Boulder County TRENDS
The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators

EDUCATION: What about the “Gap Kids?”

OUR ENDANGERED MIDDLE CLASS: 1 in 4 families can’t afford to live here

GIVING TIME OVER MONEY

The GREEN Capital of America

THE ARTS NEED AN ENCORE

Over 80 WAYS TO GAUGE the state of our Community and BE INSPIRED
### BOULDER COUNTY AT-A-GLANCE

**Population:** 294,654*

Total **acreage** in the County: 474,347

Percent of **preserved** land in County: 67%

Unincorporated acreage of **private** land remaining: 82,344

Number of **households:** 118,434

**Family** households: 67,794

**Non-family** households: 50,640

**Median Age:** 36

**Racial/Ethnic** makeup:
- 87% White
- 13.4% Latino (any race)
- 3.7% Asian
- 1.0% African-American
- 0.5% Native-American
- 2.7% Two or more races
- 4.9% Some other race

Percent of People who speak a Language **other than English** at home: 15%

**Educational** Attainment:
- 93% High school graduates
- 57% Bachelor’s degree or higher
- 24% Graduate degree

2008 **Median Family Income:** $89,164

2008 **Poverty Level** for family of four: $21,200

**Persons Below** poverty: 11%

**Families Below** poverty: 5%

All numbers reflect 2008 American Community Survey data unless otherwise noted.

Public land numbers from Boulder County Land Statistics 2008 by Meredith Dutlinger.

* Department of Local Affairs, 2007
This is the place for inspired giving.

The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving. The 501(c)3 nonprofit organization was created by a group of forward thinking residents in 1991, to serve all the county’s residents, businesses, decision makers, and nonprofit organizations.

We all share a passion for this place—a vibrant, thriving community for all of us. Boulder County is a place that has overwhelming and unlimited potential. That’s where The Community Foundation comes in. It’s the place where giving is informed and inspired to have the greatest impact on the vision of a better Boulder County and beyond.

We’re committed to intimately understanding needs and connecting to the nonprofits that address those needs. Purpose and passion are the inspiration for everything we do. With you, we can make a meaningful impact on our fellow residents’ quality of life today and in the future. The Community Foundation—inspired giving starts here.
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I love taking visitors on hikes up Boulder County trails. It’s a great way to get out, engage in thoughtful conversation, and enjoy amazing mountain views.

I sometimes think of our work at the Community Foundation as similar to that of a trail guide. We build community by leading people to a place where they feel inspired to engage with and invest in this place we all love.

This Trends report serves as our compass to help us navigate through the needs across Boulder County. It informs our grantmaking, and helps donors, nonprofits, and the public at large to make informed decisions as we all try to improve our community. We hope you will come to consider this our community’s guide for how we’re doing and what we need to care about next.

Our Civic Forum Director Morgan Rogers researched this report by aggregating all the demographic statistics she could find about Boulder County. She found data indicating we’re more ethnically diverse than we realize. We’re aging more rapidly than it seems. And we’re in real danger of losing our middle class.

There’s a lot to love about Boulder County, so long as you can afford to live here. The rising cost of living is widening the gap between the have and the have-nots.

What should we do to celebrate and protect our considerable assets and fend off troubling trends that threaten our sense of community?

This report answers that question. We’ve examined education, healthcare, the economy, the environment, arts and culture and civic life. Each chapter identifies troubling trends and includes a call to action for those who feel inspired to address the issues.

Education

A growing achievement gap.

Our education chapter explores the Colorado paradox: Our state ranks 5th in residents with bachelor’s degrees, yet we are 48th in public spending for higher education. That means we are not “growing our own” crop of great students to become tomorrow’s Colorado business and community leaders. This has real consequences, as people with less than a high school degree earn 36% of people with graduate degrees.

We also examine Boulder County’s achievement gap, between the ¾ of students who thrive in our grade schools, and the ¼ of mostly poor and Latino students who get left behind. This gap begins before Kindergarten and widens from there.

The achievement gap is a community issue, requiring a community-wide response. The Community Foundation recently launched its Early Childhood Initiative to bring awareness to this troubling trend. We have joined parents, our donors, community leaders, business partners and the community at large in calling for a sustainable source of public funding for equal access to quality early care and education for all Boulder County children. This, so that all kids show up to school ready to learn.
Health and Human Services

The wealthy are healthy. Most in Boulder County are very healthy, thanks to a community emphasis on well-being and some extraordinary resources. Yet, we’re not all well. The difference comes down to money.

Between 15 and 20% of adults in Boulder County are uninsured, and a disproportionate number of those uninsured are Latino. And while our overall teen fertility rate is low, 70% of teen mothers are Latina, and substantially fewer Latina women receive late or no prenatal care.

We remain troubled by another statistic when it comes to children: Despite movement in the right direction since 2003, more than 500 kids were present at formally reported domestic violence incidents in 2007.

More than 30% of high school students were offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property. On the positive side, we found data to support the wisdom that parents can influence this behavior: A teen is half as likely to drink alcohol if she believes her parent thinks it’s wrong.

And here’s another reason to be hopeful. The Community Foundation is working with local hospitals to launch a nationally cutting-edge online health records database. The Health Information Exchange aims to reduce overall healthcare costs while helping to identify community-wide health trends.

The Economy

What recession? OK, that’s an overstatement, especially if you lost your job or much of your 401K or IRA in the stock market in 2008 and 2009. But Boulder County was a late joiner to the national recession, and at the time of this writing seemed poised to exit the turmoil a bit earlier than the rest of the country.

Boulder County’s economy also was already receiving a nice boost from the federal stimulus package, which incentivized the kinds of green and tech-focused jobs we have here.

Boulder County ranks 12th nationally in per capita personal income. Yet, it also costs $66,000 for a family of four to live here. With more than a quarter of our families living on less than $50,000 per year, you can see why we are at risk of losing our middle class.

The Environment

Green leadership. President Obama signed his economic stimulus package in 2009 with Blake Jones, CEO of Boulder-based Namaste Solar, standing beside him. That exemplifies Boulder County’s reputation as a leader in setting a green pace for our country.

An early U.S. adopter of the Kyoto Protocol, Boulder County has its sights on shrinking nearly one quarter of its carbon footprint from 2007 levels by 2012. Several cutting-edge programs already in place are helping us get there.

And new state policies incentivizing solar, regulating oil and gas production, and building transit are cementing Colorado’s leadership role in the new energy economy.
Arts and Culture:

**Recession blunts boom.** A booming subculture of world-class musicians, performers, authors and artists turned Boulder County arts into a “drive-worthy” event in recent years. But arts and cultural nonprofit organizations saw perhaps the sharpest drop in donor support of any sector when the national recession took hold in 2008.

At The Community Foundation, we believe that a thriving arts and cultural sector is key to a healthy community. The good news is the recession forced these groups to become even more efficient stewards of the resources they have.

Here’s hoping support for the arts returns soon to pre-recession levels, so that a key indicator of our community’s health can return to boom times.

Civic Life:

**Giving more time than money.** When it comes to giving money, our research shows that Boulder County residents have a long way to go. We give 2.7% of our income on average to charity – well below the Colorado average of 3.1%, and further still below the national average of 3.4%. Raising Boulder County’s individual giving levels would help a lot, especially since our per capita personal income is higher than all but 11 counties in the United States.

That’s not to say we don’t engage in civic life. To the contrary, we vote in droves, we volunteer mightily, and we speak out often. But what will happen to our sense of community as the traditional broad sources of news and information shrink and become more specialized?

At The Community Foundation, we seek to preserve our “town square,” by convening the community and calling our citizens and leaders to action to address pressing issues. That’s why we launched our initiative to increase our unrestricted grantmaking endowment, The Community Trust. If everyone in the community pitches in and helps us reach this four-year, $4 million goal, we will double our support to local nonprofits across all sectors, now and forever. We will also focus significant time and funding on closing the achievement gap by improving school readiness.

A community investment

Thank you for your interest in learning more about your Boulder County community. We encourage you to read the following Trends chapters in full and use the report like we do, as a compass to help you navigate local needs. Please share it with friends, use it as a launching point for family discussions about community, and display it on a coffee table at your home or office.

I am excited to refer you also to our new interactive Trends Website, which you can find through our Website, www.commfound.org. There, you can build your own graphs, create maps, and compare the quality of life in Boulder County to the quality of life in other parts of the state.

We have a lot to celebrate about this place we all love. This report also shows we have room for improvement.

We can get there with each others’ help.

Yours in community,

**Josie Heath**  
President  
The Community Foundation
Carta de nuestra Presidenta

Una de las cosas que más disfruto es el llevar a visitantes en caminatas alrededor de los senderos del Condado de Boulder. Es una manera excelente de salir a las afueras, participar de conversaciones amables, y disfrutar de las increíbles vistas de las montañas.

A veces pienso que nuestro trabajo en la Fundación de la Comunidad es similar al de un guía de senderos. Construimos comunidad guiando a las personas hacia un sitio en donde todos se puedan sentir inspirados de participar e invertir en el lugar que tanto queremos.

Este reporte de tendencias sirve como un compás para ayudarnos a navegar a través de las necesidades del Condado de Boulder. Informa nuestra elaboración de concesiones, y ayuda a nuestros donantes, organizaciones sin fines de lucro, y al público en general para tomar decisiones informadas mientras tratamos de mejorar nuestra comunidad. Esperamos que considere esta su guía comunitaria para ver como vamos yendo y que es lo siguiente que tenemos que hacer.

Nuestra Directora del Foro Cívico Morgan Rogers investigó este informe añadiendo todas las estadísticas demográficas que pudo encontrar acerca del Condado de Boulder. Encontrando información que indicaba que somos más étnicamente diversos de lo que pensamos. Estamos envejeciendo más rápido de lo que parece. Y nos encontramos ante un peligro real de perder nuestra clase media.

Hay muchas cosas para querer en el Condado de Boulder, mientras uno se pueda permitir el vivir aquí. El alto costo de vida está aumentando la brecha entre los que tienen y los que no tienen.

¿Qué podemos hacer para celebrar y proteger nuestro considerable patrimonio y combatir las preocupantes tendencias que amenazan nuestro sentido de comunidad?

Este informe responde a esta pregunta. Examinamos educación, asistencia médica, la economía, el medio ambiente, arte, cultura y vida cívica. Cada capítulo identifica preocupantes tendencias e incluye una llamada a la acción para aquellos que se sientan motivados a tratar estos temas.

Educación:

Una brecha de desempeño en aumento. Nuestro capítulo en educación explora la paradoja de Colorado: Nuestro estado clasifica 5to en residentes con grados de licenciaturas, aún así somos 48 en gastos públicos para educación superior. Esto significa que no estamos “cultivando” nuestra cosecha de buenos estudiantes para que se conviertan en los líderes de nuestros negocios y comunidades. Esto conlleva consecuencias reales, ya que la gente con menos de un grado de escuela secundaria percibe un 36% menos que las personas con grados de licenciatura.

También examinamos la brecha de desempeño del Condado de Boulder, entre los ¾ de estudiantes que prosperan en nuestras escuelas primarias, y el ¼ de en su mayoría estudiantes pobres y Latinos que se quedan atrás. Esta brecha comienza antes del kindergarten y crece desde allí.

La brecha de desempeño es un tema comunitario, que requiere de una respuesta a través de la comunidad. Recientemente, La Fundación de la Comunidad emprendió una iniciativa de Educación Temprana para concientizar acerca de esta preocupante tendencia. Hemos reunido a padres, a nuestros donantes, líderes comunitarios, socios de negocios y la comunidad en general para encontrar una fuente sostenible de fondos públicos para un acceso equitativo de cuidados y educación temprana para toda la niñez del Condado de Boulder. Esto, para que todos los niños se presenten en la escuela listos para aprender.
Salud y Servicios Humanos:

Los ricos son saludables. La mayoría en el Condado de Boulder es muy saludable, gracias a un énfasis comunitario en el bienestar y de recursos extraordinarios. Aún así, no todos estamos bien. La diferencia es cuestión de dinero.

Entre el 15 y el 20 porciento de adultos del Condado de Boulder no tiene seguro, y un número desproporcionado de aquellos sin seguro es Latino. Y mientras nuestra tasa de fertilidad en adolescentes es baja, el 70 porciento de madres adolescentes son Latinas, y un número sustancialmente menor de mujeres Latinas no recibe de cuidados pre-natales o los recibe tarde.

Hay otra estadística que nos mantiene preocupados en relación a la niñez: A pesar de un movimiento en la dirección correcta desde el 2003, en el 2007 más de 500 niños fueron testigos de incidentes de violencia doméstica formalmente reportados.

A más del 30 porciento de estudiantes secundarios les ofrecieron, vendieron o dieron una droga ilegal en propiedades escolares. En el lado positivo, encontramos datos que apoyan el buen juicio que los padres pueden ejercer en este comportamiento: Un joven tiene la mitad de probabilidades de tomar alcohol si cree que sus padres no aprueban de esto.

Y aquí existe otra razón para tener esperanza. La Fundación de la Comunidad está trabajando con hospitales locales para emprender una base de datos de registros de salud de última generación a nivel nacional. El Intercambio de Información de Salud apunta a reducir los costos en general de salud mientras ayuda a mantener la identificación de tendencias de salud a lo largo de toda la comunidad.

La Economía:

¿Qué recesión? OK, esto es un sobre estimado, especialmente si perdió su trabajo o muchas de sus inversiones de 401K ó IRA en la bolsa de valores en el 2008 y el 2009. Pero el Condado de Boulder se unió tarde a la recesión nacional, y al momento de este escrito parecía preparado para salir de la confusión un poco antes que el resto del país.

La economía del Condado de Boulder también recibió un buen empuje del paquete de estímulo federal, el cual incentivó el tipo de trabajo de enfoque tecnológico y de conservación que aquí tenemos.

El Condado de Boulder está calificado como 12vo a nivel nacional en cuanto a ingresos per cápita. Aún así, también cuesta $66,000 para que una familia de cuatro viva aquí. Con más de ¼ de nuestras familias viviendo con menos de $50,000 al año, uno puede darse cuenta porqué es que estamos en riesgo de perder nuestra clase media.

