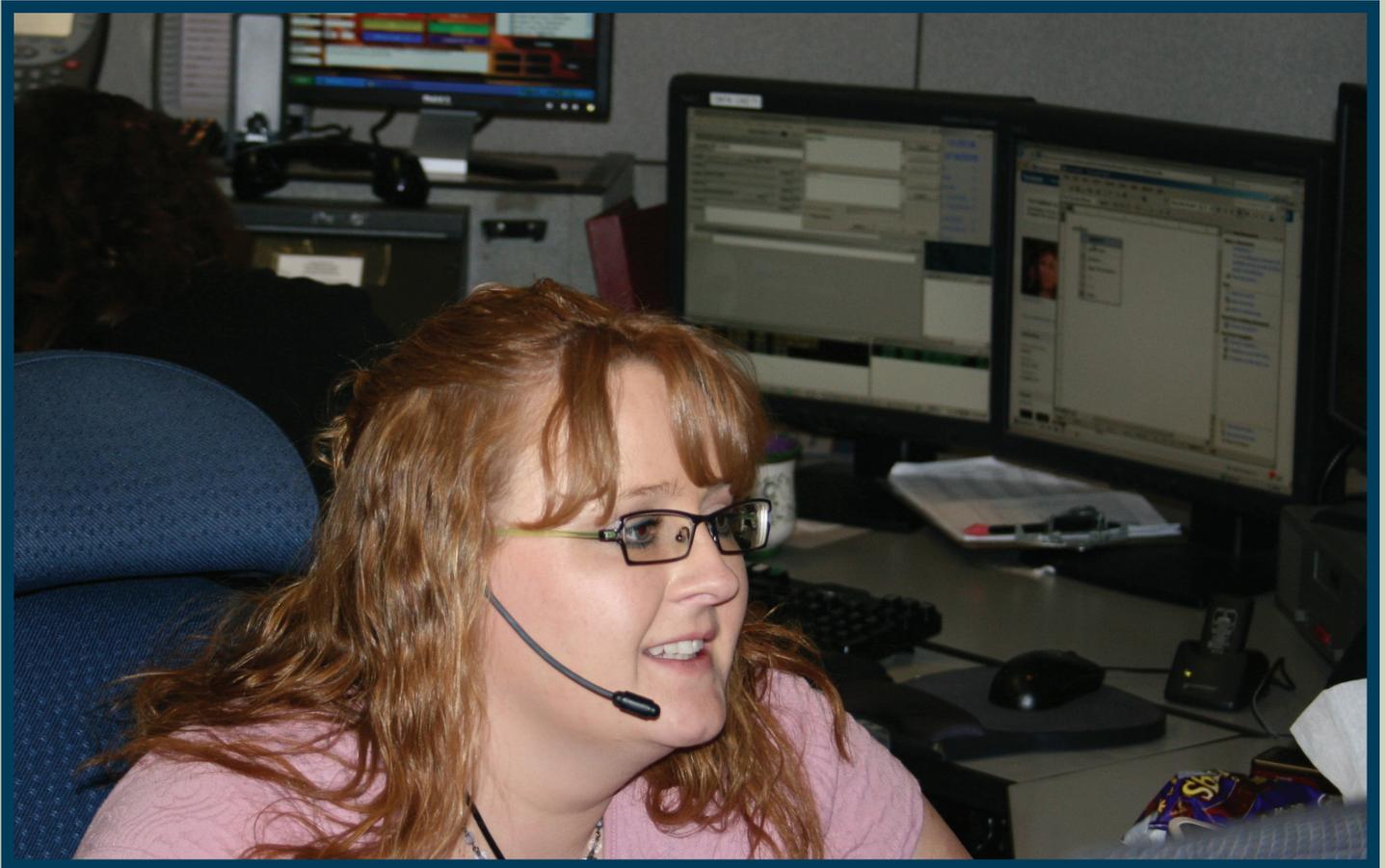
# 25%

**Major property crimes  
cleared in 2009**

# 71%

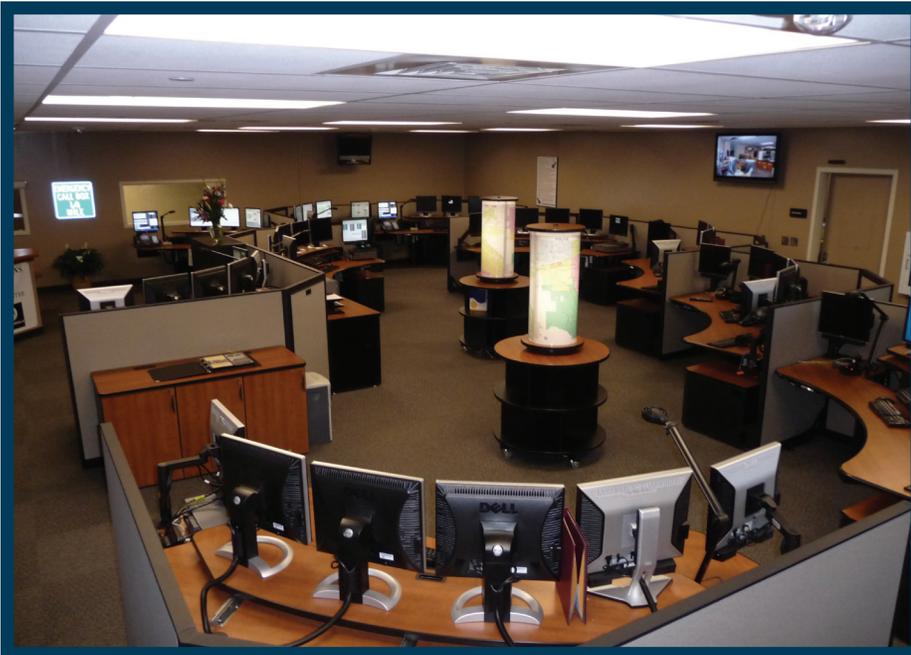
**Other crimes cleared  
in 2009**





**Dispatcher Jessica Adler**

“Here at BPD, we are blessed to have a close-knit work group in communications. Overall, we work well together and enjoy each other’s company. Dispatching is a ‘team sport.’ It takes all of us working together to perform our duties in the best possible manner.”



A wide view of the newly remodeled Communications Center, which was unveiled in March 2009. The center includes 10 new consoles with some of the best technology available. The center is designed with a variety of back-up systems to help ensure that members of the community can get through when they need help.

## Communications



From left to right, front row, Eric Rickman, Sharon Hayward, Evelyn Jackson, Lonna Donin and Elizabeth-Jo Carr; back row, Joe Fischer, Michael Ramirez, Nathanael Harter, Ted McEldowney and Brad Snedeker.

- Handled 77,745 calls for service through 9-1-1 and non-emergency dispatch lines
- Helped ensure prompt responses; average 2009 response time on emergency calls was 3 minutes, 24 seconds
- Implemented a new emergency call back/text messaging system
- Conducted a city and county phone inventory
- Researched and chose a paging system for future implementation
- Worked with school officers on new radio system at Fairview High
- Started process of upgrading the Computer-Aided Dispatch system
- Moved into new work stations and learned advanced technology



**Records Specialist Laura Armstrong**

“Our unit is the first point of contact for the majority of people contacting or coming into the police department. We have an opportunity to make that first contact a positive one.”

# Records and Information Services

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**The Records and Information Services Unit performs one of the widest variety of responsibilities in the Boulder Police Department. These include:**

- Running the front desk and greeting all visitors for the police and fire departments
- Answering the general information phone line
- Archiving all completed police reports
- Processing all requests for reports from the public, the courts, prosecutors and other law enforcement agencies
- Providing data entry and fingerprinting services
- Conducting law enforcement-related criminal history checks, warrant searches and other research for officers
- Clearing vehicles and sending teletypes; entering information about missing people, stolen and pawned items, and sex offender data into the department's computer systems

# 27,225

**Police reports entered into Tiburon, the department's file management system**

**Most significant accomplishment in 2009:**

- Learning to operate Tiburon, the department's new records management system, and adapting the program and business practices so they mesh in ways that make sense for the Boulder Police Department and the community

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# Personnel and Civilian Support



**Patrol Administrative Specialist Coleene Berry**



**Finance Administrative Specialist Bridget Pankow**



**Building Maintenance Person Ray Medford**

"We provide services that allow our colleagues to spend more time out in the community without having to worry about the everyday financial operations and other routine aspects of running a police department."

