



# Donor Connections

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2006

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

The Community Foundation has always greatly valued the contribution of youth in our community. In celebration of our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, The Community Foundation wanted to celebrate with our peers, so we gathered fifteen 15 year-olds to help us distribute \$15,000 to youth-serving organizations!

This dedicated group of teens from throughout the county brought their diverse backgrounds and perspectives to a process that considered the emerging issues teens face and the resources available for their support. Weekly meetings began in early June to discuss research shown in the Civic Forum's Quality of Life and Community Indicators Report and the Youth Behavior Risk Survey from Boulder County. The teens also reflected on their own experiences as high school students. After serious consideration, the group chose three areas in which to focus:

- Mental Health, looking specifically at programs fighting teen depression and suicide;
- Cultural Diversity, seeking programs that both celebrate diversity and combat social segregation and harassment; and
- Sexual Health.

Once determining focus groups, the teen committee then researched organizations serving youth in these areas. Each committee member selected one or two nonprofits to report on to the rest of the group. Reports included mission, history, and program information, as well as the committee member's own personal assessment of the relevancy of the organization. As a group, the committee then selected six nonprofit sites to visit, in order to learn more about the organization and ask follow-up questions. These organizations are listed below with mission statements and a brief description of the specific services offered to youth. The committee's final meeting is scheduled for late July when the teens must make funding decisions.

The entire process has been eye-opening for both the teens serving on the committee, as they learn more about our nonprofit community and engaged philanthropy, as well as for our staff, who have enjoyed gaining teen insight on effective programming and outreach. The Community Foundation hopes to make this an endowed program through our "**Fifteen For Good. For Ever.**" Campaign. By raising an additional \$300,000 for our Community Trust, The Community Foundation will ensure the availability of at least \$15,000 per year for cutting-edge, proactive, youth-vetted programs that work to create a better future for Boulder County. We encourage you to join us in the celebration!

The organizations visited by the committee include:

- **Colie's Closet**

Colie's Closet is a nonprofit organization providing financial assistance for professional treatment of depressed and suicidal individuals. The organization is composed of teenagers and young adults working together to further the understanding and treatment of depression and the prevention of suicide. Money will be raised through the sale of gently used clothing. Proceeds will be used locally for education and treatment of depression and suicide prevention.

- **Medicine Horse Program**

Medicine Horse Program transforms the mental health and life skills of adolescents, adults, and families. Through their therapeutic interaction with horses, participants experience psychological, social, emotional and spiritual growth. The HopeFoil Project is designed to address teen girls' depression and suicidal thoughts or plans through the rescue of foals from slaughter.

- **Project YES**

Project YES (Youth Envisioning Social change) provides leadership opportunities for young people through the arts and service learning. Through our Youth Center, Art in the Community, and Service-Learning Partnership programs, Project YES empowers young people to not only envision social change, but live it, positively impacting their lives and their communities.

- **Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence**

Safehouse is a human rights organization dedicated to ending all forms of oppression with a focus on creating racial, social, and economic change and justice for all women and children. The Peers Building Justice Prevention Education Program is a collaborative effort between Safehouse and the MESA-Moving to End Sexual Assault to educate middle and high school students about the issues of dating violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment.

- **Teens, Inc. Youth and Family Center**

The mission of Teens, Inc. is to consider youth a priority and empower them to have a voice in their community. Teen participants can socialize with friends, do homework, take advantage of the computer lab, play pool or foosball or become active in one or more of our structured programs such as Roundtable or Youth Employment. All this and more in a safe, drug and alcohol free space with supportive and caring adult supervision.

- **Women's Health**

The Mission of Women's Health (Boulder Valley Women's Health Center) is to provide accessible, confidential and comprehensive gynecological and reproductive healthcare, including sexual health services and education. Like all patients, teens are treated with dignity and respect in a safe, non-judgmental and developmentally appropriate environment which preserves their confidentiality. We strive to work with youth to assure that they have the information, tools, and resources they need to make healthy decisions regarding their sexual health.