On a typically lovely July night, nine neighbors, barely acquainted, gathered around the table for dinner at Helen Gemmill’s home. They talked about their kids, dogs, hobbies, and what they love about this place.

Soon the conversation turned more personal and more focused. These nine neighbors, fast becoming friends, shared their passion for investing in Boulder County. They talked about why they give and how they might become part of a pool of resources that matched their values and desires for Boulder County. Since that dinner, six of the nine attendees have done just that by giving a combined total of $530,350 to The Community Trust — The Community Foundation’s unrestricted grant-making fund.

Helen Gemmill and guests, KC Becker and Martine Conway, all in their thirties, and all recent donors to The Community Trust, believe The Community Foundation is a key piece of infrastructure expertly equipped to connect caring residents, analyze important local issues, and contribute to our sense of community.

Gemmill finds the model of The Community Trust particularly smart and inspiring, “Anyone can be a part of it, and I think this levels the playing field in the world of philanthropy. Residents review proposals and recommend grants, while local experts break down the issues presented making them manageable. So much collective wisdom is shared during the process.”

Last year Becker served on one of The Community Trust grant committees, and she remembers that there was much more need than funding available.

Two 2008 Community Trust proposals illustrate Becker’s point. Terry Tedeschi of Community Food Share said, “Forty-five thousand people are living at or below the poverty line of $21,000 per year for a family of four. That’s enough low-income working people to fill Folsom Field. The worsening economy, and rising energy and food prices can be devastating to these folks, who have to choose to pay for gas, rent, utilities and medical expenses...”

continued inside
Hitting the Streets!

Since publishing ‘Boulder County TRENDS’, The Community Foundation’s report on key community indicators, in the fall of 2007, we have:

- Distributed more than 3,800 copies
- Presented to more than 60 civic organizations, businesses, faith communities, boards, and policy meetings—reaching over 2,000 people
- Welcomed thousands to the website.

Wondering what’s changed in the last year? Curious how Boulder County’s health care access compares to Jefferson County’s? Want to graph the percent of adults over 60 in the community between 1980 and 2007? The Community Foundation has partnered with the County’s Human Services Master Plan and the OMNI Institute to design and build an interactive indicators website. Starting soon you can visit the site to query specific indicators, map changing trends, and download local and national reports. Visit www.commfound.org for updates!

Investing in Tomorrow’s Leadership...Today!

The Community Foundation, with funding from the Knight Foundation, completed a 5 month research project on local opportunities for development and networking of emerging multicultural leaders. Through surveys, interviews, focus groups, and a thorough study of best practices, The Community Foundation has published a ‘Blueprint for Harvesting Leadership’, available now on www.commfound.org/nonprof/civicforum/publications.html!

The Expanding Leadership Initiative

In 2008, programs of the Expanding Leadership Initiative (ELI) began promoting authentic inclusiveness and addressing diversity issues, as they relate to Boulder County’s nonprofit sector and engagement of communities of color. ELI supported 100 nonprofit leaders to attend symposiums around diverse and multicultural leaderships. ELI has worked in collaboration with the county and municipal governments to create the People Engaged in Raising Leaders training program. ELI was awarded $40,000 from other foundations to support an emerging leader mentoring program and youth leadership development opportunities.

Social Venture Partners Boulder County

A Collaborative Fund of The Community Foundation.

SVP is for anyone who wants to witness the impact of their charitable investments, learn about community issues and strategic giving, and leverage their donations through collaborative giving and direct consulting support. Through our collective expertise and resources, we strengthen the capacity and sustainability of local nonprofits and transform our community.

EFCO, The Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado

“When we started the Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado 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,” wrote Brad Feld, entrepreneur, former trustee of The Community Foundation, and EFCO founder. By all reckoning, EFCO has exceeded expectations. To date, 28 companies have signed up for EFCO, by making a gift of approximately 1 percent of their equity in the form of stock warrants. Three of the EFCO members have had successful liquidity events, worth more than $125,000 to various charitable organizations, with over half going to the Community Trust. Check it out: www.efcolorado.org.

Open Door Fund

The fund provided approximately $30,000 last year in support of the county's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. In a typical year, grantees include arts & entertainment programs, health initiatives, youth support, and programs for senior citizens. The Open Door Fund Dinner, scheduled for April 11, 2009. It is expected to raise over $90,000. www.opendoorfund.org.