**- Bridget Pankow**



**Property and Evidence Sgt. (in 2009) Rob Bustrum**

“One of the things that distinguishes this unit is experience. We have combined over 100 years of police department service and over 60 years in Property and Evidence. Everyone in the unit takes his or her job very seriously and takes pride in the way we serve citizens and our colleagues.”



**Victim Services Coordinator  
Susan Townley**

“One of my most memorable experiences from 2009 is when advocates who were working with family members on a domestic violence-related homicide were able to facilitate a meeting at the jail between the suspect and the victim’s mother. This meeting was requested by the homicide victim’s mother, to help her understand what had occurred. She was very grateful that the advocates worked so closely with her in every aspect in the aftermath of her son’s death.”

# Property and Evidence

**Property and Evidence is responsible for safeguarding evidence in ongoing investigations and prosecutions, as well as items that are found and turned in to the police department. Some of the unit's accomplishments in 2009 included:**

- Creation of business practices and inventory procedures to utilize the new records management program
- Logging and tracking of evidence in 4,485 new cases
- Release of items to an online auction company and destruction of other items according to legal retention policies
- Production of 3,114 photo pages, 515 CDs and 65 DVDs to aid in investigations
- Completion of 10,300 latent print comparison requests and criminalist investigations at 32 crime scenes

# 11,694

**Items taken into Property and Evidence**

# 1,688

**Items returned to owner**

## Victim Services

Victim Services provides support to individuals who are experiencing trauma and grief because of the sudden death of a loved one or another unexpected event. The program has existed for more than 20 years.

The unit includes volunteer victim advocates who meet with community members immediately after trauma and provide support until they can tap into family members or other resources in the community.

Advocates participated in a variety of cases in 2009, including five homicides and four traffic fatalities. Advocates undergo 40 hours of training, sign up for one on-call shift each month and attend monthly meetings.

The Victim Services Unit also provides victims' rights information to community members who have been impacted by crime.

# 1,910

**Victims served**

# 1,120

**Hours with victims**

## Volunteers



**Volunteer Karen Graffenberger, Citizens' Academy Alumni Association president**

# 3,621

**Hours logged by volunteers**



**Training Sgt. Katie McEldowney**

"I take pride in my work and the ability to shape the next generation of officers for the Boulder Police Department by helping them establish their base foundation in policing."



**Training Coordinator  
Karen Mullenix**



**Armorer/Firearms Instructor-  
Scott Little**

“Our training facility offers state-of-the-art audio/visual equipment, large meeting rooms, and we have instructors with highly specialized skills. My favorite experience from 2009 was watching the Citizens’ Academy class learn about our department and get excited about the information that was provided.”

**- Karen Mullenix**

## Training



Hostage negotiators Sgt. Pat Wyton and Officer Kereen Rodaway practice their skills during a SWAT training exercise in September 2009. The two were working to talk a barricaded man out of a daycare center.

- Supervised the training program for 10 new officers, which included the Adams County Police Academy and our mini-academy
- Implemented the new qualification course for firearms – a 50-round course which incorporated moving and malfunction drills
- Revamped the annual in-service training for 2009; this included combining officer survival and defensive tactics skills during challenging scenarios
- Hosted a variety of new training programs throughout the year
- Hosted the 2009 Citizens’ Police Academy, which received high praise from participants
- Maintained quality programming while staying within a reduced budget



**Married Officer John Luebke and Communications Administrative Specialist Karen Luebke have more than 50 years of combined service with the Boulder Police Department.**



Chuck Heidel photograph reprinted with permission from The Camera

Other photographs by Donna Compton, Sarah Huntley, Laurie Ogden and Kerry Yamaguchi

### **Volunteer Donna Compton**

"I can't imagine a more compelling and irresistible place to volunteer than the Boulder Police Department. It's not just the police officers I wish to thank, but also the staff and other volunteers who make me think at the end of the day that I can't wait to go back."

This annual report and the spirit of its theme are dedicated to veteran Officer Mike Pease and Property and Evidence Technician Lucy Batton, both of whom are battling serious illnesses. We miss them and hope they will be able to return to work soon.