El Medio Ambiente:

Liderazgo Verde. El Presidente Obama firmó su paquete de estímulo económico en el 2009 con Blake Jones, presidente de la compañía de Boulder Namaste Solar a su lado. Esto demuestra la reputación de liderazgo del Condado de Boulder dando la pauta a el país en cuanto a conservación.

El Condado de Boulder, partidario desde el principio del Protocolo de Kyoto, tiene entre sus metas la disminución de casi el ¼ de sus emisiones de carbono a los niveles del 2007 para el 2012. Varios programas de última generación se encuentran establecidos para ayudarnos a llegar allí.

Y nuevas políticas estatales que incentivan la producción solar, regulan la producción de gas y aceite, y construyen el tránsito están consolidando el rol de liderazgo de Colorado en la nueva economía energética.
Artes y Cultura:

**La recesión hace florecer.** En años recientes, una subcultura en auge de músicos, artistas y autores de primera línea convirtieron a las artes del Condado de Boulder en un lugar al que vale la pena ir para asistir a eventos culturales. Pero las artes y las organizaciones culturales sin fines de lucro observaron la que fué tal vez la caída más grande de apoyo de donantes de ningún otro sector cuando la recesión arraigó en el 2008.

En La Fundación de la Comunidad, creemos que un sector artístico y cultural próspero es clave para una comunidad saludable. La buena noticia es que la recesión forzó a que estos grupos se volvieran administrados aún más eficientes de sus recursos.

Esperamos que el apoyo a las artes retorne pronto a los niveles anteriores a la recesión, para que este indicador de la salud de nuestra comunidad pueda volver a los tiempos de esplendor.

Vida Cívica:

**Ofreciendo más tiempo que dinero.** Cuando de dar dinero se trata, nuestra investigación indica que el Condado de Boulder tiene un largo camino para recorrer. Damos en promedio el 2.7 por ciento de nuestro ingreso a caridad – bastante más por debajo que el promedio de Colorado del 3.1 porciento, y aún más por debajo del promedio nacional de 3.4 porciento. Encontramos esta estadística especialmente sorprendente, considerando que nuestro ingreso per cápita es uno de los más altos de casi todos los condados de los Estados Unidos, habiendo únicamente once condados con ingresos más altos.

Esto no dice que no participamos de una vida cívica. Al contrario, votamos en hordas, hacemos mucho trabajo voluntario, y con frecuencia damos nuestra opinión. ¿Pero que pasaría con nuestro sentido comunitario si las fuentes tradicionales de noticias e información en general se encojen y vuelven más especializadas?

En la Fundación de la Comunidad, tratamos de conservar nuestra “plaza local”, reuniendo a la comunidad y haciendo un llamado a la acción a nuestros ciudadanos y líderes para hablar de asuntos que apremian. Es por esto que lanzamos una iniciativa para aumentar nuestro poder de otorgar concesiones sin restricciones, El Fondo de Inversiones de la Comunidad. Si todos en la comunidad arrimasen el hombro y nos ayudasen a alcanzar nuestra meta de $4 millones, doblariamos nuestro apoyo a organizaciones sin fines de lucro locales en todos los sectores, ahora y siempre. También dedicaremos un tiempo y financiación significativos en cerrar la brecha de desempeño mejorando la preparación a la escuela.

**Una Inversión de la Comunidad**

Gracias por su interés de saber más acerca de su comunidad del Condado de Boulder. Le animamos a que lea los siguientes capítulos condetenimiento y use el reporte como lo hacemos nosotros, como un compás para ayudarle a navegar en las necesidades locales. Por favor compartalo con sus amigos, úselo como un punto de partida para entablar conversaciones familiares acerca de la comunidad, y expóngalo en una mesita en su casa u oficina.


Tenemos mucho que celebrar acerca de este lugar que todos amamos. Este informe también demuestra que tenemos mucho espacio para mejorar.

Podemos llegar allí con la ayuda de todos.

Con ustedes en comunidad,

Josie Heath
Presidente
La Fundación de la Comunidad
Building Our Healthy Community

The Community Foundation’s Healthy Community Framework is a vision of what strong community life could look like and how philanthropy and volunteerism can play a role in creating it. Using this framework, community members see how they can help build a high quality of life for all Boulder County residents by focusing on seven core elements.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY:

- Meets the basic needs of its PEOPLE.
- Promotes HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.
- Creates quality EDUCATION and learning opportunities for all ages.
- Ensures a vibrant and diversified ECONOMY.
- Acts as a steward toward sustaining a healthy ENVIRONMENT.
- Provides broad access to ARTS AND CULTURE.
- Fosters strong and connected CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND GIVING.

WHAT ARE COMMUNITY INDICATORS?

Very simply, indicators are pieces of information that tell us something about the status of a larger system. Many kinds of indicators are used to inform many different kinds of decisions.

Community indicators reflect the status of a community’s health and quality of life. In order to know if we’re heading in a desired direction, we need some guides to show us the way.

Indicators are a tool for helping us understand ourselves as a community. They can aid citizens, policy makers, government agencies, the media, businesses and community activists in identifying and exploring the relationships among a wide range of community health trends and conditions.
The indicators used in this report were selected out of a broad, community-based process that engaged 400 Boulder County leaders, policymakers, business people, and neighbors nearly 15 years ago. This dedicated group outlined four visions for Boulder County (see: History of the Civic Forum, at the end of this report). They also selected 50 community indicators to track.

The Civic Forum continues to track these 50 indicators each year to provide longitudinal data on Boulder County and to help inform our community on how we are doing. Along the way, we’ve added several that may not have been relevant – or even existed – when the program began (like the number of registered hybrids or internet use!) The indicators give us an idea of where we’ve been, where we are now, and what may lie ahead.

The indicators are organized into 7 chapters and reflect the visions established by the Civic Forum founders and the areas in which The Community Foundation makes grants. We acknowledge that these indicators do not give the complete picture. Rather they attempt to give a broad overview of our community’s health, while reflecting the practical limitations of the data available for collection. The data contained here is almost entirely reflected by numbers, though we know much of what measures community cannot be counted.

DO YOU FEEL INSPIRED?

No matter who you are in our community, you have something to give. The challenge is to be strategic and purposeful in your approach. Each chapter provides

- a list of indicators included in that section
- the current status of these indicators
- a few examples of programs currently serving this sector
- a list of action items meant to offer suggestions for what you can do as an individual, a parent, a business, a donor, a volunteer, or just somebody who loves this place.

The programs highlighted offer only a few examples of what is being done right now in our community, but the opportunities are endless. To learn more about Boulder County’s nonprofit community, visit The Community Foundation’s Culture of Giving website, www.cultureofgiving.org.
Who Are We?

If you think Boulder County is home only to a bunch of middle-aged, wealthy white guys and gals you’re mostly right.

Still, you’re not paying close enough attention.

We’re way more diverse ethnically than you might imagine; we’re aging at an accelerated pace, and, alarmingly, we’re in real danger of losing our middle class. In preparing this report we found so much to love about this place. It’s downright inspirational to live in a community with so much going for it already and so much potential for successfully overcoming our challenges. This is important stuff. What we value and how we choose to solve our problems defines us and helps us tell our civic story.

Nearly 300,000 of us call Boulder County home. Why are we all here? Take a look around. We live in a spectacular natural setting. We rarely have reason to complain about the weather, there’s never “nothing to do,” and the extremes of the economic rollercoaster have left us a little less whiplashed than almost anywhere else on the planet.
Among our 294,654 residents, almost 40,000 are Latino. Depending on where you live, the Latino population shrinks or soars. The Asian population is growing steadily as well; most live in Boulder or Lafayette.

So, we are not all white, nor are we all middle aged and wealthy. Defining middle age is a slippery slope. Folks in their 40 and 60s all claim a place there. The point is, we’re all aging. And while the “youthful” image of Boulder may still ring true… for now, Boulder County’s median age has been ticking upward for the last 20 years. **In fact, in 2008 Boulder County’s median age was estimated to have surpassed the state’s median at 36 years.**

And from here on out, not only are we going to get older, we’re going to get older fast. In 2008 **12% of Boulder County residents were over the age of 60. By 2020 that demographic is expected to reach 21%.** That’s not just because we’re all – yes all – getting older. Boulder County’s population is also aging faster than most other places. Why? It’s an attractive place to retire. Aging boomers are moving here to be near their adult kids and grandkids. We have great local outdoor activities, cultural and educational events, superb dining and world-class health care. If you want to share in this abundance all it takes is money.

And speaking of money, we’ve got a reputation as an affluent community and the facts support that conclusion. And yet, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is becoming a canyon. In 2008, 37% of all households earned less than $50,000. Thirty-two percent of households brought in more than $100,000. Since 2003, little has changed in Boulder County’s household income distribution – except that our middle class (those making between $50,000 - $100,000) continues to decline while those making more than $100,000 continues to tick up.
Meanwhile, the cost of living continues to escalate. It raises the question: how deep can the canyon get before it irrevocably divides our community?

All this is occurring during a period of steady population growth, about 1% a year in the county. **Our population grew more between 2006 and 2007 than it had in any of the previous six years**, right along with the robust economy. In the last economic downturn (of 2001-2003), Boulder County’s growth rate slowed, and pricier cities (Boulder and Louisville) actually lost population. At the same time, Longmont saw significant increases in its residential numbers as development there continued.

**Colorado’s population is growing as well. Between 1970 and 2008, the state’s population grew 125%.** That’s an annual state rate of more than 2%. Colorado’s population growth has outpaced the U.S. rate for every year within that same time period. Early estimates reflect a substantial slowing of state net in-migration (more people moving into the state than out) between 2008 and 2009—most likely a reflection of the recession.

It’s a lot to take in. And yet it’s essential that we get a grip on who we are and how we are changing. Even more important, what should we be doing to celebrate and protect our considerable assets and fend off the troubling trends that threaten our sense of community?

**TYPES OF HOUSEHOLDS**
**BOULDER COUNTY 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Non-Family</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Family</td>
<td>50,640</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>67,794</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BOULDER COUNTY CITIES AT-A-GLANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boulder*</th>
<th>Longmont*</th>
<th>Lafayette**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>99,140</td>
<td>85,008</td>
<td>25,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks a language other than English at home</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Home Price***</td>
<td>$538K</td>
<td>$220K</td>
<td>$310K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived in the same house 1 year ago</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived in another county 1 year ago</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population over the age of 5 with a disability</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population over the age of 3 enrolled in school</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree or Higher</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Below Poverty:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* From the 2007 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
** From the 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates
***www.baraonline.com

**FEELING INSPIRED?**

Attend an event or festival that celebrates a culture different from your own.

Visit a church or place of worship “foreign” to you.

Host a block party, exchange contact information or set up a neighborhood blog.

Offer to babysit or eldersit for a friend or neighbor.

Donate to, or volunteer with, organizations that support residents hardest hit by the economic downturn (see www.cultureofgiving.org for a list of local nonprofits).

Sources
American Community Survey 2008 www.census.gov/acs
Colorado Department of Local Affairs www.dola.state.co.us
Our Education

Are we educated beyond our intelligence?
It’s a fair question considering the extremes that punctuate the educational landscape in this community and the state.

Ask nearly anyone what she considers the single most valuable contributor to a positive quality of life, and most will tell you a good education. And yet, we don’t seem to have the will to make education a priority.

If we’re so smart, how come Colorado is ranked 5th in the nation for the number of residents holding a bachelor’s degree and 48th in per capita spending on higher education?

If we’re so smart, how come in 2008 the ACT predicted only one in five Colorado high school students graduated with the skills they need to do college coursework?

If we’re so smart, how come the Boulder Valley and St. Vrain Valley school districts boast graduation rates of 91% and 81%, respectively, and yet if you’re a Latino boy, your chances of graduating are somewhere between 49% and 68%?

Why should we care? What’s the big deal about a high school diploma anyway?
People with less than a high school education earn only 47% of what a college graduate earns in Boulder County, and only 36% of what someone with a graduate degree makes.

And dropouts are losing ground. Three years ago, if you didn’t have a high school diploma you were estimated to earn 52% of what a college grad made. That’s still a dramatic discrepancy but it’s better than today’s 47%.

That’s real money. And dropouts don’t just take a hit in the pocketbook. Simply put, life just isn’t as rosy for those without a high school diploma. A 2008 Robert Wood Johnson study shows high school dropouts in Colorado are significantly less likely to enjoy “very good health.” The study points to correlations between education, employment in a job that provides health benefits, and earning enough to buy healthy food and live in a safe neighborhood.

The data is compelling. We clearly have the brain power to figure this out. So why can’t we get it right when it comes to investing in our state’s education system?

There is a lot at stake and the solutions are complex and expensive. For one thing, we don’t just have a single school district — Boulder County is home to the Boulder Valley School District and the St. Vrain Valley School District. Together they serve more than 53,000 students in four counties and employ more than 3,100 teachers.

The student population is changing and booming in eastern Boulder County, with an infusion of low-income and Latino families. Yet, the resources aren’t there to meet the increased demand. Teacher pay in the St. Vrain Valley School District remains relatively low, and class sizes are larger than in the Boulder Valley.
Achievement Isn’t Just a Big Word

It would be a major coup if this community could figure a way to make a meaningful dent in the discrepancy between achievement scores of all students. We’re making progress on some fronts.

Early indicators of academic achievement include third grade reading scores. Happily, both school districts in Boulder County show strong results that have improved over time. It’s worth celebrating that while the overall statewide rate of scoring “proficient or advanced” was 71%, in the St. Vrain District, 77% of third graders achieved this success and 84% were successful in Boulder Valley.

Tenth graders in both county school districts also regularly outperform the state in reading scores. St. Vrain students have moved from a “proficient and advanced” rate of 50% in 2002 to 72% in 2008. Boulder Valley’s 2008 rate was also 72%.

