



Donor Connections

For good. Forever.

April 2008

The Millennium Trust was established as a permanent fund of The Community Foundation to serve the needs of Boulder County residents into the future. It was created by donations from thousands of Boulder County residents who each gave their last hour of income in 1999 to help meet the needs of the new millennium in the areas of the arts, environment, civic involvement, education, and health and human services. Each year a group of Millennium Trust donors is selected at random to serve on an advisory committee. This group selects the funding focus for the year and makes grant recommendations to The Community Foundation Board of Trustees.

2008 FUNDING FOCUS

The Millennium Trust Advisory Committee sought concept letters from Boulder County non-profit organizations serving low-income populations (individuals with incomes below Self-Sufficiency Standards), to support capacity building opportunities for staff, volunteers, and organizations.

Proposed capacity building projects needed to include and address:

- Sustainable planning and practices;
- Innovative solutions; and/or
- Be Replicable

Components for capacity building projects were encouraged to include:

- Training/mentoring;
- Technology acquisition and proficiency; and
- Capital Investments

This year's funding focus has highlighted capacity building projects that can take each organization to the next level of effective service. Fifty-two concept letters were submitted by our local Boulder County non-profit community. The advisory committee will request full proposals from fewer than 20 organizations. Concept letters included a variety of requests such as:

- Strategic planning funding for board and staffs
- Capital investments from bricks to vehicle purchases
- Staff and board training opportunities
- Technology purchases and skill acquisitions
- Program and curriculum development

Millennium Trust Concept Letters are available to our donors. You will be able to access these letters (and later full proposals) and learn more through the **For Fund Holder** section on our website, www.commfund.org.

Should you be interested in funding any proposals, please contact Carly Hare, Programs Director, at 303-442-0436, ext. 111, or Carly@commfound.org.

In other news...

The first quarter has been anything but slow around your Community Foundation, and we have a lot of news to share.

We are excited about the summer launch of **Donor Central**. This new software will enable donors to make grant recommendations, check fund balances and get information about potential grantees all via the internet. This software offers fund holders the opportunity to be more interactive if they choose, and to sign up to receive various types of information about grantees in their interest areas. We are still working on the installation and testing in-house. When we are ready to launch, we will send you some information about how to access the site and get started. We are confident you'll quickly find this new access invaluable in your philanthropic work. Stay tuned.

You will recall that we premiered a newly researched and fabulously redesigned issue of **Trends**, the biennial report on quality of life indicators in Boulder County last summer. Since then, Civic Forum Director and *Trends* author **Morgan Rogers** has made presentations to more than 1,000 individuals in scores of community groups. The Foundation is collaborating with several partners at CU on the possibility of using the research in *Trends* to measure civic engagement around community issues. We'll keep you posted on this project.

Thanks to the generosity of a number of our donors and private foundations support, the **Expanding Leadership Initiative (ELI)** is gaining traction in the effort to increase the numbers of people of color in nonprofit leadership roles. Under the guidance of Director of Programs, **Carly Hare**, ELI will roll out two new programs this year. The Foundation will coordinate and host quarterly multicultural training sessions for new nonprofit staff and board members. ELI will also start a mentoring cohort program for emerging leaders of color. The goal of these programs is to provide emerging leaders with information and skills and increase the multicultural competence of our local nonprofits.

Please consider the upcoming **Donor Education Events**, planned specifically with you in mind: 1) Summer Dinners at the homes of donors (details on dates and times to follow); 2) You Looked Better on MySpace (JK), a donor education event on the latest social networking technology and handheld gizmos, scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (invitation to follow); and 3) a September event (date to be determined) with Tracy Gary, the author of "Inspired Philanthropy" and a specialist in creating a giving plan.

Please welcome **Robbie Martinez** to the staff. Robbie joined us on April 1 as Finance Associate. She comes to the Foundation after a 24-year career in HR-benefits at the University of Colorado and most recently served as Benefits Contract Manager with Payroll & Benefits Services for the past eight years. Her human resources and administrative skills are already proving invaluable in the busy administrative and finance areas.

In the departures department, we are sad to report the resignation of **Tim Leifield** as Director of Philanthropic Services. Tim will make his exit in May and pursue a new chapter in his life. He has made a lasting impression with staff and donors and promises to stay in touch. A search for his replacement is already underway and we expect to report a new member of the team very soon.