Local Community Foundation Leaders Emphasize - And Exemplify - Diversity

We recently spoke with Matt Zavala, Board President of the Longmont Community Foundation, and Carmen Ramirez, our own Board Chair. For the first time in local history, two Latinos - also representing leadership succession from one generation to the next - are simultaneously making their mark as local community foundation leaders. In this informal Q&A, they share their thoughts on leadership, diversity, and the impact of community foundations.

Community Foundation Boulder County: How do community foundations create community?

Carmen Ramirez: First, community foundations promote awareness around local needs, and direct resources to effectively meet those needs. We highlight the strengths and challenges of our communities in ways that develop understanding. How do we do that? At the Community Foundation Boulder County, we listen, and we share community data and stories in our TRENDS Report. Making connections and listening are key to what we do. From having people get to know one another in various settings to sitting down and really listening to one another, community foundations offer opportunities to come together, build relationships, and get involved. Community foundations are also responsive to urgent community needs. We have the flexibility to quickly create community during challenging times - like floods and fires.
Matt Zavala: Agreed. We bring attention and awareness to the work that our nonprofit community does - or is looking to do. In Longmont, there's a real sense about what an awesome community we have. Our city government does a fantastic job improving the quality of life here, and the local nonprofit community is a big part of that fabric. We work to help nonprofits become stronger - we get their messages out, and we provide context for the work they're doing. Ultimately, we hope to inspire and drive donations - money is always important, and community foundations help facilitate giving. But, nonprofits couldn't do the work they do without volunteers, either.

Read full interview

Carmen Ramirez

Matt Zavala and his wife, Shelby, award and Hispanic Education Foundation scholarship.

Know Your County

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

FINDING OUR RESOLVE
Stories of resilience in the face of long odds

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Boulder County
WORKING TOGETHER
Boulder County incomes overall are higher than the national average, yet this is not a reality across the board. Anglos earn significantly more here, but Latinos do not. Learn more about the strengths and opportunities of the local economy in our new TRENDS Report.

¿Sabía qué?
El nivel de ingresos en el Condado de Boulder es mayor que el promedio nacional; sin embargo, esto no aplica en la totalidad de los casos. Los anglos ganan considerablemente más aquí, pero no así los latinos. Infórmese más acerca de las fortalezas y oportunidades de la economía local en nuestro nuevo Informe TRENDS.

Read TRENDS or watch our TRENDS webinar

On Our Blog: Community Influencers, Leaders, Givers & News

Radio Show: How to engage the community on environmental issues

Mental Illness & Boulder County's Criminal Justice System:
  Video of conversation with Sheriff Joe Pelle and District Attorney Stan Garnett
  Resources and Ideas
  Related: Boulder County Public Health: improving mental health

Community Partner Spotlight: Oreg Foundation

Tax Reform Update: The charitable deduction: still alive, and well!
  Contributed by Jane Caddell Paddison, Attorney and Community Foundation Trustee

Leadership Fellows Spotlight: Elicia Goodsoldier

Donor Spotlight: Steve Jacobson

Understanding Community Foundations: What's the role of a community foundation?

Opportunities:
  Office space for lease
  Job Announcement: Vice President of Philanthropic Services

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

News & Perspectives From The Field

Why Millennials Are More Charitable Than the Rest of You (Jan. 25, The Street)

Trump Effect: Six Ways Philanthropy Has Changed in the Past Year (Jan. 23, Inside
Philanthropy)

Why most nonprofit boards resemble whiteboards and how to fix that (Jan. 10, The Conversation)

Ahead of final state address, Hickenlooper reflects on public-private partnerships (Jan. 10, Denver Business Journal)

Ramp up your tax savings in 2018 with this strategy (Jan. 7, USA Today)

Philanthropy Forecast, 2018: Trends and Issues To Watch (Jan. 7, Inside Philanthropy)

Online Giving Trends (Jan. 1, The Chronicle of Philanthropy)

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.

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