While our students may be holding their own and even excelling on the reading scores, our local math scores don’t compute. Fewer than half the tenth graders in both school districts scored proficient or advanced in 2008.

Boulder Valley students consistently score above national and state averages on the ACT test, while St. Vrain’s ACT scores remain just below national and state composites, but have generally trended upward since 2001.

All these good news/bad news statistics leave us a little breathless and wondering whether we can truly celebrate our academic achievements if we’re leaving a quarter of our kids behind.

This is a community issue. If we continue to let things deteriorate, sacrificing the potential of the next generation, the consequences will be costly. But, if we, as a community, can find inspiration in the value of education we’ll do what it takes to eliminate the achievement gap.

This is a job that is not limited to classrooms and playgrounds. Most of the progress that must be made to bring all students to grade level will occur outside of the classroom. As a community, we must pledge to help families better support their kids and prepare them for learning. This is work that needs to be done before toddlers reach kindergarten, in their after school activities and during the summer.

A sustainable, transformational initiative will help families stay healthy during the school year and educate parents on how to effectively advocate for their child in the school system.

### Comparison of St. Vrain Valley and Boulder Valley School Districts for 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage Increase 2000–2007</th>
<th>Full Time Teachers</th>
<th>Average Salary</th>
<th>Pupil / Teacher Ratio</th>
<th>Open Enrollment</th>
<th>Free and Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>English Language Learners</th>
<th>% Minority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Vrain Valley</td>
<td>24,582</td>
<td>25.29%</td>
<td>1,356.4</td>
<td>$45,483</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5,733</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder Valley</td>
<td>28,696</td>
<td>4.32%</td>
<td>1,745.9</td>
<td>$53,223</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3,998</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2008, early care/education programs in Boulder County received an estimated $8,164,736 from federal, state, and local governments. 55% came from the federal government, 26% from the state, and 19% from county and city governments.

What Does the Achievement Gap Look Like?

Boulder County’s academic achievement gap is mostly a question of economics.

In both school districts, the gap in reading scores between Free and Reduced Lunch students and their non-qualifying third-grade classmates is already between 28 and 38 percentage points apart. By the time students reach the tenth grade there is a 40% spread in math scores.

“Economically disadvantaged” students graduate from St. Vrain and Boulder Valley school districts at a rate of 64% and 66%, respectively – compared to overall graduation rates of 81% and 91%.

Adding another layer of complexity to this issue is the fact that economic disparities tend to fall along ethnic lines. Forty-one percent of Latino children in Boulder County were estimated to live in poverty in 2007 – a dramatically higher rate than non-Hispanic white children (5.2%). This is a growing segment of the population as Latino children now represent 21% of all kids younger than 18 (more than 13,000 children).

The gap begins to widen almost as soon as kids are born, certainly before they reach kindergarten.

Some studies say 90% of brain development takes place before the age of five, so ensuring stimulating environments...
for infants and toddlers is essential to paving the way toward academic success. The high cost of licensed providers leads many low-income families to seek alternative care-givers through family, friends, or neighbors. Latino families, in particular, are drawn to this option locally, because of a strong cultural emphasis on having relationships with the people watching their children. In addition, though a growing number of licensed providers are working to hire bi-lingual staff, the family care more often offers language and culture familiarity with Latino families.

While the primary emphasis of all care providers, licensed or not, is a child’s safety, recent efforts have been made to train informal providers with child development tools and materials. By offering low-income families the same advantages given to families who can afford expensive center care, we can do more to close the achievement gap before a child even begins school.

![ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (% of total students)](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>St. Vrain Valley School District</th>
<th>Boulder Valley School District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![AVERAGE FULL-TIME WEEKLY COST OF LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTERS (2008)](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>0–12 months</th>
<th>13 months – 2 years</th>
<th>2 – 5 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
<td>$295</td>
<td>$283</td>
<td>$242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette / Erie</td>
<td>$230</td>
<td>$233</td>
<td>$201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longmont</td>
<td>$277</td>
<td>$204</td>
<td>$181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville / Superior</td>
<td>$299</td>
<td>$258</td>
<td>$215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adult Education

Colorado spent $200,000 statewide on adult education in 2008, and it was an unexceptional year for that budget line-item. That is less than 6 cents per Colorado resident over the age of 25. There are more than 363,000 adults in Colorado without a high school education, 13,900 of them in Boulder County. Few affordable opportunities exist for adults to further their education outside of the community college network.

Sources:
Greenberg, Stephanie. “Status of Children in Boulder County 2008”
Help The Community Foundation Bridge the Achievement Gap Through School Readiness

Boulder County is home to some of Colorado’s brightest students. Yet, the achievement gap in the Boulder Valley School District between Latino and non-Hispanic white students is among the state’s widest. A similar disparity persists in the St. Vrain Valley School District, as well as county-wide, between low-income and middle- and upper-income students.

The gap separates before children enter kindergarten, and it only widens as they go through school. Many factors contribute to this, including class size and curriculum rigor; a child’s health; and whether a parent participates in their child’s early education by reading to them and turning off the television. But the dramatically shifting demographics of our county are also making a huge impact:

• Boulder County’s Latino population has doubled since 1990
• A greater percentage of Latino children live in poverty than non-Latinos
• The poverty rate for children in Boulder County is increasing about twice as fast as the general population

The Community Foundation has tracked these demographic trends for more than a decade. Year after year, the achievement gap persists as one of the most stubborn issues in our community.

That’s why we have decided to challenge the community to convene around this important issue. Specifically, we are asking for donations to our unrestricted grant-making fund, The Community Trust. If the community rises to this four-year, $4 million challenge, we will not only immediately and permanently double our annual grant-making to local nonprofits. We have also embarked on the most informed, passionate and funded undertaking the Community Foundation has ever launched.

Its working title is the Early Childhood Initiative. Its goal is to help make every child in Boulder County ready to learn by the time they enter school.

We chose to focus on improving the state of early childhood education in Boulder County as a way of closing the achievement gap after close consultation with local and national thought leaders. Time and again, those experts told us that investing in early care and education pays huge dividends to society down the road. Various studies have determined that every $1 invested in quality early childhood programs can save taxpayers $4 to $17 down the road. These savings come from:

• Reduced need for special education and grade repetition
• Less crime and lower incarceration rates
• Fewer people on public assistance
• Increased employment, wages and taxes paid
• Fewer teen pregnancies and less smoking

The grassroots funding the community can bring to the table is just the beginning. Through collaboration, advocacy, research and outreach, we believe we can leverage our influence. We seek to help connect and amplify the expertise and wisdom already present in this community to make Boulder County the best place to raise a child.

The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (www.bouldercountyec.org) is developing a comprehensive early childhood education framework that addresses the whole child, gets parents the resources they need, gets kids health screenings and puts kids into quality childcare on a sliding fee scale that truly prepares them for lifelong learning.

Finance experts are exploring costs and ways to fund this exciting endeavor. Early estimates are sobering. A group hired to give a ballpark figure said the program would cost $21 million. That’s quadruple the $5.2 million in public funding currently spent on childcare and early learning in Boulder County.

Current public spending on school readiness amounts to $276 per Boulder County child under age 6. Compare that to the $6,500 per pupil annually spent in BVSD, and you can see there is no comprehensive childcare and early education system in Boulder County. It’s the kind of system experts say is needed to turn Boulder County’s achievement gap around.

At The Community Foundation, we seek to raise awareness for this important community need.
Please join us, because research tells us that all children thrive when the whole class shows up ready to learn; because the community indicators we track show us that the achievement gap in Boulder County between successful and failing students continues to grow; because the most preventative way to close that gap is to keep it from opening to begin with.

The information, passion and funding we need exists in this community already. We are excited to take this journey with you.

Successful Partnership: The Community Foundation and Providers Advancing School Outcomes

The Community Foundation took a bold step in the summer of 2009 by granting $90,000 to an organization on the brink of closure. Our financial leadership and technical grant writing assistance helped Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO) win a state grant for $629,000.

The bet paid off. Now, instead of closing, the innovative program has funding through 2011 to expand in Boulder County and also replicate itself in one additional Colorado county. And it has plans to expand across Colorado over the next decade.

It’s an example of how The Community Foundation’s leadership has the power to transform lives.

PASO teaches uncertified, mostly Latino childcare providers how to enhance language and literacy development for the economically disadvantaged children under their care.

The program was a great match for The Community Foundation, whose Trustees decided in 2009 to try to close Boulder County’s achievement gap by improving school readiness.

This was the largest grant ever distributed from the Community Trust, our unrestricted grant making fund. Its funding was made possible by more than 800 early donors who had faith enough in our judgment to give to our 4-year, $4 million campaign to increase our impact on Boulder County nonprofits.

“The educational achievement gap in Colorado between Latino students and White students has been, and continues to be seriously out of line,” said PASO Co-Directors, Denys Vigil and Dr. Tikki Heublein. “The Community Foundation of Boulder County not only has demonstrated the courage to face this issue head on, but moreover, has clearly understood the positive impact that early childhood educational interventions have on young Latino children from birth to 5 years of age.

“ It is this combined organizational commitment and wisdom that has greatly resuscitated the viability of the PASO vision to open new and expanded doors. The Community Foundation of Boulder County is, indeed, a catalyst.”

The Community Foundation was thrilled to help bring such a nationally innovative program from the brink of closure to a strong position.

“Early education is the best thing that can happen,” said Alberto Pantoja, whose little girl’s day care provider is PASO trained. “It’s the soul of a child’s education.”

The lives of Alberto and his wife, Sonia De la Tore, were changed by the PASO program’s influence on their child’s daycare provider. They were lucky. Most parents in similar situations to them are falling through the cracks. When that happens, their kids fall through the cracks also, and the achievement gap widens.

The PASO success story was a key first win for The Community Foundation’s Early Childhood Initiative. But we’re not stopping at PASO. We want to close the achievement gap in Boulder County, between our all-star students and the growing number of kids who fall behind.

At this writing, we had settled on some specific goals:

Long-term, we seek a sustainable source of funding for early childhood education in Boulder County, so that all kids will show up to Kindergarten and first grade ready to learn.

Short-term, we plan to raise awareness for this issue among families with young children specifically, and the broader community - especially the business community - in general.

Stay tuned for updates on our quest to help close the achievement gap through school readiness. And please contact Chris Barge at 303-442-0436 or chris@commfound.org if you’d like to get involved.
Our Health & Human Services

What are we going to do about health care?

INDICATORS
IN THIS CHAPTER
Adult alcohol use
Adult physical activity
Behavioral risk factors
Child abuse
Children’s health
Crime statistics
Domestic violence
Health status
Health care access
Health coverage
Insurance rates
Mental health
Prenatal care
Teen birth rates
Youth risks and behaviors

The question has dominated the national debate for years and has been a key issue in the last five presidential elections. And yet, for all our talk and all those think tanks, a suitable solution eludes us. The quality of a person’s health is determined for the most part by factors other than a doctor -- your everyday behavior, your environment, your mental wellness, and according to much research, whether or not you have insurance. Boulder County scores highly on many of these factors, thanks to a community wide commitment and some extraordinary resources.
The number of uninsured individuals nationally reached 45.7 million in 2008. This is a decrease from just two years earlier. Much of that decrease is attributed to a corresponding increase in the number of people enrolling in public benefits (such as Medicaid and Medicare).

Because the majority of health care policies are tied to employment, the loss of jobs nationwide is likely to take a large chunk of health care coverage with it – while simultaneously decreasing state revenues to cover the increased demand for Medicaid.

Keep in mind that health care coverage is not the same as health care access. It is of growing concern that many Americans are enrolled in a health care plan but cannot access a number of preventative, specialized, dental, behavioral, and pharmaceutical treatments. It’s called “underinsurance,” and its eating at the very underbelly of our health care system. Still, some coverage is better than no coverage, particularly when it comes to managing chronic diseases. Five chronic diseases account for 75% of all health spending in the United States annually – more than $16.5 billion in Colorado alone. These include: heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and depression. In addition to the serious health consequences, there are severe financial threats to going without coverage.

The average family health plan costs $12,680 annually, with employers picking up 74% of the tab. In Colorado, health insurance premiums have risen 35% in the last four years. And while 99% of Colorado employers with 50 or more employees offered health coverage in 2007, just 41% of those with fewer than 50 employees offered health benefits.

Medicaid and Medicare account for 13% and 12% of all Colorado coverage, respectively, but qualifying for these programs is extremely difficult as a non-pregnant or non-disabled adult. Colorado in 2008 expanded eligibility for Colorado’s Children’s Health Plan Plus (CHIP+) to children in households earning 225% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL), up from 205% previously.

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that for every 1% increase in unemployment there are a corresponding 1 million new applicants for Medicaid coverage and another 1.1 million people who go uninsured. At the same time, state revenues drop an estimated 3 to 4%.
Who’s at risk

Roughly 750,000 people lack health insurance in Colorado. That’s 17% of the state’s population, and 159,000 of them are children. The majority of the uninsured, nationally and in Colorado, come from households earning less than 200% of poverty. (See chapter on the Economy for 2009 poverty measures.) Minority groups comprise more than half of the uninsured nationwide. In a recent 50-state comparative study, Colorado had the fourth-highest percentage of low-income working families with at least one uninsured parent.*

Between 15% and 20% of adults are uninsured in Boulder County. Those numbers show a significant disparity between non-Hispanic white residents and Latinos, when it comes to coverage. Only 45% of all Boulder County residents report access to dental insurance.

Boulder County is home to more than 69,000 children aged 0-18, and 91% of them are estimated to have some type of health coverage. Approximately 13,300 of them are currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHP (11,100 and 2,200, respectively). However, another 3,200 children are estimated to be eligible for one of these programs but are not currently enrolled. To address this gap in service provision, Boulder County has begun a CHP/Medicaid Outreach and Enrollment Program. Only 59% of Boulder County kids have an identified regular primary care provider. This is slightly lower than the state rate of 62%.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a wealth of health care resources among our local safety net including: Clinica Campesina (including People’s Clinic), Salud Clinic, Women’s Health, Dental Aid, and our Public Health Department.

