



Donor Connections

The Place for Inspired Giving

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JOSIE HEATH

As I write this, I am just a few hours back from the inauguration in D.C. I can hardly find words to describe it. Our new President's tone for this country leaves me very hopeful, but the occasion was more than just that. For me, it was the incredible mood of the crowd in the four days we were there and the congratulatory emails I have received from friends around the world and those of you here watching from home that moved me the most.

I have been in big crowds before, but I have never experienced an event where there was such joy, such benevolence, and such a sense of "we have accomplished something together," from an amazing assortment of people who were cold and tired. They clearly had lots of reasons to feel stressed by the challenges of being there and getting around. There was, however, a profound sense of community and possibility, focusing on what could be done, not what the barriers were. We must work hard to keep that tone in this country, as we take on these difficult times.

You have helped us create that sense of possibility here at The Community Foundation. Now we must do all we can to continue to invest in community solutions and keep our vision of how we can make a difference together. One of the speakers I heard, Van Jones, talked about the economic stimulus package not being just "shovel ready projects," but rather "people ready, planet ready investments for the long haul."

We are doing that with our Community Trust grant-making and our coming Community Trust Impact Area. We deeply value your support of these efforts, through your own charitable giving. Times will continue to test us, but I know we are up to the task! [And now, some "Year-End News and New Year Notes."](#)

The start of a new year often means determining the "net worth" of an individual, a company or an organization. The Community Foundation (TCF) is no different.

First the big numbers. We ended 2008 with slightly over \$30 million in assets. TCF assets are down from 2007, when we closed at nearly \$40 million. The downturn in the market, subsequent lack of new Donor Advised Funds, and a terrific drop in interest earnings is the big story on the hit we took.

But there is a bigger story. We raised nearly \$820,000 on a million dollar goal of unrestricted Community Trust gifts in the toughest quarter in the history of The Community Foundation. Unrestricted dollars are always the toughest to raise, even in a strong economy. More than 800 individuals have Community Trust gifts to us, since the major downturn started!

We will finish 2008 distributing \$4.7 million in grants to non-profits. Clearly, lots of folks believe in our mission and trust us to help them do inspired giving.

In 2008, we funded 130 Boulder County non-profits. Fundholders supported an additional 120 non-profits through y Donor Advised Funds. The Foundation staff also provided technical assistance to the staff, boards, and volunteers of nearly 200 non-profit organizations. Considering the client base, staff, board and volunteers of those organizations, we probably impacted nearly 100,000 people in the past year in some way.

The Foundation is not only a funder; we have become a trusted community resource. We have recently received a second, larger grant from the Anthony H. Kruse Foundation for our Expanding Leadership Initiative and two grants from the Knight Foundation, one for engaging non-college young people in civic affairs (the Civic Blast) and a grant for our Expanding Leadership Initiative. The Civic Forum increasingly is sought out to provide not only information but to play a major role in helping the community resolve various concerns. The Civic Forum has another grant application pending that will follow up on our work on Community Health Information, a project we started by hosting a joint session about access to health care with the County Commissioners nearly two years ago.

At this writing, we are making public the news that we will nearly double our grant-making from The Community Trust to Boulder County non-profits. This will be welcome news and clearly shows the leadership role a foundation should take in these challenging times.

We are no stranger to cuts ourselves. Our budget for 2009 includes a salary and benefits freeze, cutbacks in marketing, and reduction of our office space. We have rented out our newly vacated space and released some parking passes.

The economic downturn has touched us all. On Friday, Jan 16th, I was a panelist at the Boulder Chamber of Commerce for an update on the economy. I spoke about non-profit organizations.

I want to share with you the context for our work. Non-profits are the third largest industry in Colorado. In Boulder County non-profit organizations are 9.7% of the total workforce. Revenues for Boulder County non-profits are nearly \$1.2 billion annually and expenditures are \$1.1 billion, most of that spent locally. Most Boulder County non-profit jobs come from organizations with budgets of \$1 million to \$10 million. Like other small businesses in Boulder County, we are major employers with 50 employees or less. Lay-offs in the non-profit sector not only create job loss, they have double impacts, as they reduce services to kids requiring help, resources for families in need, and loss of cultural amenities that lift our spirits. Our ongoing survey of non-profits reveals that providers of basic needs have seen somewhere between a 15%-20% increase in the request for services in the latter part of '08 and no significant decrease in donations. At least the news about donations is good. Other non-profits, in education, youth services, art, and the environment are seeing trailing donations and are beginning to do lay-offs.

Jennie Arbogash, our Social Venture Partners Director, said, "Adversity fosters innovation—rise to the challenge."

These are tough times, but that said, we live in a beautiful place and we at The Community Foundation are doing important work to help our community do inspired giving that will make a difference. Thank you for being a part of it.