



Donor Connections

For good. Forever.

October 2008

Help us double the Community Trust

This year, more than ever, the needs in our community are huge. The Community Foundation has an answer.

Before Dec. 31, we hope to raise \$1 million for The Community Trust. And we hope to raise \$1 million per year over the next three years to follow.

We can do it with your help. If every one of our existing donors contributes before year end and makes a pledge for the next three years, we have a good chance to achieve our goal.

The Community Trust is the pool of unrestricted money from which we award grants to hundreds of nonprofits working to close the gaps in our health and human services safety nets. Community Trust grants also support civic engagement, the arts, education and the environment. With the economy down, the needs are greater than ever.

Over the next four years, it is the Foundation's goal to double the amount of money we award in grants, double the corpus of the Community Trust, and create a \$1 million fund to respond to emerging community issues, like the educational achievement gap or the growing incidence of teenage depression and suicide.

Boulder County is one of the wealthiest communities in the nation. We are blessed with an abundance of material and natural resources. And yet, historically, our charitable giving has lagged behind that of other, less fortunate places. Sometimes it's just hard to see the need. Did you know that every day there are families in our midst who must choose between buying groceries or paying the electric bill? Or that some generous individuals who used to be donors to worthy community programs are now clients of those programs?

In times of economic turmoil some folks hunker down, turn inward, and hope for a better day. But many of us in Boulder County have plenty of reasons to look around us, celebrate our abundance and share our resources at a time when it has never been more important.

Please consider making a generous multi-year gift to The Community Trust. It's easy. Call (303-442-0436) for details.

Update on Community Trust Grants Cycle

In this year's Community Trust Grants committees, 70 community members comprise nine committees that will review 128 proposals for requests totaling more than \$925,000. With your support in meeting our Community Trust goal, we hope to give out \$350,000 to address the needs in our community. That would be twice the amount granted last year, a significant response to a down economy when needs are greater than ever. In addition to supporting the Community Trust endowment, you can become a partner in funding these requests from your donor advised funds. Donors have access to all grant proposals on Donor Central (www.edonorcentral.com) where you can review requests and make recommendations from your funds. We can also provide you an individualized menu of funding options that fit your charitable mission and reflect your previous giving options. If you have any questions, please contact Carly Hare at 303-442-0436, ext. 111, or carly@commfound.org

What's new in Trends?

Children in Poverty: Colorado had the highest rate of increase in children living in poverty than any other state in the nation between 2000 and 2006. Here in Boulder County, it's estimated that one out of every ten children under the age of 18 lives in poverty (\$17,600 for a family of three in 2008.) At the same time we know that the *actual cost of living* in our community is much higher. [More on back...](#)

The Achievement Gap: Among BVSD 3rd graders, 91% of non-Hispanic white students scored “proficient” or “advanced” on their reading CSAPs in 2008, compared to 46% of Latino students. That 45% spread in scores is up from 36% just 2 years ago. In the same time frame, SVVSD 3rd graders made a dent in their reading achievement gap, dropping from 30% to 27%.

Income Inequality: The median household income for non-Hispanic whites in Boulder County *increased* 11% between 2005 and 2007. At the same time, Latino household median income *decreased* by 14% - resting at just 56% of the median income for white households.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Friends Party on Nov. 13

Join us from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, for the annual Friends Party at the downtown Boulder home of Richard Polk. This is our way of thanking all of the special people in this community who make our work possible. Richard's address is 1155 Canyon, #404. Please RSVP for the Friends Party by Nov. 6 at www.regonline.com/friendsparty