* Low-income working family is defined as a family earning less than 200% of the poverty income threshold.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLORADO MEDICAID AND CHILDREN’S HEALTH PLAN (CHP+) COVERAGE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSI disabled (non-elderly)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGE 0–18 ELIGIBLE BUT NOT ENROLLED IN MEDICAID AND CHP+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medicaid</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHP+</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILD HEALTH SURVEY, HEALTH STATISTICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Top proper nutrition is essential to child development and may impact behavioral health. While food insecurity implies a lack of access to food, often low-cost food lacks the nutritional content children need or it may be higher in sugars and fat. Nearly 20% of Boulder County kids ages 1-14 are overweight or obese. More than one quarter of parents (26%) report behavioral or mental health problems in children ages 1-14.

The Mental Health Center of Boulder and Broomfield Counties has done a tremendous job in collaborating to offer services with our local community clinics, but additional funding is needed to expand behavioral health screenings and training among early childhood providers. Studies show that the earlier parents and providers can identify the need for behavioral intervention, the more effective treatments can be and the more resources can be saved.

Keeping Our Community Safe

Reported domestic violence cases increased 10% from 2006 to 2007. Longmont accounted for 37% of them. The defendant had used drugs or alcohol at the time of nearly 40% of the incidents. Children were present at 504 formally reported domestic violence incidences in 2007, and were witnesses to one-fifth (239) of all cases. As startling as that seems, it’s actually an improvement from the 597 kids present at domestic violence incidents in 2003.

The defendant was charged with child abuse in addition to other charges in 71% of the 2007 cases. More than a third of domestic violence perpetrators had previously been arrested for domestic violence charges at least once before in Boulder County, a statistic that has risen over the last three years.

Total reported crime rates in Boulder County increased nearly 10% between 2007 and 2008 – with jumps up in larceny/theft, robbery, and arson. These may be a reflection of recessional pressures. Total assaults, however, were down. In contrast, Colorado experienced an overall decrease in crimes between 2007 and 2008, with a significant drop in auto thefts. Worth heightened concern was a statewide, as well as local, increase in the number of reported rapes and attempted rapes, up 4% between 2007 and 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORTED HATE CRIMES 2007</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These reflect only the official crimes reported that are motivated by biases based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, and disability.
Teen Health

Several trends have emerged from the Boulder County Youth Risk Behavior Survey since its inception in 2001. Administered biennially in a partnership between Boulder County, St. Vrain Valley School District, and Boulder Valley School District, the survey monitors high-priority health behaviors, asthma, and obesity among high school students. While it has become clear that there are behaviors, values, and attitudes already in play among our community’s youth that should continue to be reinforced, there are also behaviors that should be prevented and those that require immediate intervention. The survey also seeks to identify health disparities between subpopulations of youth such as students of color and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning students (GLBQ).

The promising trends include declines in the disparities between heterosexual and GLBQ students among 30-day alcohol use, binge drinking, and early initiation of risk behaviors. Research has shown that early initiation of risk behaviors, such as drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes or marijuana before age 13, increases a youth’s risk of addiction and participation in other risk behaviors. Overall harassment between students is declining, but harassment based on race/ethnicity is showing an upward trend (7.3% in 2003, 9.8% in 2007).

Questions added to the survey in 2005 gauged parental influence on participation in risk behaviors. Parental influence can help reduce or prevent many risk behaviors, data from 2007 continue to show. If a teen believes that her parent feels it’s wrong, she is half as likely to have ever drunk alcohol, 20% less likely to ever drink or smoke cigarettes before age 13, 12 times more likely to believe cigarettes are harmful, and 25 times more likely to believe marijuana is harmful.

Boulder County high school students identified illegal/prescription drug use, stress, alcohol use, and depression as the most important health issues facing today’s teens when asked at a Youth Summit in 2008. Students talked about the difficulties in balancing the competing demands and pressures in their lives and how they may choose to use drugs or alcohol to alleviate stress and depression. They pointed to the perception that alcohol and drugs are easily available and accessible. Just over 30% of high school students were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the year preceding the survey, according to the 2007 survey.

A middle school summit was added to the survey strategy in 2007. Many students indicated they felt judged, labeled, and caught up in drama in school and out. Text messaging and other social media have created new opportunities for students to fuel that drama. Rumors, bullying, conflicts with friends, homework, and other areas were cited as sources of real feelings of stress and depression. The seventh and eighth graders participating in the youth summit identified stress and depression, alcohol and drugs, peer pressures and other pressures among their top concerns. The middle schoolers also reported that for the most part they were happy, healthy, and safe.

Despite the concerns about stress, substance use, and other troubles, 81% of high school students participating in the high school youth summit indicated they felt prepared to make healthy decisions for their lives. When asked where they get information about health topics, parents received the most votes followed by doctor/health clinic, other adult, or health class at school.

The middle and high school students who participated in the youth summits said they were doing ok overall. They recognize that with their growing independence comes increased responsibility. They see that issues impacting their health are interrelated and connected. They want information that is relevant to their experiences and real, open conversations; not lectures or scare tactics. While they are experiencing some uncertainty about the future, they are excited about it.

Seventh and eighth graders participating in Boulder County’s Youth Summit identified stress and depression, alcohol and drugs, peer pressures and other pressures among their top concerns. Boulder County high school students identified illegal/prescription drug use, stress, alcohol use, and depression as the most important health issues facing today’s teens.
Adult Health

Boulder County adults are a healthy bunch on the whole. We meet, if not exceed, many of the objectives established on a national level by Healthy People 2010. We’re extremely successful in addressing women’s health screenings (pap smears and mammograms), and show higher rates of physical activity than most places around the country. However, we still struggle with identifying regular sources of primary care provision and our rates of binge drinking are higher than recognized goals.

Cardiovascular disease continues to be the No. 1 killer of Boulder County residents, accounting for nearly one third of total deaths. Cancer is responsible for another 22% of deaths. Both age-adjusted rates are lower than the state rate, however, and lower still than the national rate.

Suicide in Boulder County has been on the rise since 2003. The number of deaths due to suicide in 2006 was more than double the number of motor vehicle accidents (48 compared to 23). Where the state of Colorado saw a decrease in its age-adjusted suicide rate in 2006 (from 16.9 to 14.9 between 2005 and 2006), Boulder County experienced an increase (from 15.8 to 16.3). In the same time period our community saw a dramatic decrease in the number of motor vehicle deaths, from 32 to 23, reflecting a larger downward statewide trend.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Boulder County</th>
<th>Healthy People 2010 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance – Adults</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of Ongoing Primary Care – Adults</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pap Smear – Within Past Three Years</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammogram – With Past Two Years – 40+ Years</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes – Diagnosed</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza Immunization – Within Past Year – 65+ Years</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight – Adults with a BMI 25–29</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese – Adults with a BMI 30+</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Permanent Teeth Pulled Due to Cavities (35–44 Years)</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Physical Activity</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Binge Drinking, During Past Month</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Cigarette Smoking</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Boulder County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2008

92.3% All Adults
94.9% Non-Hispanic White Adults
72.8% Latino Adults

Boulder County Adults Who Classify Their Health as ‘Good’ or Better
**Network of Care**

Network of Care is Boulder County’s new comprehensive, interactive website designed to help both the public and service providers access and navigate a breadth of information and countywide human services. The Network of Care site, www.bouldercountyhelp.org, serves as a single access point to a wide variety of information—from seniors and people with Disabilities to Behavioral Health and Wellness. The site also provides an easy, one-click approach to follow current legislature and contact elected officials, and serves as a countywide Resource Book as well.

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**Dental Aid**, Boulder County’s low-income and uninsured oral health safety net saw over 7,600 unduplicated patients in 2007. 82% of their adult patients were uninsured.

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Sources:
- Dental Aid, www.dentalaid.org
- Child Health Survey, Health Statistics Section, CDPHE, 2005-2007

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**FEELING INSPIRED?**

**Support** early behavioral health screenings for kids aged 0–5.

**Advocate** for increased funding to mental health.

**Sign up** to be a mentor to a Boulder County youth.

**Talk to your kids** about what’s on their minds.

**Help support our community clinics** treating the uninsured.

**Practice preventative care** and get health screenings.

**Fight obesity by playing** in Boulder County’s great outdoors.
Our Economy & Housing

The entrepreneurial spirit runs deep in Boulder County.

Our history is one of economic growth and prosperity.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Education attainment
Employment by industry
Family income
Foreclosures
Homelessness
Housing affordability
Household income
Job growth
Labor migration
Per capita income
Poverty level
Self-sufficiency wage
Unemployment rate

Even when the economic sky is falling, Boulder County houses pockets of development in industries that will likely help speed local recovery. But lately, we’re starting to get the economic jitters; for the first time since 2004, “economic concerns” topped the County Commissioners survey of registered voters in June 2008, as the “single most important issue facing Boulder County today.” It was the first time, in as many years, that concern about the economy outweighed “growth management.” Though still early in the economic downturn, the responses reflected an increasing pinch on community members.
Impact of the Recession

It was a tough year to write about the economy. As TRENDS went to press, it was difficult to predict what would happen next week, let alone next year. The consistent prophecy from economists locally and nationally was that there were bumps ahead of us, but also some cause for optimism about the future. Depending on the source, forecasts called for improved economic weather by mid-2010, or early 2011.

What should we do? In this community where we value our quality of life and are working to build a culture of giving, we need to face the future calmly, courageously and with a commitment to help those struggling when times are tough.

Colorado joined the national recession about six months behind the rest of the country, and the general prediction was that the state would also emerge earlier than most.

At this writing (September 2009), economists predicted that Colorado would be among the top 20, if not the top 10, states for job growth in 2010.

Even in the threat of the recession newcomers were moving into Colorado, although our high migration numbers significantly slowed in 2008. There is hope that new residents will help absorb some of the excess housing stock currently weighing down the housing market.

Aiding Colorado job growth is a highly educated workforce. Colorado ranks fifth nationally in the number of college graduates among residents 25 years and older. (This rosy image soon dissipates if you compare this to our state’s high school graduation rate – flip over to the Education Chapter and read about Colorado’s education paradox if you want to balance out your optimism.)

New state laws support job growth by allowing businesses to apply for tax credits when they create at least 20 new jobs in urban areas (five in rural areas) and pay more than the local average wage.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will create nearly 150 funding streams for Colorado, amounting to an influx of approximately $7 billion. (Colorado or local entities within the state can apply for additional funding through competitive grants processes.) Tax relief accounts for $4 billion of that, with the rest filling in state and local budget gaps, supporting safety net services, creating jobs, and investing in technology.
Boulder County has weathered the recession a bit better than Colorado – and significantly better than other places around the country. Boulder County enjoyed strong job growth through the third quarter of 2008, while boasting unemployment levels below 4%. However, by the first quarter of 2009 unemployment numbers had risen to 5.8%. Typically unemployment is slow to reflect both positive and negative movement in the economy, so it is likely recovery in this indicator will lag other predicted gains.

This is not to say Boulder County is not facing the same economic challenges burdening everyone else. Construction, information technology, and manufacturing took the biggest hits in the Boulder County job market during 2008. Retail sales took significant dips in the first through third quarters of 2008, rebounding 27% in the fourth quarter, but still resting below sales from the year before – and well below county budget predictions. This dip in local retail tax revenue has seriously affected local governments.

At the time of this writing, the city of Boulder was calling for a 4 – 6% revenue reduction from previous projections, representing a $5.4 million shortfall. The city of Longmont saw a 1% reduction in sales and use tax collection from 2007 to 2008, after projecting a 2.5% increase. Both cities have been hit particularly hard by significant slowdowns in building permit applications. Residential permits in Boulder went from 579 in 2007 to 394 in 2008. Within Longmont, totals dropped from 213 in 2007 to 64 in 2008.

Poverty affects all aspects of our community and imposes enormous costs to our society from the lost potential of children raised in poor households to the growing gap between economic classes. The Boulder County Human Services Strategic Plan identifies meeting basic needs and promoting the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of Boulder County residents as critical goals.

The vision for the Boulder County Bridges Initiative is to transform diverse cultures of the individual, organization, and community through advocacy, systems change, and support of people living in poverty. The Bridges Out of Poverty model examines the sources and impact of generational and situational poverty on families and communities, reveals the hidden rules and norms of social class, and supports addressing and solving poverty at the community level. It begins with a mental model of prosperity and addresses poverty across a continuum that moves from the individual to infrastructure and policy.

Colorado’s unemployment in early 2009 was 7.2% - nationally, unemployment was 7.6%. Since then, President Obama has said he expects unemployment to reach 10% at a national level.)

Sectors predicted to modestly gain jobs in 2009 include information, health care, education, and government.
On the Bright Side...

Colorado was predicted to be among the early leaders in economic recovery in 2010, and Boulder County is nicely situated to be out in front. With a continued emphasis statewide on research and intellectual property, bioscience and entrepreneurial activity, our local economy is armed with all the right tools. Home to the University of Colorado and multiple federal labs, Boulder is poised for increased investments in research. The city of Boulder is home to the highest concentration of software engineers per capita in the country, giving credence to BusinessWeek magazine’s crowning of Boulder as the Best Small City to start a business in Colorado. Forbes echoed that praise by naming Boulder their “top town to live well” in 2009.

But don’t forget: Colorado ranks 46th out of 50 in the percent of low-income working families with at least one parent without a high school diploma or GED (35%).* Colorado as a state contributes a mere $200,000 annually to adult education.

Money, Money, Money

Boulder County’s per capita personal income in 2007 was $51,388—33% higher than the national level.

That puts us at No. 12 on the metropolitan statistical area ranking list, just ahead of Napa, Seattle, and Santa Cruz. Our median household income for that same year was $67,257; median family income in Boulder County was $85,000. Within the city of Boulder, median family income was even higher, at $91,000; within the city of Longmont, median family income was $70,700.

Before you celebrate our good fortunes, we should pause to consider the more than 32,000 neighbors in our community (11% of the County) living below the federal poverty level—5,700 of them children under the age of 18. Colorado’s poverty rate is 11.4%.

