



DAILY CAMERA

Giving something back to the community

Intercambio volunteers clean up Eben G. Fine Park

By Kim Castleberry
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At first glance, the scene at Eben G. Fine Park on Monday looked like any other beautiful summer evening in Boulder.

Some people were out on a

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• Call (303) 996-0275, or visit www.intercambiobouldercounty.org.

run, others on a stroll and some decided to dine picnic-style.

But spread out around the park were students and volunteers from Intercambio de Comunidades on a mission to give back to the community by cleaning up the park.

Intercambio is a Boulder-based nonprofit that aims to create a more integrated com-



of life in
BOULDER COUNTY

Ociel Guzman has lived in Boulder for seven years and has been a student at Intercambio since the group began almost five years ago. He said

community by helping immigrants gain independence and opportunities through low-cost English classes and training.

gestures, like taking a couple of hours to pick up trash in a park, will go a long way toward creating personal ties among people of different cultures.

"It's one of the best ways to help," Guzman said. "We are part of this community, and we support this community, this state, this country — papers or not."

Eben G. Fine Park is a place where many immigrant fami-

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Intercambio volunteers do cleanup

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lies go to spend their weekends, said Lee Shainis, Intercambio's executive director.

"A lot of our immigrant students have a desire to give back to the community," Shainis said. "But they are not sure how."

Intercambio holds events throughout the year designed to bring people of different backgrounds together. Camping, Rockies baseball games and potluck dinners are a few of the group activities held this year.

Monday, Francisco Sanchez

dashed over to help clean up the park after work.

When he arrived in Boulder five years ago, he knew a decent amount of English. But he didn't know how to find a job, how the government worked or what legal services were available to him.

"They showed me the basics

about being here," Sanchez said. "So I'm here now because I love Boulder and want to help take care of this land."

Intercambio has 700 students and 300 teachers.

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JONATHAN CASTNER / For the Camera

Laura Moreno picks up trash at Eben G. Fine Park in Boulder