



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
BOULDER COUNTY**

INSPIRING IDEAS. IGNITING ACTION.™

December 2017 Round-Up

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Looking Back On 2017 Jeff Hirota, CEO

Around this time last year, before I began as CEO of the Community Foundation Boulder County, a reporter asked me in so many words to describe the course I would chart for the foundation. This was not an easy question.

A community foundation is a unique institution. There are foundations that derive their assets from one source and deploy them for many purposes, such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. There are foundations that derive their assets from many sources and deploy them for one purpose, such as the Children's Hospital Foundation. Then there is the quintessentially American invention of the community foundation, which derives its assets from many diverse sources and deploys them for many purposes in its community and beyond.



Who is a community foundation? It is nonprofit organizations, government entities, businesses, philanthropists, and residents all working to make their community - Boulder County - a better place to live. It is e pluribus unum - from many, one.

So my answer to the reporter's question was simple and complicated: I would begin by listening. Now as I write this, I can reflect on what we, at the foundation, heard during this remarkable year in our country and community.

We heard heightened concern about issues we had always cared about - women's health, immigration, civil liberties, GLBT rights, our environment, the arts, and so much more. And so, your community foundation launched a campaign to respond to national concerns with local action. Signs of solidarity sprouted up from full-page messages and editorials to signs at nonprofit organizations.

Small groups gathered, and we listened to each other in forty-two open sessions around our county. Together, we learned what we most cared about and what we hoped to do collectively. [Read report](#)

The [TRENDS community indicators report](#) provided our community with current data brought to life through local stories, and pointed a way to resolve and action.

And your community foundation continued its mission through Community Trust grants to nonprofit organizations, a \$1 million endowment of the Open Door Fund to support GLBT work, graduating and recruiting Leadership Fellows, honoring heroes through the Veterans Fund, and so much more.

Above all, for me, the year has been about the people.

2017 delivered its share of celebrations and sorrows, of hellos and farewells, and of standing on the shoulders of giants. I'm grateful for the people I've met and regretful about the people I wished I'd met but haven't yet.

I feel worst of all about people I've met, but can't remember. Brené Brown writes, "...true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world." So, I must confess a personal affliction: I suffer from a devastating inability to recognize faces and remember names. As a young seminarian, I studied the church picture directory every Sunday morning and tried in vain to memorize people. My spouse says only half-jokingly, "You couldn't pick me out of a lineup, could you?"

This affliction compromises my ability to communicate my heart and intention - an abiding care and affection for the beautiful people I meet every day. So, if I have one message, as I conclude my first year at your community foundation, it is this: Thank you. I'm grateful for you - magnificent, down-to-earth people - who care deeply about your community.

Thanks to you, I know we - the Community Foundation Boulder County - will rise to the future with vision and courage. And together, we will accomplish more than any one of us could alone.

I celebrate a wonderful year with you, and I wish you and yours a very happy and fulfilling 2018.

Yours in community,
Jeff

Charitable Giving: Comparison of Nearby States

	Giving ratio	Median contribution
Colorado	2.87%	\$2,958
Arizona	3.06%	\$3,013
Kansas	3.57%	\$3,574
Nebraska	3.67%	\$3,111
New Mexico	3.0%	\$3,276
Oklahoma	4.46%	\$4,584
Utah	6.61%	\$6,182
Wyoming	3.45%	\$4,088

Source: The Chronicle of Philanthropy, updated January 2015
Community Foundation Boulder County

Did you know? Coloradans give less than their neighbors: in fact, Colorado has the lowest giving ratio out of the surrounding Western states. Learn more about local giving in our TRENDS Report.

¿Sabía qué? Los residentes de Colorado dan menos que sus vecinos: de hecho, Colorado cuenta con la menor tasa de generosidad de entre los estados occidentales que lo rodean. Infórmese más acerca de filantropía local en nuestro Informe TRENDS.

Read TRENDS, attend an open presentation of highlights from TRENDS, or watch our TRENDS' webinar

On Our Blog: Community Influencers, Leaders, & Givers



John Tayer: Cross-sector Community Partnerships

"Business and government investment in local nonprofits is a powerful investment in the health of our local economy, and the resilience of our community."