In 2000, Boulder County’s rate of poverty was 10%. (The Colorado Children’s Campaign reported that the percentage of children living in poverty increased 76% between 2000 and 2006, more than any other state.) Federal poverty in 2009 was deemed to be $22,050 for a family of four and $10,830 for an individual. Long criticized as an unrealistic tool for gauging the actual cost of living, the federal poverty guidelines are still used to determine eligibility for most government funded programs. For instance, qualifying for Medicaid in Colorado requires an income at 60% of federal poverty for an adult with dependent children.

**Self-Sufficiency Wage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Costs</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Adult+ Preschooler</th>
<th>Adult+ Infant+ Preschooler</th>
<th>Adult+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
<th>Adult+ Schoolage+ Teenager</th>
<th>Adult+ Infant+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
<th>2 Adults+ Infant+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
<th>2 Adults+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hourly</td>
<td>$10.72</td>
<td>$21.16</td>
<td>$28.17</td>
<td>$25.51</td>
<td>$19.06</td>
<td>$37.90</td>
<td>$15.75/adult</td>
<td>$14.41/adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>$1,887</td>
<td>$3,725</td>
<td>$4,957</td>
<td>$4,489</td>
<td>$3,355</td>
<td>$6,670</td>
<td>$5,544</td>
<td>$5,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>$22,644</td>
<td>$44,696</td>
<td>$59,489</td>
<td>$53,871</td>
<td>$40,265</td>
<td>$80,044</td>
<td>$66,528</td>
<td>$60,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For greater detail, flip to By The Numbers, page 62.
Home Sweet Home

So what does it take to keep a roof over your head if you live here? Despite bursting housing bubbles making headlines nationwide in the past year, Boulder County has mostly held its own. Between April of 2008 and the same month in 2009, Superior actually increased its median sales price, and even hard-hit Longmont’s median home price was only down 7.6% (in other parts of the country, house prices were down as much as 33% from the peak in 2006). Housing sales slowed significantly, causing stress on realtors and owners looking to unload property, but prices have not dropped as dramatically as most of the rest of Colorado or the U.S.

Longmont continues to be the most affordable city within the County, with Boulder topping out housing prices. The first quarter of 2009 showed a slight increase in Boulder County’s foreclosures over the previous year’s numbers but does not reflect the dramatic increase in foreclosures the community has witnessed in the last several years. Between 2007 and 2008 foreclosures locally increased, but then slowed between 2008 and 2009. Some of that slowdown may be attributed to policy changes in Colorado aimed at keeping struggling owners in their homes.

Countywide, the percent of residents putting more than 30% of their monthly income into housing has generally continued in an upward trend over the past six years. More than half of Boulder County renters spent above the 30% recommended threshold each month on rent alone.

High housing prices are certainly at the root of the city of Boulder’s 60,000 daily in-commuters. The city continues to host the most jobs countywide (89,461), but more than two thirds of those are filled by out-of-city workers mostly living elsewhere within Boulder County. So while it may make sense for a family to select a more affordable community in which to live, chances are that money will go right back out the door in added transportation costs. This is a trend only likely to increase with rising fuel prices.

The last homeless count in Boulder County took place in 2007, as part of a statewide point-in-time survey. At that time, volunteers counted more than 1,200 homeless individuals – 82% of whom had been living in this community before they lost their housing.

The homeless count was slated to be updated in 2009, with results likely to reflect the deep economic distress of Boulder County’s most vulnerable.

National and metro-area studies show that among families earning less than $50,000, income saved on housing is shifted directly into transportation costs.
Boulder County Human Services Strategic Plan

“Shovel-Ready” Projects Leverage Existing and New Funding

Thanks to the community planning efforts that resulted in a countywide human services strategic plan, several new projects are underway, utilizing existing Temporary Assistance for Need Families (TANF) reserve funds and new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars:

- An online services resource directory for use by agencies and clients (www.bouldercountyhelp.org);
- A Medicaid/SCHIP outreach and enrollment project that trained community-based organizations to enroll children and families (www.bchk.org);
- A partnership between Boulder County Workforce and Housing and Human Services to train low-income workers in weatherization and renewable energy retrofits (Boulder County Green Jobs Pipeline Project);
- A community engagement model utilizing the Bridges Out of Poverty Framework and Getting Ahead curriculum, training over 2000 community members, service providers; 40 train-the-trainers; and five Getting Ahead pilots completed at four community-based organizations with an additional 12 programs funded in 2009-2010;
- A partnership between community-based organizations and Boulder County Housing and Human Services to provide emergency housing assistance and financial/budget training to low income families, preventing eviction and foreclosure for 500+ households (this project recently received ARRA stimulus funding through HPRP);
- The formation of a Technical Assistance Collaborative (a collaboration of Boulder County, cities of Longmont and Boulder, Foothills United Way and The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County) providing training and capacity building for nonprofits.

All projects were suggested strategies and/or action steps of the Boulder County Human Services Strategic Plan.

Average Monthly Applications in Boulder County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Food Stamps</th>
<th>TANF</th>
<th>Medicaid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Turning Green Tech Into Green Backs

The Obama Administration has made “green job” creation a priority, and Colorado, in particular Boulder County, stood to make significant economic gains. A study released in early 2009 estimated that by 2030 Colorado would gain, at a minimum, 192,000 new jobs in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors leading to $20 billion in annual revenue for the state. With favorable policy changes, the same report estimated creation of 613,000 potential jobs and $61.5 billion in annual revenue for Colorado between the two sectors.

Already in 2007 Colorado was home to nearly 100,000 green jobs responsible for more than 4% of the state’s GDP. Boulder County is home to numerous green firms, as well as a newly adopted “Green Jobs Training Program,” supporting the prediction that our community will be a model of economic recovery for the state and the rest of the country.

FEELING INSPIRED?

Donate money and food to your local food bank to support Boulder County’s low-income families.

Carpool, bus or ride your bike to work in order to cut down on the traffic snarls created by in-commuters who can’t afford to live here.

If you’re an employer, consider hiring a Green Jobs Pipeline or Getting Ahead graduate.

Consider working from home one day a week.

Sources:
Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Analysis.
Boulder County Housing Authority
Our Environment

Setting a green pace
How often do you think about your carbon footprint?

INDICATORS
IN THIS CHAPTER

Auto registrations
Greenhouse gas contributors
Greenhouse gas levels
Recycling and waste reduction
Renewable energy jobs
Transportation Use
Vehicle Miles Traveled
Water usage

More often than most if you live in Boulder County. Still, when it comes to improving environmental quality and lessening our impact on the earth, the future is now. Scientists right here in Boulder County’s back yard are calling for drastic changes to the way we approach energy use, transportation, and waste production. We can’t expect to save the planet from global catastrophe all on our own, but Boulder County has adopted the attitude that we can at least set example for what is possible on the community level.
At the close of 2007 the Boulder County Consortium of Cities published a Sustainable Energy Plan that offers a ‘framework for local and regional action on energy sustainability.’ The goals of the plan are two-fold: reduce the County’s impact on global climate change and create cost-savings through energy efficiency. Even implementing these aggressive strategies will only bring the County close to halfway in achieving the Kyoto protocols by 2012. However the projected long-term gains in carbon emissions reduction will double goals outlined by Governor Ritter. The strategies identified cover the spectrum of Residential, Commercial/Industrial, Local Government, Power Supply, Transportation, and Revenue Streams.

The Kyoto Protocol goals adopted by Boulder County and the city of Boulder set an aggressive definition of success.

**Boulder County still has to shave 22% from its carbon footprint from 2007 levels by 2012.**

Boulder County’s green house gas (GHG) emissions have steadily risen each year, with the exception of 2008. (In 2008, GHG fell 2.8% nationwide due in large part to the economic downturn.) Some of the annual increase is due to population increases, but consumption levels have outpaced growth annually. Electricity use, because of its environmentally filthy coal source, is the top contributor to GHG in residential settings. Most homes could curb consumption through efficiency strategies, which is why the County and several local municipalities sponsor home energy audits. Since launching the program in 2008, however, the biggest hurdle has been getting participating homes to follow up on implementing recommendations. The biggest deterrent to making these efficiency installations was the lack of financial incentive - most break-evens on saved energy bills are not realized for years past owner occupancy. Just doing the right thing for the future and the planet apparently isn’t incentive enough.

Eco-Cycle gave more than 1,400 presentations in 2008 on recycling, air quality, pollution, and other related topics to nearly 40,000 students in Boulder and Broomfield counties. And our kids seem to be getting it: 21 Boulder and St. Vrain Valley schools participated in the Green Star Schools program in 2008 – up from 5 in 2005. That’s a quarter of all schools in the County. Together they saved 600 tons of compostable materials from going to landfills, which together with their recycling, resulting in a trash reduction of two-thirds!

**Lofty Goals**

The city of Boulder became one of the first in the country to vote to tax itself on electricity use in the fall of 2006. Boulder’s City Council then voted to increase the tax within a range approved in summer of 2009, raising average annual energy bills by $10 to residential customers and $51 to commercial customers.
Making a Commitment

To combat this challenge, voters in Boulder County passed the ClimateSmart Loan program. The program allowed the commissioners to leverage county bonds to create a source of funding for low-interest loans for energy efficiency upgrades.

To address the length of payoff for the investment, the loan is linked to the property's title and taxes so if the owner moves, the loan is transferred to the new owners through the deed. 2009 marked the first year of implementation.

Boulder’s Be Climate Smart program estimates the average American’s carbon footprint to be 19 tons of CO2 per year. That’s representative of approximately 6.9 tons from electricity use, 5 tons from natural gas use, 4.2 tons from driving, and 3 tons from flights. And get this, most experts agree the fastest way to achieve climate goals will be through efficiencies, rather than alternative energy development.

### Boulder County Recycling Races Ahead!

In 2008, Eco-Cycle processed and marketed over 44,000 tons of material from glass and aluminum to scrap metal - which is important because Colorado ranks among the bottom five in the country for recycling (typically about 5.5% of our waste.)

**Longmont:** Moved to single-stream recycling in late 2008 and saw a nearly 40% increase in materials recycled.

**Louisville:** Diverted 46% of all waste with implementation of a new single-stream recycling and curbside recycling program in June 2009.

**Lafayette:** Has offered single-stream recycling since 2007 and consistently diverted 28% of its waste.
It is estimated that more than 80% of our everyday material waste is recyclable or compostable. In fact, we throw away nearly 31 million tons of food every year – which adds up to a national greenhouse gas equivalent of 21%. Currently the County is working with Eco-Cycle to develop a composting center.

**Boulder County residents registered 221,950 cars in 2008. That’s about 1.3 cars for every individual living here.** While it reflects a 4% increase from 5 years earlier, it’s actually a decrease from the number we had registered in 2000. That aligns with the decrease we’ve seen over the same time period of people driving alone to work on most days. Though 67% of us still report using a single-occupancy vehicle to get to work, that’s down from 72% five years earlier. At the same time we went from about 7% of us walking or biking on most days up to 9% in 2008. More of us are working from home now, too (10%).

**Of course Denver’s Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) still predicts the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in Boulder County will reach more than 18,700,000 in 2015, a 22% increase over 2001 VMT.**

In 2009 Boulder County had **4,110** registered hybrid vehicles. That represents **2% of all registered vehicles**.
Renewable Energy

Renewable energy (RE) is getting a lot of press these days. And it’s no wonder given the impact it’s already having on the economy – in addition to the anticipated impact it will have on our environment. In 2007 alone, Colorado added more than 91,000 jobs in the renewable energy sector and generated $10.3 billion in sales. That’s just the beginning. Economists say RE industries are growing faster than the average U.S. industry and that it generates 70% more jobs than oil and gas in Colorado (which still brings in 50% more in annual revenues.)

Cutting Edge Policy

Colorado has done much in the recent years to make itself attractive to the growing renewable energy sector. In addition to policies that require 20% of all of Colorado’s energy to be sourced from renewables by 2020, the state legislature passed multiple bills in 2009 to support solar energy adoption. These include making solar a standard option on all new homes, a low-interest loan program for schools to invest in renewable improvements, and the extension of a sales and use tax exemption for solar water heaters. Other environmental wins in Colorado’s policy agenda include increased protection from oil and gas drilling and FASTER, a bill to bring revenue to Colorado’s eroding transportation infrastructure. FASTER also marks a significant increase in funding to transit, to the tune of $15 million annually. Add to that the federal stimulus dollars anticipated to be greater than $500 million for transportation and $130 million for energy efficiency and weatherization, and Colorado is expected to be a leader in the new energy economy. That’s a big part of why President Obama chose Denver for the signing of his American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, joined by Boulder’s own Namaste Solar. Already Colorado can claim 5-6% of the nation’s RE-related GDP, compared to an overall GDP contribution of 1.7%.

FEELING INSPIRED?

Think twice about packaging next time you’re at the grocery store. Could you buy it in bulk? Is there a lower impact product?

Are you already composting? Good for you!

Carpool, ride the bus, or walk to work one more day a week this year.

Consider choosing one day a week to unplug all non-necessary appliances in your home.

Visit www.beclimatesmart.org for more ideas on how to cut back on your carbon footprint.

Sources:
Be ClimateSmart www.beclimatesmart.org
Eco-Cycle www.ecocycle.org
Boulder County Clerk and Recorder
Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Index Report 2008
PACE – Partners for a Clean Environment
Denver Regional Council of Governments
Per Capita Water Use obtained through: Boulder Public Works; Town of Superior; Lafayette Public Works; Left Hand Water District; Louisville Public Works; Longmont Public Works
Our Arts & Culture

Architects, designers and novelists, oh my.
When it comes to what some folks call the “finer things in life,” Colorado is a showstopper. The state ranks in the top 10 for number of artists in the general population.

