



The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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800-Plus Residents Give \$800,000 to Double Funding From The Community Foundation
Four-month-old Community Trust Initiative off to an impressive start

BOULDER (January 22, 2009) – The Community Foundation asked the Boulder County community to dig deep in September. They delivered, and they are continuing to contribute despite a downward spiraling economy. In the first four months of the initiative, more than 800 community members stepped up to put \$813,000 into The Community Trust enabling The Community Foundation to double the amount to be granted next week to local non-profit organizations.

On January 27th, \$314,000 will be granted to 95 Boulder County non-profit groups, at a reception sponsored by Xilinx in Longmont. (Details below) Grantees include Boulder County non-profit organizations working on behalf of health and human services, youth, basic needs, the arts, the environment, civic engagement, and education.

Chris Barge, Director of Philanthropic Services for The Community Foundation, said, “We at the Community Foundation salute this great early progress. In a year when almost everyone lost money, more than 800 members of our tight-knit community stepped up their giving. As a result, Boulder County non-profits will receive nearly twice as much support now, when they need it most, from the fund created by and for this community. This inspiring momentum puts the Community Trust Initiative on a trajectory to meet its lofty goal. We urge everyone who gave last year to continue to give and urge your friends to give. Let’s look after each other. Together, we can pull through these hard times.”

Fundraising efforts for The Community Trust Initiative will continue full force. In the first four months of the initiative, more than 800 community members stepped up to put \$813,000 into The Community Trust. Pledges and promises worth another \$800,000 were also secured. A total of \$1.6 million was garnered towards the four-year \$4 million Community Trust goal.

Donations to The Community Foundation’s Community Trust can be made by calling Chris Barge at 303-442-0436 x110, visiting www.commfound.org, or by mailing a check to 1123 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302.

Grant Details

The average size grant will be \$3,237, and the largest grant is \$15,500. Funding for general operating will total \$192,625, and 21 of the proposals are being funded at their full level of request. Funding defined by service areas is: Boulder County \$128,200; Longmont \$ 74,975; Lafayette \$ 25,500; Boulder \$78,325; and Nederland \$7,000.

Among the grantees are: Project YES; Boulder Community Housing; Access Counseling; Colorado Youth Program; Longmont Children’s Council; Impact on Education; el Comite; OUR Center; Carriage House; Dairy Center for the Arts; and Old Firehouse Arts. A complete list of the 95 grantees is available now from The Community Foundation, and after January 26th a complete list of grantees will be available on www.commfound.org.

From October-December 2008, 70 community volunteers served on nine committees to review 130 proposals, conduct 35 site visits and interviews, and finally make funding recommendations to The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. While the democratic process for grant selections has been the same for years, the outcome is not only something to celebrate, but something the local non-profit sector really needs right now.

Proof of Need

Two surveys (one in November 2008 and one in early January 2009) asking about changes in available resources and requests for services were sent from The Community Foundation to local non-profits. Of the 35 responding organizations nearly all cited a 5-25% increase in demand for their services, as well as a decline in funds to deliver those services. Organizations are seeing new faces, as more people experience the effects of job and housing losses, increased food costs, and more. The Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFFA) reported a 21% increase in families seeking rent assistance and a 15% increase in requests for food, when comparing 3rd Quarter 2007 numbers to 3rd Quarter 2008.

In the surveys, some agencies reported lay-offs and some are tentative about what the year will bring. Others have created budgets that will allow them to keep their doors open, but unfortunately don't address immediate needs for increased services. In Boulder County 9.7% of jobs are in our non-profit sector, and in Colorado the non-profit sector is the third largest industry in Colorado (*2008 Giving Study*, Non-profit Resources). When the non-profit sector struggles, necessary services for an increasing number of people decrease, prevention efforts across a wide array of issues suffer adding to the original problem, and a major player in our local, state, and national economies is unable to contribute as much to the local flow of dollars. Non-profits typically look for ways to run better and leaner, and now more than ever they are working to meet current challenges and provide community leadership. To that end, The Community Foundation is continuing to push forward.

If you go:

Community Trust Reception & Presentation of Grants
January 27th 5-7pm
Xilinx, 3100 Logic Drive, Longmont

Related News and Activities

On March 5, 2009, The Community Foundation will host its annual Community Ventures Conference at Xilinx. This year's theme is "Lemons to Lemonade: Collaborating and Cutting Costs in Sour Times." Richard Male, Richard Male & Associates, will be the keynote speaker and set the tone for a half-day look at strategic partnerships or mergers, finance and budgeting, leadership and management issues, and new opportunities. In a speech given on January 20th Male said, "...non-profits can survive this truly terrifying economic recession, and—if they can draw on the overwhelming hunger for leadership and change that's palpable in every part of this country—some will even thrive." More information about Community Ventures is on www.commfound.org.

Purpose of The Community Foundation

The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving. The Foundation helps donors practice strategic philanthropy in Boulder County and beyond, and supports local non-profit organizations through grants and technical assistance. The Community Foundation is the place for inspired giving and provides leadership about issues and opportunities taking place in Boulder County. To learn more, please visit www.commfound.org or call 303-442-0436.

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