



Donor Connections

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The Community Foundation—The Place for Inspired Giving

Many of you have been wondering how some of the nonprofit organizations you care about are faring during these tough times. The news is troubling. For example:

- Nearly 40 percent of 800 Metro Area groups surveyed responded that they fell short or significantly short of their 2008 revenue groups.
- Almost 17 percent of groups have cut staff; almost 14 percent have cut programs. Other groups have introduced hour cuts, furloughs and hiring freezes.
- Arts groups were the most likely to report falling short of their goals and youth groups were most likely to experience declines in corporate support.

These numbers are from a report published recently by the Colorado Nonprofit Association and Community Resource Center called “Weathering the Storm: Challenges and Opportunities for Nonprofits During Recession.” The Highlights are on the back side of this letter. You can find a full report at www.coloradononprofits.org.

We’ve heard anecdotally that groups here in Boulder County serving basic needs fared better than their colleagues who focus on the arts and youth. However, many also report that they are serving increased – and in some cases significantly increased – client numbers.

To try and keep up with the times, the foundation’s Millennium Trust Advisory Committee is seeking to support capacity-building projects from organizations experiencing increased demand from community members who are especially susceptible or vulnerable to hardships in this economic crisis. Here’s a sampling of what’s come our way so far:

- With Boulder County, the **YWCA** is offering “Getting Ahead,” a training that helps women transition out of poverty and into self sufficiency. Participants create an action plan that addresses education and career goals, strengthens support networks, and builds resources.
- The **Boulder Shelter for the Homeless** is merging with **Boulder County Advocates for Transitional Housing** to avoid duplicated overhead structures and to increase operating efficiencies in providing life-saving and life-changing services to the homeless.
- Since the end of 2008, **Clinica Campesina** has seen a tremendous increase in the number of people seeking reduced-cost health care services. In anticipation of next month’s opening of the new People’s Clinic facility, Clinica is equipping a procedures room. This additional in-house service will not only better serve their low-income patients, but will save physicians hundreds of hours in making referrals.
- **Casa de la Esperanza**, a program that assists low and very low-income families working in the agricultural industry, is training volunteers to mentor and tutor families’ children as they work to graduate and improve their own chances of achieving self-sufficiency.
- Community radio station **KGNU** has always addressed social, economic, and family issues and resources. With a serious economic recession, KGNU seeks to increase programming oriented toward helping listeners navigate tough times

This is just a quick snapshot of the 50 letters of interest we received. The committee is busily reading and won’t make final funding decisions until July. In the meantime, to learn more about the 50 requests submitted for Millennium Trust funding, please look on Donor Central, where summaries of all the requests will be posted. We would love to partner with you in funding these capacity-building opportunities.