Those artists include architects, designers, photographers, fine artists, performers, directors, musicians and writers. That intense level of interest points a laser beam on Boulder County. The Boulder-Longmont area ranks sixth in the nation (following behind only San Francisco, Santa Fe, Los Angeles, New York and Stamford, Connecticut) for total number of artists as a percentage of the workforce. Nationally, artists make up 1.4% of the U.S. Labor Force; that’s almost as many people as are serving in the military. There are more artists than lawyers, doctors or farmers. In the Boulder-Longmont area, artists make up 2.64% of our workforce. These artists make up a powerful labor force with significant economic impact, whose contributions here – as they are around the country – are less recognized and celebrated than they warrant.
The Recession: Arts Groups Facing Tough Times

Despite an optimistic funding picture in 2007, a more recent national report about how nonprofits were faring during tough economic times, arts groups emerged as being hit particularly hard. In fact, 43.6% of arts groups reported falling short or significantly short of 2008 revenue goals, compared to 40% in all respondents. Almost 60% of arts groups surveyed indicated that they had lost a major funder in the economic downturn. Season ticket sales were down 5-15%, with an increase in last-minute decision making about attendance. As a group, arts and cultural organizations were responding to economic reality, increasing communications and fundraising activities more quickly than their counterparts in other mission areas. Groups reported making cutbacks in staff and downsizing productions, from shortening seasons to simplifying scenery.

Who’s Working Behind the Scenes?

The answer is, not as many now as there were just two years ago. Every category of arts employee – full-time, part-time and contract – has seen a decline since 2005.

American Style Magazine ranked the Boulder area 8th on their national list of ‘Best Arts Destinations’ in 2009.

Almost 60% of arts groups surveyed in a 2009 national report indicated that they had lost a major funder in the economic downturn.
Total funding to arts and cultural organizations in Boulder County was up 57% between 2005 and 2007*. Increases in both Corporate and State funding are likely lagging reflections of an economy that was beginning to recover from low points in 2001. The state of Colorado, for example, began reintroducing additional support for arts and culture in 2005, following significant cuts in 2001 and 2002.

The Science and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), remained a major player in a diversifying income picture for arts organizations. The SCFD is a special tax district that distributes millions of dollars annually to local organizations in the Denver Metro area that provide entertainment and enlightenment to the public.

* Based on reports from Boulder County SCFD-funded arts and cultural organizations.

In 2007 the SCFD awarded $1,128,902 to 58 Boulder County organizations, a slight increase over 2005 amounts. However, with a rising dollar amount given by individuals and corporations during this time period, the SCFD only funded 17% of the arts price tag, compared with 20% in 2005.

Arts organizations are still paying the majority of their own share. The amount of income earned by the organizations that receive SCFD funding totaled $9,176,146, or 58% total funding.

Funding for the Arts: Who Pays?

FUNDING SOURCES FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual/Private</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCFD</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING ENTITIES FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCFD Boulder County Funding</td>
<td>$1,128,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Community Foundation</td>
<td>$389,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulder County Arts Alliance</td>
<td>$232,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denver Foundation</td>
<td>$182,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Boulder</td>
<td>$106,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado Council on the Arts</td>
<td>$68,790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding for the Arts: Who Pays?

Boulder International Film Festival

The Boulder International Film Festival (BIFF) offers audiences a unique opportunity to see films from all corners of the world and to learn from a diverse group of filmmakers. Between 2005 and 2008, BIFF (a program of the Colorado Film Society) presented over 200 films from around the world to over 33,000 attendees. Nearly half of the filmmakers at BIFF accompanied their films and were available for Q & A and discussions following screenings. BIFF had an audience expansion of 65% from 2007 to 2008, with a record-breaking 13,000 attendees. Between 15,000 and 17,000 attendees were expected to take in a film at BIFF’s 2009 event.

Since the inaugural Festival in February 2005, BIFF has developed a reputation as one of the most innovative young film festivals in the U.S., with an extraordinary number of new films that have gone on from early screenings at BIFF to significant success and multiple Oscar nominations. BIFF also promotes and celebrates local filmmakers by including Colorado films in over 20% of the program. In addition, BIFF 09 saw the absorption of the Boulder Asian Film Festival into the program.
Who Is Watching?

Over a million people attended arts and cultural events in Boulder County – 1,034,291 attended events just at SCFD-funded organizations, and Boulder County arts became more of a “drive-worthy” event in 2007. The number of people who came to Boulder County to see a play, hear a concert or check out an exhibit saw a big leap from 2005 to 2007. Tracking data from SCFD-funded organizations indicates that 210,882 people traveled to Boulder County to attend an arts or culture event in 2007, a significant increase from 2005 audience numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATTENDANCE AT CULTURAL EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>470 school trips:</strong> 278,183 School Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,037 “Underserved”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,220 Senior Citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,368 International Visitors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing off our Community’s Creativity

At the close of the 20th Century, a trend was underway to establish community arts centers in many towns and cities across the country. These centers address the different needs of the communities they serve, with emphasis on multidisciplinary arts events and activities, education, and the economy.

The Dairy Center for the Arts exists to provide exceptional space, classes, and programs in art, music, dance, literary and media arts, and theater. As Boulder’s largest multidisciplinary art center, the Dairy has evolved into a professional environment that includes performance space, teaching studios, rehearsal rooms, classrooms, art galleries, and dance studios. The Dairy has grown from being a venue for these activities to actively developing programs and arts events – and offering a wide range of support for the programs housed there.

About 300 patrons pass through the doors of The Dairy on a daily basis, serving 150,000 people annually with concerts, plays, gallery exhibitions, classes, workshops, and events. The Dairy collaborates with 17 resident organizations, selected on the basis of artistic quality, discipline, and community presence.

The Old Firehouse Art Center in Longmont has a mission to enrich the community through children and youth education opportunities, visual art exhibits and outreach. Opened in 1987 through a collaboration of the Arts Studio Inc. and the Longmont Arts Council, this renovated historic landmark provides space for art education, classes, and local, regional and national exhibits. The Old Firehouse Art Center opens its doors to more than 7000 people annually in addition to its role in the co-founding ArtLink Longmont, a community celebration of free live music, theater, dance, and art displays. The Old Firehouse Art Center is committed to inclusiveness and collaboration emphasizing diversity, process and continuing education to engage and energize artists and patrons.
Sources:
Elaine Mariner, Colorado Council on the Arts
“Weathering the Storm: Challenges and Opportunities for Nonprofits During Recession,” published jointly by the Colorado Nonprofit Association and the Community Resource Center, 2009.
Raw Data on Boulder County grant recipients, provided by the SCFD

FEELING INSPIRED?
Attend a Boulder County arts or cultural event unlike any you have previously attended.
Donate to an arts or cultural group, or to The Community Foundation’s Arts Trust.
Serve on a Community Trust grant making committee for arts organizations.
Purchase artwork by a local artist as your next gift for someone.

Frequent Flyers Productions
It’s something different, as dance meets the air. Perhaps a Boulder Weekly reviewer best described it this way: “Finely skilled dancers lift off the stage with ghostly grace and an otherworldly presence redefines the restrictions of a two-dimensional dance form. It opens up the doors of perception, both for the dancer and the spectator.”

Frequent Flyers Productions (FFP) has delighted over 100,000 people with its performances since its inception 20 years ago. FFP produces the only international Aerial Dance Festival, now in its 11th year. The Festival offered 38 classes in 2008, an increase of 8 classes from the previous year, attracting 187 participants from all over the world. FFP also offers a variety of performances and outreach programs, including Kids Who Fly, Aerial Sci-Arts, discussion - demonstrations for youth, and community classes. As FFP boasts, “We have taught nearly 8,000 people from all walks of life the joy of flying.”
MICHELLE MALLOY DILLON

RETIREMENT VIOLUNTEER PROGRAM
Our Civic Participation & Giving

How important is a sense of community and what does that mean anyway?

When does neighborliness turn into nosiness, and is voting the only measure of civic engagement? In Boulder County, we’re truly interested in the answers to these tough questions. And at The Community Foundation, we spend our days and weeks trying to define community and working to create and sustain it.

- To be sure, we vote in Boulder County, we volunteer and we speak out.
- We love our natural surroundings and our active lifestyle, and we aim to protect both.
- We worry about our economy and our schools more than ever before. We fear we may be too elitist and socially divided.

The measure of how we feel about our civic identity is evident in our priorities.

INDICATORS IN THIS CHAPTER

Corporate giving
Giving rates
Internet access
Latino representation in government
Volunteer participation
Voter turnout
What We Care About

Economic concerns far outweigh any other issues in the minds of Boulder County residents, according to a 2009 poll commissioned by Boulder County.

Public schools took a distant second place, followed closely by transportation, growth and the environment. The economy replaced growth as the county’s chief concern in 2008. Prior to that, growth had topped the charts consistently for five years.

The Talmey-Drake Research & Strategy poll was based on 600 telephone interviews in July 2009 and carried a 4% margin of error.

Another unrelated poll, however, found that growth was still the chief concern. “Overcrowding” is Boulder County’s most pressing problem, according to a 2009 study by Gallup and the Knight Foundation.

And while residents said the county is most welcoming to gays and lesbians and families with young children, they also said Boulder is least welcoming to immigrants and racial and ethnic minorities.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation funded the Gallup study of Boulder County and 25 other U.S. Communities. The “Soul of the Community” study polled a random sampling of 10,000 adults in the 26 cities between Feb. 17 and April 25, 2009.

Overall, fun gathering places and the landscape’s scenic beauty topped respondents’ reasons for feeling emotionally connected to the county.

Residents most likely to have an emotional connection to Boulder County are married, mid-to-higher education, and high-income, the study found. Those least likely to feel attached to Boulder County are younger, single, non-employed, and mid-income residents, the study found.
Voter Turnout

In the 2008 general election, a staggering 93% of all eligible and active voters cast ballots. That compares to a Colorado turnout of 68% and a national turnout of 64%. It’s also an increase from the 2004 general election when turnout was 91%. We are big proponents of early voting and absentee ballots. Of the 172,531 total votes cast in 2008, only 29,261 were cast by voters who went to the polls on Election Day. The vast majority, 116,235 votes, was mailed, and 27,035 were cast in early voting. That’s a tremendous increase from the last presidential election when less than half (43%) of ballots came in early or by mail.

Still, voting is only one measure of engagement and only represents the voices of those able to participate. Statistically, voters are more likely to have higher levels of education and income and characterize an older age bracket. These demographics may be overrepresented (compared to ratios in the general population) in elected and appointed positions and may risk discounting the concerns of less active voters. Increasing access to voting and encouragement from employers may aid participation.

People who identify as non-white make up 25% of Boulder County’s population, but at the time of this report (summer 2009) there were only 52 out of 861 people of color serving on volunteer advisory boards and commissions in Boulder County (6%), and only two out of 93 elected officials. Clearly, representation on our boards and commissions also does not accurately reflect our changing demographics. These public positions make policies that affect all of our community members, and engaging diverse voices and opinions is essential to building effective and representative governance.

The Community Foundation’s Expanding Leadership Initiative

The Community Foundation’s Expanding Leadership Initiative (ELI) is committed to changing the demographic landscape. Launched in 2007 ELI’s mission is to increase the number of people of color on the boards and staffs of Boulder County nonprofits.

The Community Foundation in 2009 launched the Boulder County Leadership Fellows Program. The goal of the program is to build networks of trust between our communities and across sectors to meet the communities’ changing needs. The program will foster thoughtful dialogue about emerging, multicultural, transformational leadership opportunities and challenges in Boulder County.
The State of Giving Report recorded dramatic decreases in charitable giving between 2005 and 2006 throughout Colorado. The Metropolitan Denver area, which includes Boulder County, experienced the greatest decline between 2005 and 2006 – more than 10%. With this decline in giving, donors in Metro Denver gave 12% less of their income to charity than the national average.

In Colorado, on average, residents donate 3.1% of their income to charity, compared to the 3.4% national average. Had we given at the national average, it would have meant a $489 million increase to charitable causes. In fact, the study found that Coloradans earn 7% more than the average American but give 9% less to charity.

In Boulder County the news is even bleaker. The county is below the state and regional average with Boulder County giving 2.7% of income. Contrast this with the fact that Boulder County’s per capita personal income in 2007 was $51,388, 33% higher than the national rate and the 12th highest metropolitan statistical area in the country.

Residents in the city of Boulder gave only 2.9% in 2006, down from 3.8% in 2005. Longmont gave at the rate of 2.7% in 2006.

### Building a Culture of Giving

Building community is not just about voting and speaking out. It’s also about showing up and shelling out. Residents who give money, in-kind goods, time and expertise to Boulder County nonprofit organizations, schools, friends and neighbors understand what it takes to glue a community together and demonstrate that savvy through their actions.

The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County now and forever and to build a culture of giving. We’ve been tracking local philanthropy since 2002.

**In 2008 we learned that for the second consecutive year, total charitable giving by individuals in Colorado reached nearly $3.8 billion**, yet the numbers fell from the previous year and Colorado remains behind the national average in giving.

The most recent study in 2008 underscores the fact that we have a ways to go to before we can declare that we’ve created a culture of giving. The “State of Giving” report issued by the Colorado Nonprofit Association profiles charitable giving in Colorado for the 2006 tax year, the latest year for which data is available. According to the report, giving in the state fell from $3.79 billion in 2005 to $3.75 billion in 2006. **Colorado ranks fifth among all 50 states in average adjusted gross income, yet ranks 38th in charitable contributions as a percentage of that income.**

The 2008 report also found the following:

- The average Coloradan gave $4,046 to charities during 2006, down from $4,074 in 2005.
- State residents donated an average of 7.8% less than the average American over each of the past seven years.
- On average, the amount donated to charity by Coloradans declined from 2005 to 2006 by one-third of 1% while the average American increased their charitable giving by nearly 1%.
- Finally, Colorado residents in the lowest income category gave a much higher percentage of their income to charity; those with adjusted gross income less than $50,000 gave 5.1%, significantly more than those in categories earning more than $50,000.