COMMUNITY VENTURES

Part of the Community Foundation’s work is to help nonprofits thrive, by providing not only grants but technical assistance, education and training. In addition to ongoing work with nonprofits throughout the year, the Foundation offers our annual “Community Ventures” workshop. The 2008 event, which took place in August, was themed “Eat, Drink, Breathe Fundraising.” Fundraising guru Kim Klein returned to inspire and train over 200 nonprofit staff and board members.

Blue Mountain Arts grants

In 2008, Blue Mountain Arts founders seeded Year 2 of the company’s Community Cares Program. Jorian Schutz, who originated the program in 2007 to mark the 35th anniversary of the locally-based company, provided funding so that each of the company’s 90 employees received $365 for making a gift to a nonprofit of their choice. The employees were urged to either pool their resources to increase the impact of their gifts, or to save them for a year and double their gift in 2009. To date, the Community Cares program has awarded more than $200,000 in grants to nonprofits.
I've made a gift to The Community Trust, because flow, no matter at what level, creates power. Letting resources flow to where it’s most needed. I also see the work of the Trust as very aligned with the information from the Boulder County TRENDs Report. A gift to The Community Trust is a chance to make a real and direct impact. Being part of the grant selection process last year made me understand that we’re dealing with real dollars for local organizations doing well-defined and identified projects. Gifts aren't just a drop in the bucket. "People come here and talk about community, but because so many of us are from somewhere else, community isn't as rooted and I think it's easy for us to get lost in our own lives," said Conway. "But now, raising a family, I agree it's really important. I'm getting to know more people and their interests. It's making my world bigger in a way, and a gift to The Community Trust is part of that. It's also an extension of the local philanthropy The Community Foundation was already supporting me in doing. I'm excited to see The Community Trust grow."

Josie Heath, President of The Community Foundation, said, “Whether people are new or long-time residents, I'm glad The Community Foundation has proven itself as a resource to help people who care ensure that good things happen here.”

Gemmill summed it up, “Giving brings so much joy and satisfaction.”

The Community Foundation has recently launched an ambitious new initiative to raise $1 million per year for the next four years for The Community Trust—the unrestricted grant-making fund of The Community Foundation. The goal, if reached, will allow the Boulder County community to double its support for nonprofits, now and forever, while also reserving $250,000 per year to fund a single cause. Anyone can contribute, and grants from the Trust are made based on recommendations from committees of local residents. The Community Trust is the community’s fund—created here by you and distributed here to impact Boulder County. To make a gift, send a check to The Community Foundation’s Community Trust at 1123 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302 or call The Foundation for other giving options, 303-442-0436.

Stepping up to meet community needs is what The Community Foundation is about, and we’re here to do just that in good times and bad. We know that people’s philanthropic decisions during the flushest of times are not made lightly. Investing money in charitable organizations and social issues requires commitment, trust, and a true desire to share what one has—no matter the level at which a person, family, or business can give.

What changes when economic times are volatile? Donors and businesses experience less cash flow and stability. Community members who were already struggling struggle more. It becomes even more challenging for the nonprofit organizations serving our community to raise their already lean operating funds. Everyone feels the pinch.

But now is not the time to retreat. If there was ever a time for a community to come together, honoring that where we live is only the sum of our parts, it’s during the bumpiest of times. The Community Foundation invites you to actively participate in our new push to build our Community Trust, the Foundation’s unrestricted endowment, and to double funding to local nonprofit organizations.

The Community Trust is a fund to which anyone can contribute and grants from the Trust are made based on recommendations from resident-staffed committees. The Community Trust is the community’s fund—created here by you and distributed here to impact Boulder County, now and forever.

On behalf of The Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees, I ask you to step up with us to meet Boulder County’s needs and to nurture this community that we all call home. Please contact The Community Foundation today (303-442-0436 or 1123 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302) to make a gift to The Community Trust.
LYONS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

A group of residents in Lyons, wanting to increase philanthropy and giving in their corner of Boulder County, established the Lyons Community Foundation. This dedicated group has raised over $120,000 and is working in partnership with The Community Foundation to administer and house the new foundation. In November the fund will grant out $21,000. The fund has already made its first grant: $2,000 to Lyons Community Church for its “basic needs emergency” fund.

Millennium Trust 2008

This year’s committee, made up as always of donors to the fund, chose to address Boulder County’s low-income population with grant funding. The committee awarded $92,000 to 12 organizations to build these groups’ capacity to better serve their low-income clients. Please see www.commfound.org/grants for a full listing of recipients. This round of funding makes $664,325 the amount invested in the community by the Millennium Trust Fund.