[More](#)

BRYAN CAVE

Community Partner Spotlight: Bryan Cave

"The way I see it, no one should take all the good things about Boulder County for granted. That's why it's up to all local employers to support the community."

~Chris Hazlitt, Managing Partner, Bryan Cave

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Ann Goldman And Leslie Allen: To Give, Or Not To Give? The State Of Local Philanthropy

"For community members and nonprofits alike, it's more important than ever to get engaged."

[More](#)

Grantee Spotlights: Women's Empowerment

Recently, TIME magazine revealed that its Person of the Year isn't just one person, but all the many women and men who are speaking out against sexual



harassment and violence.

In the midst of the #MeToo movement - a wave of allegations of sexual misconduct - we spoke to a few of our grantees whose strength-based programs and services advance women's empowerment and safety, locally.

[More](#)



**Donor Spotlight:
Brad Armstrong**

"It's hard to measure the impact of social change funding - that's all the more reason you have to stay in it for the fight, supporting organizations that have seats at the table where decisions are made."

[More](#)



**Changing The World Over
Tacos**

Two women walk into a restaurant in Boulder for Taco Tuesday. Over chips and salsa, they start talking about ways they can help make the world a better place, starting with Boulder County.

[More](#)



**Marta Loachamin
Reviews The NAHREP 10**

"In our shared exploration of the NAHREP 10 this year, my hope is that we're all a little more connected to one another, a little more financially savvy, and that we've ignited energy and action around these important life principles. Together, we accomplish more than we do alone."

[More](#)

**Donating to your Community Foundation
makes a local impact you can see.
Get inspired. Donate here.**

15 Forever Fund Request For Proposals

The 15 Forever Fund was established as a permanent fund of the Community Foundation to serve the needs of Boulder County youth into the future and promote civic engagement and leadership among youth.

This year's youth advisory committee is seeking applications that address the healthcare needs of Boulder County youth - specifically, people under age 18. The committee places particular importance on proposals that address youth healthcare needs, including but not limited to the following: mental healthcare, physical and mental disabilities, substance abuse and addiction, and other basic healthcare services. To apply or learn more, click below.

[More](#)

Job Announcement: Vice President of Philanthropic Services

We are searching for a Vice President of Philanthropic Services to lead the foundation's effort to increase giving to fund the work of the foundation and the nonprofits we support.

As a key member of the foundation's leadership team, the Vice President of Philanthropic Services will work with trustees, staff, donors, and volunteers to promote giving in our community and to build support for the foundation's initiatives.

[More](#)

2017 Statement Of Affirmation

The Community Foundation Boulder County is committed to being a community catalyst for good, alongside donors and partners like you. We believe our community is stronger when all people - women and men, children, older adults, immigrants, people of color, GLBTQ individuals, those with varying abilities and from all faiths - are respected, welcomed, and invited to share their assets and contributions in community building.

We stand with others, in Boulder County and beyond, who courageously strive to build more inclusive communities rather than walls of division. We remain wholeheartedly committed to social justice for our most marginalized and vulnerable people and for the care of threatened environments. We believe in the power of art and music to improve our lives and community. Now, more than ever, we seek opportunities for local action and invite you to join us in our **ongoing leadership work** that includes grantmaking, outreach, and advocacy. We accomplish more together than we do alone.



Surveying The Field: Links To Stories Of The Month

- Colorado lawmakers approve using state money to keep health insurance program for kids running (12/21/17, The Denver Post)
- #Giving Tuesday and beyond: How women are driving a culture of giving (12/20/17, Forbes)
- Donors go online but also volunteer, study show (12/6/17, The Nonprofit Times)
- 6 in 10 Americans engaged in philanthropy in past year: Study (12/6/17, ThinkAdvisor)
- Donor States of America: First-of-its-kind demographic analysis of giving dispels myths and reveals surprises (12/5/17, The Chronicle of Philanthropy)
- What are donor-advised funds? (12/3/17, The Wall Street Journal)



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