It’s not all bad news, however. The Community Foundation in September 2008 announced its campaign to increase its Community Trust, the unrestricted grantmaking endowment, by $4 million over the next four years. The effect would be a doubling in grantmaking to local nonprofits and $1 million to the Early Childhood Initiative. Despite the national recession that followed, more than 1,000 community donors stepped up and gave more than $1 million in The Campaign’s first year.
Corporate Giving

In May 2008, seven members of the Leadership Boulder County class undertook a study of corporate philanthropy. They set out to learn how and why companies volunteer and donate money or services to improve the community.

The team interviewed principals at 28 area companies of various sizes. Here's some of what they found:

• Small companies in Boulder County tend to give a larger percent of gross revenue than medium and large companies, however, large companies more often offer paid time off for volunteering than small companies.

• Most companies in Boulder County rely on employee input to determine what causes or nonprofits to support. Some have identified a theme or range of issues to which they devote charitable dollars and volunteer time.

• Many business owners don’t give from the business but from their personal funds.

Blue Mountain Arts Community Cares Program

In 2007, Jorian Schutz partnered with The Community Foundation, to create the Blue Mountain Arts Community Cares Program. He wanted to give back to the community where his parents founded the successful printing company 30 years earlier.

Schutz envisioned a program in which every employee at Blue Mountain Arts would have the opportunity to improve and enrich the community by making a donation to the nonprofit agency of their choice. He seeded the fund with a $200,000 donation to The Community Foundation. Each employee was allotted a portion of the fund based on years of service. They worked with the company’s Human Resources professionals and the TCF staff to research the needs of various nonprofit agencies in Boulder County and recommend grants.

The employees described the experience as rewarding and transformational. Most valued the opportunity to learn more about their community and make a real difference in lives the neighbors in need.

Schutz generously continued the program in 2008 and 2009. He is hopeful other area companies will follow his lead in giving back to the place where his family has been so successful.
Volunteer Participation

What we withhold in hard cash, we apparently try to make up for by showing up. **Volunteer rates in Colorado and Boulder County continue to be robust.**

The most recent data from the 2008 "Volunteering in America" study done nationwide by the Corporation for National Community Service found that the state’s rate of volunteering was at 31.9%.*

Boulder County volunteers, defined by the Boulder Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), are even more generous with their discretionary time, volunteering at a rate of 33.2%. Our volunteer hours ranking is 15th within the 75 areas ranked in our peer group. The average number of volunteer hours per resident is 46, compared to the national rate of 36.1 hours. By donating time to serve, local volunteers make an estimated annual economic contribution of $257 million.

Religious and educational centers attract the highest number of Boulder County volunteers, with civic and social service agencies the next most likely places for our neighbors to volunteer. The study found that college students are almost twice as likely to volunteer as young people of the same age who are not enrolled in higher education institutions.

The Community Foundation in 2006 commissioned the independent American Research Interviewing to conduct primary research about volunteering in Boulder County. In that study of about 400 adults, 46% reported volunteering for a nonprofit organization, faith community or government entity, and 79% reported some sort of informal volunteering to help a relative, neighbor or friend. The 2006 study also reported that more than 47% of Boulder County residents surveyed reported attending a public meeting in the previous year, compared to a state rate of 11%.

Boulder County government keeps data on volunteer programs and participation. For the 2008 year the county recorded 5,997 total volunteers who donated 160,309 hours to programs including parks and open space, public health, social services and transportation. Volunteers numbering 368 devoted time to county boards, commissions, and task forces and racked up 15,951 hours. In total, that’s 6,365 volunteers, 176,260 hours and an estimated $3,438,832 contributed to Boulder County programs.

*The data used in the report were collected through the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics from about 60,000 households (approximately 100,000 adults) and averaged over the three years from 2004-2007.

**In His Own Words by Tom Keller**

Colorado has a vibrant entrepreneurial community. A group of entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, lawyers, and The Community Foundation have created the Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado ("EFCo") to work with local entrepreneurs to help endow Colorado.

EFCo has a unique approach to philanthropy: it approaches young firms and asks them to contribute a small portion of their company’s equity to EFCo early in their life. In this way, entrepreneurs can be significantly charitable, and involved in supporting the community, well in advance of an exit or accumulation of wealth.
Here, Boulder entrepreneur Tom Keller talks about why he joined EFCO:

“As a serial entrepreneur who has founded four Boulder County startup companies over the last decade, I am increasingly aware of how fundamental the community’s support has been to my success.

When we were founding IntenseDebate, one of our local investors asked if we would consider joining EFCO. My co-founders and I chose to grant a portion of our stock to EFCO because it seemed like an easy way for us to give back to the community that had given so much to us. A portion of the proceeds of our acquisition therefore went to Boulder County nonprofits through The Community Foundation.

I was surprised and fulfilled by the gratitude expressed to us by the recipient charities and The Community Foundation. The gratitude was unexpected, and unexpectedly gratifying: our good fortune also fell to the community that had nurtured us.

Boulder County is a magical place for entrepreneurship. It’s the perfect size: it’s large enough that there is sufficiently deep professional expertise that a startup can compete in a leading-edge technology on the world stage, yet small enough that every person can be a significant part of the community, and any expertise you need is only one or two degrees of freedom away.

To all the entrepreneurs who are thriving in Boulder County, congratulations! I ask that you take a moment and reflect on how much the community has contributed to your current and future success. I encourage you to think about giving something back to the community, whether through EFCO or some other way. I assure you, you’ll make a significant impact, and you’ll be glad you did.”

Tom Keller serves on the EFCO board. Please visit www.efcolorado.org for more information.

In Boulder County, research indicates only 4% of residents have no access to the Internet.

FEELING INSPIRED?

Make sure your personal giving is at least in line with the national average: 3.4% of income.

Encourage your employer to give to local nonprofits and to allow employees to volunteer some each year on company time.

Donate to The Community Foundation’s Community Trust.

Get involved in The Community Foundation’s Early Childhood Initiative.

Attend at least one city council or board of commissioners meeting in the next year.

Help others in our community register to vote.

Visit the Volunteer Connection (www.volunteerconnection.net) to learn about local volunteer opportunities.

How We Connect

Getting and staying connected is key to building community. Unless we know what our friends and neighbors are up to, we can’t really find common ground.

And yet the communications/media landscape is changing dramatically. The traditional sources for news and information are shrinking or going away altogether. Despite the 24-hour news cycle and proliferation of news sites, finding quality information about local issues is increasingly difficult.

Think about how you get information about your community and civic interests. Are your sources adequate? Are there information gaps? Independent research conducted about Boulder County media usage, states that a full 93% of market adults access the internet monthly and nearly 155,000 adults in Boulder County surf the web daily.
By the Numbers

The next few pages offer a snapshot of community indicator highlights from each chapter. For additional indicators and context to help interpret this data, visit the corresponding chapters listed. The Community Foundation is pleased to offer a new searchable online indicators database, with maps and graph-making capabilities, and additional indicators not available through the printed TRENDS report. Visit www.commfound.org to access the site.

Who Are We? PAGES 12–15

BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH 2000–2007

300,000
290,000
280,000
270,000
260,000

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

COLORADO POPULATION GROWTH 2000–2007

5.0 Million
4.8 Million
4.6 Million
4.4 Million
4.2 Million

2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE / ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>88.5%</td>
<td>87.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian / Pacific</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American / Alaskan</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic – Any race</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Hispanic residents may fall under any of the other categories of race. ‘Hispanic’ is an ethnic identity, not a race.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF BOULDER COUNTY 2008 AND 2020

100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000

0–5 6–14 15–24 25–44 45–60 60+

2008 2020
PERCENTAGE DROPOUT RATES BY ETHNICITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>St. Vrain Valley</th>
<th>Boulder Valley</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

St. Vrain Valley School District
Boulder Valley School District

TOTAL PUPIL COUNT VS DROPOUTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Pupil Count</th>
<th>Total Dropouts</th>
<th>Dropout Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder County</td>
<td>14,711</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vrain Valley</td>
<td>11,840</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACCREDITED VS LICENSED CHILD CARE HOMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Accredited</th>
<th>Licensed Child Care Homes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder County</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2008 KINDERGARTEN DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>% Children of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulder Valley</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vrain Valley</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY EDUCATION LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Median Earnings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school graduate</td>
<td>$17,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</td>
<td>$27,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college or associate's degree</td>
<td>$32,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree</td>
<td>$45,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>$60,592</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: American Community Survey 2007

In Boulder County there are

21,600 Children under 6 years of age,
146 Licensed Child Care Centers,
156 Licensed Child Care Homes
Our Economy & Housing

**FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, 2009**

- **$10,830** 1 Person household
- **$18,310** 3 Person household
- **$22,050** 4 Person household

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 2007**

- **$37,935** Latino
- **$65,031** White

Boulder County’s largest employment sector is professional and business services accounting for more than **30,800** jobs. Just behind are government **30,700**, trade / transportation **23,500**, education / health care **19,600**, manufacturing **17,900** and leisure / hospitality **17,500**, as major areas of employment. The renewable energy sector added an estimated **91,000 jobs** to Colorado’s economy in 2007.

Boulder County enjoyed strong job growth through the third quarter of 2008, while boasting unemployment levels below 4%. However, by the first quarter of 2009 unemployment numbers had risen to 5.8%.

**AVERRAGE ANNUAL WAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th>Boulder County</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>$84,708</td>
<td>$71,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional / Technical Services</td>
<td>$92,248</td>
<td>$84,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance / Insurance</td>
<td>$71,604</td>
<td>$68,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>$73,060</td>
<td>$60,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>$47,788</td>
<td>$53,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social Services</td>
<td>$47,424</td>
<td>$46,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation</td>
<td>$20,384</td>
<td>$34,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>$43,160</td>
<td>$39,156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Costs</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Adult+ Preschooler</th>
<th>Adult+ Infant+ Preschooler</th>
<th>Adult+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
<th>Adult+ Preschooler+ Schoolage+ Teenager</th>
<th>Adult+ Infant+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
<th>2 Adults+ Infant+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
<th>2 Adults+ Preschooler+ Schoolage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>797</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1458</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1764</td>
<td>1378</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>2246</td>
<td>1764</td>
<td>1378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td>904</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>1598</td>
<td>1088</td>
<td>956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Tax</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-55</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Tax Credit</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-83</td>
<td>-167</td>
<td>-167</td>
<td>-250</td>
<td>-250</td>
<td>-250</td>
<td>-250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Sufficiency Wage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hourly</td>
<td>$10.72</td>
<td>$21.16</td>
<td>$28.17</td>
<td>$25.51</td>
<td>$19.06</td>
<td>$37.90</td>
<td>$15.75/adult</td>
<td>$14.41/adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>$1,887</td>
<td>$3,725</td>
<td>$4,957</td>
<td>$4,489</td>
<td>$3,355</td>
<td>$6,670</td>
<td>$5,544</td>
<td>$5,071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>$22,644</td>
<td>$44,696</td>
<td>$59,489</td>
<td>$53,871</td>
<td>$40,265</td>
<td>$80,044</td>
<td>$66,528</td>
<td>$60,850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearly **one-in-ten children** in Boulder County lives below the Federal Poverty Level.

**11%** Boulder County residents living below Federal Poverty Level

**5%** Families in Boulder County living below the Federal Poverty Level

**18%** Households in Boulder County living on an annual income of **less than $25K**

**8%** Family households in Boulder County living on an annual income **less than $25K**
Our Health & Human Services

CHILD HEALTH SURVEY, HEALTH STATISTICS

91%  Children age 1–14 who had any type of health insurance coverage
59%  Children age 1–14 who had a regular health care provider
20%  Households with children age 1–14 age 1–14 that often / sometimes relied on low-cost foods in past year
11%  Children age 2–14 who were overweight
9%   Children age 2–14 who were obese
26%  Parents who reported behavioral or mental health problems in children age 1–14

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2007

504  Children Present
239  Child Witnesses (47%)
170  Child Abuse Charges (34%)

BOULDER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Boulder County</th>
<th>Healthy People 2010 Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance – Adults</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source of Ongoing Primary Care – Adults</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pap Smear: within past three years</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammogram: within past two years – 40+ years</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes – Diagnosed</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza Immunization Within Past Year – 65+</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overweight – Adults with a BMI 25–29</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obese – Adults with a BMI 30+</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Permanent Teeth Pulled Due to Cavities (35–44)</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Physical Activity</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Binge Drinking, During Past Month</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Cigarette Smoking</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*From a survey of 717 adults.

Our Environment

CITY OF BOULDER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY SOURCE, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Emissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>0.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Waste</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial / Industrial</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BOULDER COUNTY TRANSPORTATION TO WORK, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worked at Home</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drove Alone</td>
<td>67.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpool</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Walked or Biked)</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Boulder County Recycling Races Ahead!

In 2008, Eco-Cycle processed and marketed over 44,000 tons of material from glass and aluminum to scrap metal - which is important because Colorado ranks among the bottom five in the country for recycling (typically about 5.5% of our waste.)

Longmont: Moved to single-stream recycling in late 2008 and saw a nearly 40% increase in materials recycled.

Louisville: Diverted 46% of all waste with implementation of a new single-stream recycling and curbside recycling program in June 2009.

Lafayette: Has offered single-stream recycling since 2007 and consistently diverted 28% of its waste.

Our Civic Participation & Giving PAGES 52–59

State residents donated an average of 7.8% less than the average American over each of the past seven years.

In Colorado, on average, residents donate 3.1% of their income to charity, compared to the 3.4% national average. Had we given at the national average, it would have meant a $489 million increase to charitable causes. In fact, the study found that Coloradans earn 7% more than the average American but give 9% less to charity.

In Boulder County the news is even bleaker. The county is below the state and regional average with Boulder County giving 2.7% of income. Contrast this with the fact that Boulder County’s per capita personal income in 2007 was $51,388, 33% higher than the national rate and the 12th highest metropolitan statistical area in the country.

VOTER TURNOUT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>CO₂ (tons)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flights</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2009 ARTISTS REGISTERED WITH BOULDER ARTS RESOURCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Type</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi Disciplinary</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Arts & Culture PAGES 46–51

FUNDING SOURCES FOR BOULDER COUNTY ARTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual/Private</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCFD</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowments</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1101</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State residents donated an average of 7.8% less than the average American over each of the past seven years.

