Boulder County TRENDS

OVER 70 WAYS TO GAUGE WHAT WE ARE DOING WELL, WHERE WE COULD IMPROVE, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO.

The Boulder County TRENDS Report, released in September 2007, is the 5th community indicators report produced by The Community Foundation’s Civic Forum. The Civic Forum is non-partisan and non-governmental, supported by businesses, government, the John and James L. Knight Foundation, individuals, and The Community Foundation of which it has been a program since 1999.

How indicators are selected.

The indicators used in TRENDS were selected out of a broad, community-based process that engaged more than 400 Boulder County leaders, policymakers, business people, and neighbors over 10 years ago. The Civic Forum continues to track these 50 indicators, along with new measures in emerging areas of interest, each year to provide longitudinal data on Boulder County and to help inform our community on how we are doing. The indicator gives an idea of where we’ve been, where we are, and what may lie ahead.

TRENDS is organized into seven chapters.

Chapters highlight the people of our community, health and human services, education, environment, and civic participation and giving. New this report are chapter summaries of what we’re doing well, opportunities to improve, and what YOU can do as an individual, business, parent, and contributor to this community towards making a difference.

The report also includes information about how The Community Foundation can be a partner with you in the mission to improve the quality of life in Boulder County. Copies of TRENDS are available for downloading at www.commfound.org.

To schedule a customized presentation for your business or community organization, please contact 303-442-0430 or Morgan@commfound.org.

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Grants of The Community Foundation

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS, THE COMMUNITY TRUST, THE MILLION TRUST AND ALL FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

2006 Boulder County Grants by Community
2006 Grants by Program Area
2006 Grants by Geographic Area

2007 TRENDS Talking Points.

We look different. Boulder County is growing. And aging.

And diversifying. Latinos now make up nearly 13% of the county’s population and Asians another 4%. Nearly 14% of Boulder County residents speak a language other than English at home. By 2020, it’s estimated that one out of five of us will be over 60. But who’s running the show? Of the 13 elected officials countywide, as of October 2007 people of color are greatly underrepresented. The leadership and boards of most of our nonprofit organizations don’t reflect the clients they are serving, which may compromise effectiveness of services. And though we rank highly in per capita income, our Anglo households earn an average $31 million more than our Latino households and 134% more than our Native American households. How can we build community assets out of our differences?

We raise the bar. When it comes to health care, Boulder County boasts an impressive array of services, including community health clinics that integrate dental and mental health and specific community hospitals that provide specialty care. Plus, the county has created a Strategic Plan for human services, incorporating work already being done by Aging Services, the Health Youth Alliance and the Early Child Care and Education Council. The goal is to build an accessible, dynamic and effective system of care. But the safety net has gaping holes. Too many of our residents have no health insurance, or work in jobs that provide too little insurance. Our community clinic provided primary care.

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COMMUNITY TRENDS

donation and care to more than 33,000 uninsured and low income residents in 2006 but our emergency rooms are the health care choice of first resort for many of our low income residents. Is there a community By this challenge?

We’re smart. Boulder County is one of the most educated communities in the county. Within Colorado we boast some of the highest achievement scores in public schools. We’re home to the University of Colorado, Norpa University, Front Range Community College, and numerous federal and state research labs, attracting high tech industries and employees from around the world. But we still have a lot to learn. We’re home to one of the largest achievement gaps in the state. Twice we’ve failed to pass a supplemental funding MLA levy to support the site.

There’s a lot of money out there.

Residents countywide provide an employee base for many high tech companies that call our community home. As the 7th wealthiest in the nation in 2005 as measured by per capita income. Boulder was recognized as the top city outside of major metropolitan for attracting private equity and venture capitalist investment, and our highly educated residents provide an employee base for many of the most successful companies that sell our community home. Job growth has continued every year since the regional recession hit in 2002. But not everyone’s getting a piece of the pie. Our middle class is disappearing. We lack jobs that train job opportunities for many of our neighbors who need it. More than one out of every 10 residents lives below the poverty line. Even more live below the sufficient standard—many of those are families. Child care, health care, housing. All it adds up to and still is empty for many.

It isn’t easy being green.

Boulder County has a strong historic commitment to environmental stewardship but it takes a lot of work. The County government and the City of Boulder have both adopted zero waste policies and a number of businesses and schools are making strides toward waste reduction and energy efficiencies. We the home to the first Climate Action Tax in the county and our tax dollars have made a significant impact in recent years. But we’re not all talking the talk. Our consumption of coal-powered electricity contributes 48% of our greenhouse gas emissions. Only 5% of us regularly use public transportation to get to and from work. The vehicles trudged within Boulder County are growing considerably faster than our population. But our “highways and transit” were listed as the second most concern to community residents.

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Sisters Unite!

The vote sparked far more excitement than any Bigby School student council election ever had. Presentations were prepared on the playground, kids were excited to talk to others, and phone conversations were the norm. How to pick between fur, skin or scales? Could dramatic phone conversations be the norm?

SVP Report
Social Ventures Partners Boulder County (SVP) is a collaborative foundation of the Community Foundation. Donors (or “partners”) join together and contribute a minimum of $25,000 annually, collectively learn about community issues and strategic giving, assist each other in strengthening their philanthropic interests, and participate in SVP’s unique grantmaking process. SVP partners increased their application of strategic giving principles by 56 percent, alongside significant growth in areas of giving included: Understanding power dynamics between grantee and funder (27%); Collaboration with others (21%); Giving large checks (17%); Funding efforts addressing systemic change (21%)

Through their involvement with SVP, partners have often commented on their increased ability to have meaningful aspects of community involvement where local partners have indicated that their involvement had increased: • Leverage (65%) • Awareness of community affairs (88%)

SVP is for anyone who wants to follow the fruits of their charitable investment, learn about community issues and strategic giving, assist each other in strengthening their philanthropic interests.

