lighting the way

The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY
“You make The Community Foundation’s impact possible. Your support means we can shine a light on our community’s most pressing issues and work with you to address them.”

- Josie Heath, President

Want to know your dollars will make a difference?

Support The Community Foundation and help us fund grants, disseminate data, train leaders and facilitate a critical mass of well-informed and skilled parents creating opportunity for all. The Community Foundation is a catalyst for change but we need your help, because we can do so much more together than any one of us can do alone.
Are we leaving the community brighter? We’ve demonstrated our impact.

Building inclusivity in Boulder County’s leadership and decision-making leads to brighter solutions for everyone. The Community Foundation’s Leadership Fellows program assembles a cohort of future leaders, many from under-represented communities, and inspires them with a deep understanding of community issues, as well as skills they will need to serve an organization in a leadership role. The impact: 64% of Fellows have joined a local board or commission within six months of completing the program, bringing fresh ideas and diverse voices to the problem-solving and policy-making table.

Our responsive granting process has two big impacts. First, since 1991 The Community Foundation has granted more than $64 million in Boulder County and beyond. Of course, the dollars into the community have enabled some great things, but we also populate our grant review committees in a unique way. The impact: our volunteers come away from the process with tools and knowledge about Boulder County. This year nine committees are reviewing 182 proposals requesting $1.2 million, a 20% increase from 2014.

Read more about the impacts of The Community Foundation’s work at http://www.commfound.org/news
Making a positive difference requires making informed decisions.

To The Community Foundation, that means our decisions are informed by meeting people, listening, and shining light on local issues through data and information. We rely on our Boulder County TRENDS Report, which tracks more than 150 community indicators about environmental sustainability, community livability, and economic vibrancy over time. We use TRENDS data to inform ourselves and to be a resource for the public.

TRENDS is essential to our grant-making. Every member of our grant review committees receives an in-depth presentation about how to evaluate proposals through the lens of greatest need. Ditto for all Leadership Fellows. Plus, we’ve given hundreds of TRENDS presentations to thousands of community leaders, businesses and residents informing strategic planning and local policymaking.

Data from TRENDS shines a powerful light on what we all need to understand about where we live and work. We’re committed to compiling, using and sharing TRENDS, along with our local expertise and deep understanding, so that philanthropists, decision-makers and community members can spark community change.

Copies of TRENDS are available at The Community Foundation, or at www.commfound.org/trendsmagazine. Schedule a presentation: Erika Stutzman, Erika@commfound.org, 303-442-0436.
The Community Foundation responds to community
needs in ways that can have a unique impact: that is one
of the promises we make to Boulder County.

For example, we’re known for quickly and transparently handling
philanthropy after disasters, like the 2010 Fourmile Fire and
the 2013 floods. This kind of responsiveness has the power
to spark conversations and collaborations about other significant
issues, too.

Take our Boulder County Health Improvement Collaborative
(BCHIC), which has facilitated dialogue among key health
systems leaders—physicians, health care administrators,
safety-net providers, hospitals, and public health and human
services leaders—since 2007. Originally convened to advance
electronic health information exchange, BCHIC—a model of
inspired collaboration—is now a catalyst for change to address
other unmet needs.

BCHIC’s current focus is to enhance medical neighborhoods so
that underinsured and uninsured patients can more easily access
specialty care. How? Through e-consultations where a primary
care physician can seek advice from a specialist, and in-person
appointments where patients have access to the care they need,
specialists can define how many patients they’re willing to treat pro
bono. One out of four patients currently lacks access to specialty
care. By year’s end, BCHIC will identify the top needs of our
county’s most at-risk patients.

Learn more: www.communityfound.org/content/boulder-county-health-
information-exchange
Complicated problems require catalytic work to illuminate solutions.

In 2008, The Community Foundation identified the achievement gap—the difference in academic performance and opportunity between low-income, primarily Latino, students and wealthy, primarily Anglo, students—as one of the most significant issues facing Boulder County. Our School Readiness Initiative has partnered in enlightening ways with community leaders, school districts, educators, other nonprofits and parents to help the whole community own the goal of closing the gap.

Our primary focus the past two years has been the Engaged Latino Parents Advancing School Outcomes (ELPASO) program. It’s a grassroots movement developed with hundreds of Latino parents to create a critical mass of well-informed and skilled parents: initial results are glowing.

Our bilingual, bicultural School Readiness Coordinators knock on doors, connecting parents to early childhood and family resources—and recruiting parents for leadership development and training. They then continue to spark change by teaching other Latino parents how to ensure their children are ready for Kindergarten. So far, we’ve reached more than 1,000 parent leaders.

Learn more: Chris Barge, Chris@commfound.org, 303-442-0436; and see our new video at http://www.commfound.org/ready

serving as

a catalyst
Being trusted by local nonprofit organizations and community members is a privilege.

We at The Community Foundation want to continue to earn that privilege, sometimes that means we have to shine our light and take the lead.

Following the deaths of several homeless people in Boulder, we convened and facilitated the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, Boulder Outreach for Homeless Overflow and Bridge House to explore ways to better serve the city’s homeless population. All three entities already serve the homeless in different and important ways, but wanted to cooperate around the common interest of ensuring that, at a minimum, no one starves or freezes to death. The collaborative will soon implement a model to prevent community members from falling through the cracks, which includes improved data collection and coordinated entry for vulnerable, homeless clients and expanded case management services.

The Community Foundation also stepped up this year when Foothills United Way announced significant funding cuts: our Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado (EFCO) granted $300,000 to affected health and human services agencies, proving once again that working together accomplishes much more than doing it alone.

Learn more: Elvira Ramos, Elvira@commfound.org, 303-442-0436
Igniting change requires a fresh look at problems to see opportunities.

Through that lens, The Community Foundation asked how we could connect a new generation of business innovators to their community. In response, our Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado (EFCO) brings together Boulder County’s most successful and enlightened entrepreneurs to inspire a culture of giving among peers. Specifically, EFCO—100 companies strong—encourages starting entrepreneurs to earmark equity for their community early in a company’s lifecycle. To date, successful exits and events by EFCO members have generated $3.6 million for the community.

Through the same lens, we asked how we could make information from our latest TRENDS report more widely accessible to inform decision-making that will support our community’s vitality. We're addressing this challenge with a brilliant partnership: Code for Boulder is exploring how its volunteers can develop “TRENDS Online”—and help bring to light the most pressing needs in our community, connecting more people with ways to take action toward positive change.

In short, The Community Foundation is where people and resources come together to spark ideas that enlighten, inspire and benefit everyone in Boulder County.
The Community Foundation is a catalyst for change where your donations will make a difference. Please support our work and make a gift today.

1. Donate online:
www.commfound.org

2. Donate by check:
The Community Foundation
1123 Spruce Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302

3. Donate through a gift of stock or planned gift:
A member of our Philanthropic Services team would be delighted to speak with you.

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