In Colorado, on average, residents donate 3.1% of their income to charity, compared to the 3.4% national average. Had we given at the national average, it would have meant a $489 million increase to charitable causes. In fact, the study found that Coloradans earn 7% more than the average American but give 9% less to charity.

In Boulder County the news is even bleaker. The county is below the state and regional average with Boulder County giving 2.7% of income. Contrast this with the fact that Boulder County’s per capita personal income in 2007 was $51,388, 33% higher than the national rate and the 12th highest metropolitan statistical area in the country.
Definitions to Help Interpret the Data

This report uses a great deal of data found through the American Community Survey (ACS), a nationwide survey to provide communities updated information in between bicentennial censuses. The most recent data available through the ACS is for 2007, so unless otherwise noted, data reported reflects 2007 numbers.

There are some differences between the Census 2000 and the ACS methodology that make them difficult to compare. The ACS collects data for all 12 months of the year, not for just a single point in time. The decennial census takes a snapshot of the population and housing stock based on a single day - April 1 of the decennial year. But ACS surveys are distributed year-round, so we have January data and December data.

In the decennial census you are counted where you are residing on April 1 (with a very few exceptions). With ACS it is more complicated; where you get counted is based on where you reside when you get the survey (unless you are only staying there “temporarily”, defined as less than 2 months). While the Census works to count every single person, the ACS is distributed to a population sample and produces estimates more at risk for statistical error.

The term “Latino”

In this report we use the term “Latino” to encompass people identified as “Hispanic” or “Latin” by the American Community Survey, or other similar data collecting organizations. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race. We use the term “Non-Hispanic white” to refer to people who self-identify as white but do not claim Latino heritage.

Students

Beginning in 2006, the ACS includes group quarters like dormitories or sororities. Students who live off campus have been counted in the data as individuals, including information on poverty, household income, health care access, etc since the start of the ACS program.

Income vs. Wages

“Income” includes wages, salary, bonuses, self-employment income, gifts, Tips, investment income, transfer payments such as social security or food stamps, pensions, rents, and interest income.

“Wages” include only payments received from an employer in an employment relationship that is reported to the State of Colorado for purposes of unemployment insurance. Wages do not include self employment income.

“Per capita income” is calculated by taking all the income earned in the county and dividing this number by the population.

Broomfield County

Broomfield became its own county in at the end of 2001. The State Demography Office has adjusted population, age, and ethnicity numbers prior to 2001 to reflect only the area that is now Boulder County.
The Community Foundation: For good. Forever.
There are several avenues through which The Community Foundation is building programs and engaging residents to transform Boulder County.

1 **Community-driven Grantmaking:** The Community Foundation is unique because county residents serve on committees (Arts, Civic Engagement, Health & Human Services, Education, and the Environment) to review proposals from local nonprofit organizations, make site visits, and finally recommend grants to the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. This process not only engages the voices of numerous community members, but also educates them about trends of need, while introducing many of the cutting edge programs nonprofits provide right here in our community.

2 **Early Childhood Initiative:** Among pressing community issues, the achievement gap of Boulder County students has risen to the surface for The Community Foundation. A new multi-year initiative has been launched to amplify local programs and efforts working to increase early school readiness.

3 **Culture of Giving Movement:** The Culture of Giving is a movement to increase philanthropy and volunteerism in Boulder County by exposing residents to the work of local nonprofit organizations and making involvement easy. It shares its message through the media, community events, and the Vision of Giving Youth Art Contest. [www.cultureofgiving.org](http://www.cultureofgiving.org)

4 **Leadership Programs:** The Expanding Leadership Program seeks to increase the level of diversity and inclusiveness in Boulder County nonprofits through leadership development opportunities for people of color. The goal of the Boulder County Leadership Fellows Program is to build networks of trust between our communities and across sectors to meet the communities’ changing needs.

5 **The Boulder County Civic Forum:** The Boulder County Civic Forum is the research arm of The Community Foundation and informs, educates, and advocates for a healthy community. The Civic Forum produces Boulder County TRENDS, this biennial community indicators report about quality of life in Boulder, facilitates community workshops and forums, and partners with the University of Colorado on the Civic Blast Project.

The Civic Forum has been tracking trends and indicators of a healthy community for over 12 years. Nationally and locally there is an increasing need for opportunities to engage in informed discourse on issues affecting quality of life. Studies published by Duke University and the University of Arizona found that the percentage of people who say they only talk to family members about important matters has risen from 57% to nearly 80% in the last several years. Boulder County TRENDS is a tool to initiate conversations between friends, families, neighbors, and colleagues, about how we all play a role in building community.

To learn more about The Community Foundation and to view this report online along with the Civic Forum’s new interactive database, please visit [www.commfound.org](http://www.commfound.org).
Guiding Your Philanthropy

There are two key ways The Community Foundation can help you make a meaningful impact: The Community Trust and Donor-Advised Funds.

ESTABLISHING A DONOR-ADvised FUND  More than 220 individuals, families, and businesses have set up Donor-Advised Funds that work much like private foundations—but offer distinct benefits.

COMMUNITY EXPERTISE  Draw on our years of experience and our intimate knowledge about the needs and trends of Boulder County, and the work of local non-profits.

BROAD CONNECTIONS  Rely on our networks locally and nationally - and even internationally - to learn about wise and strategic philanthropy.

FREEDOM  Let our professional staff handle the administrative tasks and due diligence of your grantmaking, and provide you with simple financial statements to support your planning and tax returns. Check your fund balance, review pre-screened grant proposals, and recommend grants online through www.edonorcentral.com.

CONFIDENCE  Depend on solid investment strategies and local governance and oversight. Take advantage of maximum tax benefits.

PERSONALIZED SERVICE  Work with us to devise a plan suited to your goals and areas of interest. Contact your donor advocate to learn more about organizations (perhaps schedule a site visit) and ask questions about the findings of this report to strategize your giving.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY TRUST

The Community Trust is the ideal way to give back. As the permanent grantmaking fund of The Community Foundation, the Community Trust addresses hundreds of needs throughout Boulder County across issue areas. It’s flexible, responsive, and directed by members of the community who evaluate proposals and conduct site visits to determine where the greatest needs are. Gifts of any size are welcome.

In 2008, The Community Foundation set a goal to raise $4 million for The Community Trust by 2012. Initial success allowed The Community Foundation to nearly double funds granted in January 2009. Continuing success is making it possible for The Community Foundation to focus on how best to help reduce Boulder County’s achievement gap, through early childhood school readiness.

Let’s look after each other. Be a part of it and make a gift to The Community Trust this year.

To learn more about investing your philanthropic dollars with The Community Foundation, visit www.commfound.org or call 303-442-0436 today.
Strategic Choices

Donors and Volunteers Making an Impact

Regardless of your experience with giving or volunteering, you want your contributions to make a difference. Data can help identify needs and opportunities, but personal investment in the outcomes is the key to a sense of satisfaction. Starting with the issues you care about most and knowing what you want to achieve makes giving meaningful. Once you’ve determined what you want to focus on, the following tips can maximize the effectiveness of your giving.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION</th>
<th>2008 GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Culture</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Needs</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Stick with it** Keep an eye on the ultimate goal you are working to achieve. Positive movement toward that goal often comes in a series of small steps. For example, if your goal is to close the achievement gap in middle and high schools, you can choose to support early care and education opportunities for low-income families or programs that engage parents in schools, among other efforts that help build toward your desired outcome.

**Think Outside the Box** The best solution to a problem may lie outside the parameters people typically discuss. For instance, one way to help improve birth status might be to fund oral health programs for pregnant women, because women without gum disease have fewer low-birthweight babies. And while you may start out working on one issue, a strong solution may end up having positive effects that carry over to other areas. For example, a youth arts program may not only provide supervised out-of-school experiences for a child, but also improve that child’s self-esteem and school attendance.

**Determine at What Level You Want to Make an Impact** As a donor or volunteer, you may want to help individuals in need or improve the lives of a certain group of people. You may want to strengthen the programs and institutions serving the community. Perhaps you want to change the social environment through policies that affect the community more broadly by focusing on issues such as greenhouse gas reduction or culturally inclusive programming. Many donors work at multiple levels simultaneously.
Find a Solution and Fund It  Commit your support to an effective solution or a new approach to a problem you care about - ideally one backed up by research and outcome evaluation. You could take this idea and run with it in a couple of ways. You could support its replication in other places. Or you could support other organizations that are implementing it.

Consider Nonprofit Infrastructure and Administrative Needs  While it is important to keep a sharp eye on administrative expenses, investing in a nonprofit's infrastructure - from technology and staff training to planning, research, program development and evaluation - provides the strong foundation necessary for getting results.

Work Together  Many individual givers find satisfaction in working and learning with others and in pooling resources for increased impact. The Community Trust and Social Venture Partners are examples of opportunities The Community Foundation offers for leveraging resources. One of the most valuable attributes of a vibrant community is people's willingness to join together for the common good. With a modest amount of support, a small group of committed community members can clean up open space, increase safety in a neighborhood, or improve their children's school. Some innovative programs have harnessed the power of trusted family, friend and neighbor relationships and used them to reach disenfranchised populations, ease cultural transitions, and build collective action. They also connect through networks to coordinate their activities, enhance cooperation and smooth the way for collective action to solve complex problems and create community resources.

Ask Questions  Very few of society's tough challenges have simple solutions. Most persistent issues are the result of a long and complex set of factors and circumstances. Asking questions about the root causes of issues, as well as about a given organization's approach, can provide critical insight into a problem and its potential solutions.

Support the Nonprofit Sector  Grants to specific organizations and programs can make an immediate impact on the community. Less recognized and equally important to long-term health are investments in organizations that strengthen nonprofits and allow them to do their work. Intermediary organizations, such as The Community Foundation, play a host of invaluable roles in helping groups of nonprofits with related missions build linkages, develop partnerships, increase advocacy and undertake joint planning. These groups also provide training, management assistance, and technology support.

Give During Good Times and Bad  During tough economic times Boulder County's non-profit organizations see increased demands for services (e.g., food, shelter, job, health care, and mental health assistance) and often decreased levels of financial support. Let's all remember to keep giving for the good of the whole and because there's always someone who needs a boost just a bit more than we do.
Knowing What Works

The Community Foundation uses a range of criteria to identify effective programs and organizations. Donors and volunteers may wish to use the same standards for their own evaluations, or they can view proposals vetted by our grant committees. The Community Foundation grant committees are made up of volunteer readers from all over Boulder County. Though the Foundation staff offers guidance and expertise, the committees read proposals, go on site visits, and eventually make recommendations to our trustees for funding. We are truly a foundation by the community for the community. www.commfound.org.

WE BELIEVE EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS:

Address an identified community need within the Community Indicators framework.

Use a methodology that makes sense and takes into account accepted or best practices in the field.

Build on a thoughtful, practical plan that outlines specific outcomes.

Explore innovative approaches, participants and partnerships.

Are delivered by an organization that is knowledgeable about the issue and the people it serves.

Engage the skills, abilities and experiences of community members in creating effective change together.

Take advantage of opportunities for coordination with other programs and avoid duplication.

Are organizationally inclusive and are working toward leaders, staff, and volunteers that reflect the community they serve.

Are responsive to the people they serve and respectful of communities’ dignity and need for hope.

Are delivered in user-friendly ways and locations that overcome barriers to participation.

Respond to the diverse needs of constituents and offer resources or referrals to other programs when needed.

Foster civic engagement.

I HAVE A DREAM FOUNDATION
Acknowledgements

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Carly Hare
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Debbie Gaffney
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Frequent Flyers Productions
Project Yes
Veterans Helping Veterans Now
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

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Avista Adventist Hospital
Longmont United Hospital
Boulder Community Hospital
Roche Colorado
CH2M Hill
The Boulder County Commissioners

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Malaika Pettigrew
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Jill Stravolemos
Bobbie Watson
Alice Swett
Rhonda Wallen

Morgan Rogers, Civic Forum Director
The Boulder County Civic Forum was launched in 1995 as the Boulder County Healthy Communities Initiative “to promote healthy decision-making that will sustain the environmental quality, livability and economic vitality of the Boulder County region.” More than 400 community members came together to identify four visions for a healthy community, including a vision for the people, for the environment, for the economy, and for culture and society. The 50 indicators selected to measure these visions are still used today, nearly 15 years later, along with more than 30 new ones.

The Civic Forum is non-partisan and non-governmental, supported by businesses, government, foundations, individuals and The Community Foundation, of which it has been a program since 1999. A detailed description of each indicator, copies of the 1998, 2000, 2002, 2005, and 2007 quality of life reports are available through The Community Foundation’s website: www.commmfound.org.

Thank you to the guidance and wisdom of the Civic Forum’s Founding Committee:

John Sackett, CEO, Avista Adventist Hospital
DeAnne Butterfield, Former Civic Forum Director
Michael Caplan, Facilitation Consultant, Caplan & Company
Mitchell Carson, President and CEO, Longmont United Hospital
Susan Foster, Deputy Director, Education and Outreach, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research
Barrie Hartman, Journalist
Josie Heath, President, The Community Foundation Boulder County
Ron Secrist, President, Boulder Community Hospital Foundation
Cindy Schmidt, Director, Government Affairs Office, UCAR
Chuck Stout, Former Executive Director, Boulder County Public Health
John Tayer, Community Relations Manager, Roche Colorado Corporation

THE CIVIC FORUM’S GOALS ARE TO:

• Articulate a vision for healthy Boulder County communities

• Measure progress toward that vision through a biennial Community Indicators Report and an updated website. Check out www.commmfound.org!

• Inform and educate the public and decision makers about issues of interest and concern

• Identify community assets and opportunities for strategic action

• Convene dialogues and partnerships to address key issues through collaboration

• Advocate for systemic community change to create lasting solutions

• Assess the impact of these actions
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The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving.

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