An important component to getting involved in SVP is learning the ropes of philanthropy, and more specifically, how to assess impact, strategic decisions, and effectiveness in personal giving. This happens through partner education events, direct consultation with program staff, and participation in SVP’s unique grantmaking process. SVP partners increased their application of strategic giving principles by 56 percent, alongside significant growth in areas of giving included: Understanding power dynamics between grantee and funder (27%); Collaboration with others (21%); Giving large checks (17%); Funding efforts addressing systemic change (21%)

In the end, a close race between the Humane Society and Boulder County’s hospital, the kids beat out the pages—by a nose.

This discussion, about how elementary school kids can best help their communities, took place at Bigby, where the 4th and 5th graders eventually decided to award $3,100 of collected pennies to purchase an Art Cart for the new Children’s Hospital. But similar conversations were happening last spring at four additional schools (Flatirons Elementary, Friends’ School; High Peaks Elementary, and Community Montessori) as part of your 2 Community Foundation’s Culture of Giving Junior Philanthropy Elementary Program.

20 new philanthropists graduated from the program. Following a 12-week curriculum, those kids are now competent on the importance of giving back, how to volunteer and raise money, how to research non-profits and decide which fit the bill. These new addressees have signed up to participate during the 2007-2008 school year.

In addition to the elementary school happenings, the vote sparked far more excitement than any Bigby School student council election ever had. Presentations were prepared on the playground, kids were excited to talk to others, and phone conversations were the norm. How to pick between fur, skin or scales? Could dramatic phone conversations be the norm?
Did you know that the majority of Americans die without a will and that the state determines what will happen to their estate? Estate planning is important to insure that your wishes are followed.

In addition to providing for your heirs, you may also want to provide for the well-being of the place you call home. We would be pleased to have you join us as an estate planning and wealth organizing advocate. Estate planning is an important component of financial planning at Boulder County.

Language for Inclusion in your will can be as simple as: "I give to The Community Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, 2000 W 11th St., Boulder, CO 80302, ..." (shoulder amount, %, of estate, or description of property) for The Community Trust or for the specific purpose of (designate purpose).

We’d be happy to meet with you together with your attorney and financial advisor to help you make your specific wishes and plans. Please call Collen Coronat at 303-442-0456 to arrange an appointment. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you improving life in Boulder County—for good, forever.

When we started the Entrepreneurship of Colorado EFCO—http://www.ecco.org— at the beginning of 2007, our goal was to recruit a strong base of initial companies to form the core of a unique organization that could help all entrepreneurs contribute early in the creation of their companies to the long-term health and sustainability of Colorado.

Our initial efforts have far exceeded our expectations. As of the end of the third quarter of 2007, we officially have 14 companies as members of EFCO. The new companies have been formally announced. We started with five initial founding members—Collective Insight, Mc.Junk, NewGates, Rally Software, and Tendril—and have added additional companies including ClickCenter, Jilt, Solibra, and Partners of all of these companies have been thinking entrepreneurs on the Colorado Front Range who are fully engaging their organizations in philanthropy at an early stage.

Our initial focus was to help these 12 companies and 75 people make a meaningful contribution to the entrepreneurial community and now aspire to rapidly expand the program over the next 12 months. Our board of 30 founding members has been largely helpful, as they have helped us both launch EFCO and have provided much of the early administrative activity associated with the management of the various gifts.

An organization like EFCO is an investment—we will spend the first ten years building up our initial equity via EFCO with member companies—with the goal of beginning to harvest them as the companies mature and start to make money. The future of the Community Foundation, however, is dependent on the support of our members and friends.

We are excited to have worked together with the entrepreneurs to build this important organization. We are excited about the future of the Community Foundation and are equally excited about the future of Colorado.

Brenda Duran, Chair, Board of Trustees The Community Foundation

Check out www.comfound.org to see a list of companies who have served as individual donors who have served as Trustee.
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The following are highlights from two funds focused on Boulder County.

The Community Foundation

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS, THE COMMUNITY TRUST, THE MILLENNIUM TRUST AND ALL FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

Grants To The Community Foundation

Boulder County Grants by Community

2006 Grants by Program Area

2006 Grants by Geographic Area

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The Boulder County TRENDS Report is an annual community-wide indicator report that provides a comprehensive overview of Boulder County’s health and well-being. The report includes data on key indicators across a range of areas, including education, health, the environment, and civic engagement. The report is produced by the Community Foundation’s Civic Forum, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Boulder County. The report is available for download on the Community Foundation’s website, www.commfound.org.

The report covers a wide range of topics, from education and employment to health and the environment. It provides a snapshot of the community’s strengths and challenges, and offers insights into how residents can work together to create a more vibrant and resilient future.

The report is released annually in September, and it is sponsored by the Community Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the quality of life in Boulder County. The Foundation’s mission is to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving. The Foundation provides grants to community organizations, and it also administers funds established by individuals, families and corporations. The Foundation provides these grants to support a range of initiatives, from education and health care to environmental conservation and civic engagement.

The report includes data on a variety of key indicators, including:

- Education:
  - Student achievement
  - High school graduation rates
  - College-going rates

- Health:
  - Access to healthcare
  - Preventive care
  - Health insurance coverage

- Environment:
  - Greenhouse gas emissions
  - Recycling rates
  - Water quality

- Civic Engagement:
  - Volunteerism
  - Voter turnout
  - Civic participation

The report also includes data on other important topics, such as economic development, workforce training, and transportation. It provides a comprehensive overview of the challenges facing Boulder County, as well as the resources available to help address them.

The report is an important resource for residents, policymakers, and businesses, and it is widely used by organizations and individuals who are working to improve the quality of life in Boulder County.