

# Rep. Musgrave presents grant to help kids away from crime

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In the fight to steer young people away from gangs, Greeley police are getting a little help from the feds.

They have actually been getting this help every year since 1995, but Monday, a member of Congress paid a visit to drop off this year's federal grant.

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, R-Colo. — armed with an oversized check for \$119,885 — said she admired police officers, especially those who worked with children.

"There is an enormous task here in trying to keep these kids out of gangs," she said.

The money will go to help the police department's Gang Resistance Education and Training program, called "GREAT."

Sgt. Steve Black, who is in charge of the school resource unit, said the GREAT program targets sixth-graders in every Greeley middle school. In a 13-week program, students

learn strategies for avoiding violence and gangs, he said. There is also a summer program to supplement the school-year curriculum.

School resource officers administer and teach the GREAT classes, Black said.

In 2005, the city budgeted \$175,772 for the GREAT program, some of which came from the U.S. Department of Justice and some of which came from city funds. In 2006, the city anticipates spending \$183,496 on the program, and Monday's grant will go toward that total.

Lt. Roger Muller, who works in police administration and writes grant requests, said the city has received federal funding since 1995, and the amount grows every year. It's been about \$120,000 for the past few years, he said.

Musgrave said she wanted to be present to give this year's grant out of respect and regard for the officers.

"There's very few things as important in life as keeping a kid from a life of crime," she said.