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Letter from President, [Josie Heath](#)

I read those newsletters that come across my desk! In the past few weeks, three different nonprofit directors have written about the importance of critical data from The Community Foundation's TRENDS report that they are using, as they do their annual strategic planning.

In the past month, [Morgan Rogers](#) and Max [Taffet](#) have done more than 30 TRENDS presentations to organizations across Boulder County. I'm proud that The Community Foundation's Civic Forum gives us solid information on which we can base our [grantmaking](#) and our community leadership. It is especially gratifying when the [nonprofits](#) we serve use TRENDS data in their planning. Every time I hear a TRENDS presentation I am reminded about how much work we in the nonprofit sector have cut out for us.

Did you know, for example, that 5,500 families in Boulder County live below the federal poverty guideline for a family of four (\$22,350) and that the number of children living in poverty in Boulder County is increasing? In fact, Colorado has the fastest growing rate of child poverty in the nation and a growing academic achievement gap right here in Boulder County. We know there is a significant correlation between poverty and a child's educational attainment. We cannot afford to have a whole generation of children grow up without the educational skills they need to compete in an increasingly competitive world.

This past week I had the opportunity to serve as a moderator at the International Women's Forum in Washington, D.C. The theme of the forum was "Balance of Power," and the attendees came from 40 countries. Closing the conference was a panel of men and women leaders, all under the age of 30 and representing 10 countries around the world. Their theme was "toward a better future, the new young world speaks out."

The panelists spoke of the challenges of youth unemployment--between 20% and 47% in some of their countries . They reminded us that half of the world's population is under 25-years-old and 90% of those young people are from developing countries. As more people use technology, they urged us not to let "computation" replace divergent, creative thinking. They challenged us to be inclusive in everything we do. They asked us to seek out different points of view and told us that, if we only see leadership as we knew it when we grew up, we will overlook a broad arena of talent that we must draw on to deal with world problems. Most of all they begged us to invest in education, in the U. S. and abroad, so that young people can have the tools they need to deal with the myriad of issues they face as young leaders. Good advice. We need to start with that right here at home.

Note from TCF's Director of Programs, Elvira Ramos

Local nonprofits are reporting that they've had to tighten up in response to diminished resources, while meeting an increased demand for services. This year's Community Trust grant proposals serve as testament to these facts, with total requests increased by nearly \$100,000 over last year.

Despite the bad news, I have much for which I am thankful. I am grateful to The Community Trust volunteers who toil countless hours reading grants and worrying over the community needs to be met.

And, to everyone who has the resources to be generous this year to The Community Foundation's Community Trust efforts. I hope you will join me in extending thanks and support to all of the nonprofit staff, trustees, and volunteers who work so hard to better the quality of life for all of us in Boulder County.



Inform Your Grant-making with TRENDS

If you're thinking about where to make grants from your Donor Advised Fund and wondering about the greatest needs and opportunities in Boulder County, the recently released TRENDS Report can help.

TRENDS summarizes the state of our community across more than 100 indicators in the areas of education, health and human services, the economy, arts and culture, the environment, civic participation, philanthropy, and more.

See [TRENDS online](#) or call The Community Foundation and request a copy or presentation.
303-442-0436.

Please note: It's the busiest time of year for grant-making. We are available to brainstorm grant ideas based on your interests and help make your philanthropy as strategic as possible. To ensure your grants go out before year-end, please recommend them soon via www.edonorcentral.com. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at 303-442-0436.

Announcements & Events



Welcome to Lyn Monica, Staff Accountant

Please help us welcome [Lyn Monica](#), [TCF's](#) new Staff Accountant. [L yn](#) has 10 years of accounting experience in government and finance accounting and auditing. She will administer [TCF](#) grants and provide accounting assistance within the Finance Team. [Lyn](#) moved from California in 1997 and lives in Lafayette with her husband, Jeff, daughter, [Janaye](#), and fat cat, Gizmo. She can be contact at Lyn@commfound.org or 303-442-0436 [x116](#).

Walters & Hogsett Designer Show Benefit

[Walters & Hogsett](#) Fine Jewelers would like to clink glasses with you to celebrate their [11th](#) Designer Show for the first time benefiting The Community Foundation. Join them for tasty tidbits, refreshing libations, and a 6% pre-holiday savings, while being inspired with holiday gift ideas from the following designers: Simon [G](#), Philip Stein, and Monica Rich [Kosann](#)

Friday, November 18, 4:00 - 9:00pm
2425 Canyon Boulevard, Boulder

Local. Yum. And More Local.

Why buy a Boulder's Best Organics gift box this season?

- Boulder's Best Organics will donate 11% of each gift to The Community Foundation, helping the Foundation help our local non-profit community!
 - Support local organic businesses!
- Give clients, friends, or co-workers a whole box of yummy and luscious gifts!
 - Just say no to another tie or fruit cake!

See [Boulder's Best Organics](#) to peruse their wholesome offerings.

Enter [GiveBoulder](#) to ensure the Foundation gets a portion of the sale.

TRENDS Goes Hyper-Local!

We're excited to share our new TRENDS Interactive Indicator Map. This tool allows community members to display key indicators by neighborhood in Boulder County. Viewing the entire county map, users see differences across our community in terms of demographics, education, health, and economics. We'll be adding data updates as they become available, allowing users to see changes by neighborhood over time.

The site is still in beta-mode and we're looking for feedback. Please take a few minutes to explore the map and share your thoughts! Feedback can be sent to Max@commfound.org.

Above is a map from our TRENDS Indicator Map showing a 58 percent population growth over the past ten years in the Boulder County portion of the town of Erie.

My Experience as a Leadership Fellow

Being part of the Leadership Fellows Program last year was inspirational for me. Each month, I met real leaders facing big problems and sharing specific examples of how they tried to solve it in an inclusive and transformative way.

Our guests were state senators, mayors, city council members, commissioners, school board presidents, nonprofit executive directors, faith leaders, and business owners. We heard examples of boards building inclusion by asking "Who is not here? Who is missing?" Or the Chief of Police sitting on a [Longmont](#) park bench, asking Latinos "What do you think of us?" The strategies were creative and varied. The President of [Naropa](#) encouraged us to think bigger and as an example spoke of the university's efforts to build a [300-year](#) strategic plan. [EcoCycle](#) talked about having immigrants design their own recycling program to increase effectiveness, rather than applying the same programming to everyone. Over the 12 months, a trend appeared: solutions that work are not just good ideas but carefully crafted inclusive plans.

The program has done a lot to restore my faith in politics and inspire my own leadership by seeing real world examples of how to live by your values and lead with great integrity.



Karen [Hada](#), Director of Operations, YWCA
Leadership Fellow 2010-2011

Thank you [2011Community](#) Partners **Gold Level:**

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