



# The Community Foundation

## BOULDER COUNTY

e-News

December 2009

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Dear Friends,

We all know the story of Chicken Little. An acorn falls on his head and he assumes the sky is falling. Except of course it's not.

"I saw it with my eyes, I heard it with my ears, and a bit of it fell on my head," he tells the barnyard animals. And so Chicken Little, Henny Penny, Cockey Lockey, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey decide to tell the King, even though it means they will meet the hungry Foxy Loxy along the way.



The moral of the story? Have courage.

Many of us have felt as if the sky were falling in some way over the past year. Nonetheless, Boulder County's barnyard full of courageous and generous givers rallied around The Community Foundation to help us achieve last year's ambitious \$1 million fundraising goal for The Community Trust.

The early success allowed us to double the unrestricted fund's grants to Boulder County nonprofits. We heard from them that the extra funding, which we awarded in January, couldn't have come at a better time, following a rough year-end giving season. We continue to build the endowment so we can sustain our higher giving level.

The funding also enabled us to launch a two-pronged effort to close the educational achievement gap between the county's students of means and those struggling to get by - a disparity most concerning for many local Latino families. First, we gave a large grant to a program called Providers Advancing School Outcomes, which leveraged our funding to expand its programming, rather than shut down. Second, we laid the early groundwork that will be necessary to start preventing the achievement gap, by securing a sustainable source of funding for school readiness with at-risk kids.

With your support, The Community Foundation in the past year has also provided courageous leadership on local health care reform efforts, helping hospitals design a network for sharing health records. We have worked to increase diversity on nonprofit boards. We have built the capacity of local nonprofits through our Community Ventures seminar, our Social Venture Partners, and individual consultations.

Our Trends report on the social and economic health of Boulder County continues to help guide civic leaders, donors and nonprofit organizations in their strategic decisions. The latest edition provides true insight into who the people of Boulder County are, and where we want to head. Email me if you'd like me to mail you a copy. I encourage you to read it and use it like we do, as a compass to help you navigate local needs.



The Community Foundation courageously increased its investment in our community last year, despite warnings that the sky was falling. We couldn't have done it without your incredibly generous support of The Community Foundation.

**Please consider a gift this year to The Community Foundation. Together, let's watch out for falling acorns and rediscover what a difference courage makes to our most vulnerable neighbors.**

**Thank you for your support and partnership, and warm wishes for happy, healthy holidays!**



Yours in community,  
Chris Barge, Director of Philanthropic Services

[Donate Now](#)

## Community Voices

### A monthly series highlighting issues from the 2009 Boulder County Trends Report

#### Isolated Diversity in Boulder

Lee Shainis, Executive Director and Co-founder, [Intercambio de Comunidades](#)

When I moved to Boulder in 1999 I saw mostly white faces. I worked in Louisville at an Elementary School, I spent time hiking and at night I often went to Pearl St. When I co-founded Intercambio in 2000 that quickly changed. We began to visit homes to promote the program in a dozen or so neighborhoods that we never knew existed. Since 2001 we have provided individualized volunteer-taught English classes to over 4,500 adult immigrants throughout Boulder County, and more than 2,500 in the City of Boulder. These neighborhoods, spread throughout the city of Boulder, consisted primarily of Latino immigrants, many who live in isolation where life consists of going to work, shopping at the few stores that accommodate Spanish speakers, and being at home. It is possible to survive here as a monolingual Spanish speaker, but it is difficult to succeed. When you ask Latino immigrants what percentage of the local population they think is Latino they guess around 40-50% while Anglos guess closer to 5% because that is who they see and interact with.



In most communities the reality is that humans interact with people who are of the same race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. We tend to stay away from people who have a dissimilar set of values, speak a different primary language, and have different ways of seeing the world. Many immigrants in Boulder County have had a wonderful experience living here, while others have been victims of discrimination and need many positive interactions to offset the powerful effects of the isolated negative interactions.

Intercambio is making efforts to reduce discrimination and build bridges across cultures by bringing together people who don't normally come together, but there is still much work to be done.

