



# Donor Connections

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2005

Brought to you by The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County  
To Enlighten, Educate and Enlist Our Community

The Community Foundation is proud to announce the publication of the 2005 report on the Quality of Life in Boulder County by the Boulder County Civic Forum, a program of The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County. Every two years the Civic Forum highlights key trends that help measure toward- or away from- a vision of healthy Boulder County communities. The Civic Forum tracks the fifty indicators of community health and sustainability in four interrelated areas: People, Economy, Environment, and Culture/Civil Society. The report summarizes five key trends of the fifty tracked indicators.

## *2005 Key Trends*

### *Trend 1: Declining Middle Class*

Although the overall economy of Boulder County is strong and weathered the recession, many high wage jobs were lost permanently. The number of families in the lowest income group actually increased since 2001, along with the number earning more than \$100,000. Incomes of those in the middle fell.



The median household income of \$56,684 is down 5% from the 2002 level of \$61,493. Twenty-three percent of Boulder County households earn below \$25,000 (\$12/hour). Twenty-six percent of households earn above \$100,000, a 20% increase. Percentage of households earning between \$25,000 to \$100,000 declined between 2000 to 2004, with the greatest drop in the \$75,000 to \$100,000 range.

### *Trend 2: Housing Affordability*

Prices for single family homes in Boulder County have increased from twice to eight times wages in the last five years. Since 2000, single family home prices increased 40% in Superior and Boulder, 10% in Longmont, and less than 10% in Louisville and Lafayette. The median sales price for a single family home is \$500,000 in Boulder and \$235,000 in Longmont.



Half the single family homes in Boulder are affordable only to families earning the top 20% of income. A family earning \$60,000 could qualify for a home selling for \$290,000. To purchase the median priced \$500,000 home in Boulder requires an income of around \$102,000.

### Trend 3: Traffic and Commuting

Traffic has increased at twice the rate of population growth since 2001, mostly due to longer commutes to work. More people work in Boulder County than live here. Some traffic is due to open enrollment, where 40% of elementary students attend school outside their neighborhoods. Boulder County travel increased 10% since 2001 compared to a 5% growth in population.



### Trend 4: Access to Health Care

In 2003, 90% of Boulder County residents have health care through private insurance or government programs but there are disparities. Many groups such as Latinos, low wage workers, small business workers, and young adults do not have reliable health insurance coverage. Only 55% of Hispanic residents have health insurance and only 80% of Hispanic children have any coverage. For 80% of Colorado's uninsured, at least one person in the family works either full or part time. Working families making up to 200% of poverty level are three times more likely to be uninsured than those making more.



### Trend 5: Youth Risks and Behaviors

Boulder County is home to 15,000 young people between 14 and 18 years old. Three quarters of those under 18 have either both parents, or their single parent, working. Eight percent of children live under the poverty level. Thirteen percent in school are learning English as a second language



Factors tracked in youth risks and behaviors include: sexuality, substance abuse, suicide, and high school graduation rates.

***The 2005 report on the Quality of Life in Boulder County will be distributed this fall. Look for your copy in the mail with more in-depth information about the 5 key trends. Please feel free to contact us for more copies.***

The Boulder County Civic Forum is a non-partisan, non-governmental, tax-exempt organization supported by businesses, government, foundation, individuals and community-based organizations. It has been a program of The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County since 1999. A detailed description of each indicator, copies of the 1998, 2000, 2002 quality of life reports and in-depth research papers are available on the website at [www.bococivicforum.org](http://www.bococivicforum.org).