[Learn more and get inspired today!](#)

[View TRENDS online](#)

[Request a print copy](#)

[Schedule a presentation for a group](#)

## Welcome Elvira Ramos, Director of Programs!

The Community Foundation was thrilled to welcome Elvira in November. The moment she arrived she jumped into The Community Trust Grant Cycle and began visiting Boulder County organizations.

Elvira has extensive grant-making experience and has returned to Colorado, after four years as the Brownsville Community Foundation CEO in Texas.

During an interoffice interview Elvira shared, "I'm so excited to be here, and I feel I can put my skills and experience to good use. It's an honor to work with such an accomplished staff, committed board, and passionate community volunteers and organizations."



## Announcements

### TCF on KGNU Tonight at 6pm

It's the season of giving, and thankfully there's lots of good stuff going on at The Community Foundation. Find out what we're seeing and what we're doing about it tonight on "It's the Economy" with KGNU host Kathy Partridge, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Chris Barge, Director of Philanthropic Services, will sit in live for the full hour as Kathy covers the 6 Principles of High Impact Giving, as outlined in the new book, "Change Philanthropy: Candid Stories of Foundations Maximizing Results through Social Justice" by Alicia Epstein Korten and edited by Kim Klein.

Kathy will air an interview with Alicia during the top half of the hour, and then she and Chris will discuss the state of giving in Boulder County, how nonprofits are braving the economy, and what The Community Foundation is doing about one of our community's biggest problems: the educational achievement gap.

**Catch us live on KGNU, 88.5 FM in Boulder, tonight (Thursday, Dec. 17), 6 to 7 p.m. Or listen in online, at [KGNU.org](http://KGNU.org)**

And remember, if you haven't yet given to The Community Trust this year, you've got two weeks left to help us reach this year's goal of raising \$1 million for the Boulder County nonprofits that need it most. Mail a check today to The Community Foundation, 1123 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302. Or give online, at [www.commfound.org](http://www.commfound.org)

### Legacy Society

If you've been considering putting The Community Foundation in your estate plans, or are inclined to make a minimum \$25,000 gift to The Community Trust, you are eligible for membership in our Legacy Society. Members' names are etched in the stones in the courtyard outside our offices at the Spruce Street Mansion. It's easy, and it's a great way to make a lasting and meaningful commitment to this community we all love. **If you'd like more information, contact [Colleen Conant](#) or by calling 303-442-0436 x118.**

### Save-the-Date

The annual **Open Door Dinner will be May 8, 2010.** Mark your calendars today!

### Events

**Monday, January 11, 2010**

**Education Matters: 2010 Business Leadership Forum, 7:00-9:00 am**

**University of Colorado UMC Glenn Miller Ballroom**

Impact on Education and the Boulder Chamber present Senator Michael Bennet. Education is the key to our nation's economic success, at home and abroad. Former Denver Public School Superintendent Michael Bennet is now helping to craft education policy for the nation as a member of the U.S. Senate. Come hear Senator Bennet's perspective on education reform and why it is critical to our economic future. [To Buy Tickets](#)

### Thank you Community Partners!

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Kaiser Permanente Foundation

### Join The Community Foundation's Facebook group and follow our COG Blog!

The Community Foundation is on Facebook. Get plugged in to Boulder County news and events you care about by searching for "Community Foundation of Boulder County" from your Facebook page. You can also stay informed by reading or subscribing to our [COG Blog](#).

### [Donate to The Community Foundation Here](#)

# Join the movement



**Let's raise \$1 million for those who need it most.**

Last year, we came together and raised \$1 million for Boulder County nonprofits. And today, as so many organizations struggle to survive, your support is needed more than ever. So let's raise another \$1 million and make 2010 the best year yet for those who do so much with so little.

**Help us reach \$1 million before December 31, so our grant making will double.**

Make a donation of money or time.

**[www.cultureofgiving.org](http://www.cultureofgiving.org)**

A movement of The Community Foundation

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