FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gretchen Minekime,
The Community Foundation 303-442-0436 x107
gretchen@commfound.org

Community Stars Shine in Boulder County
The Community Foundation honors local heroes and non-profit organizations that are the backbone of Boulder County at their Quinceañera celebrating fifteen years of service to the county.

BOULDER (September 1, 2006) – The Community Foundation’s annual luncheon—Community Stars—is on September 7, 2006 from 11:30am-1:30pm at the historic Boulder Theater. Adopting the theme of a Quinceañera, the Foundation will honor its fifteen years of service to Boulder County.

To mark its fifteen years, The Community Foundation invited a group of fifteen 15-year-olds to grant $15,000 to local youth-serving non-profit organizations. The “15 For Ever” Grants Committee weighed in with their own views about what the community’s needs are, they added valuable perspectives to the foundation’s grantmaking, and they made site visits to nonprofits from the mountains to the plains. This insightful group of teens will present grants to the following organizations at Community Stars: Colie’s Closet, Medicine Horse Program, Project YES, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence, Teens, Inc., Women’s Health, OASOS, and Blue Sky Bridge.

Other local non-profit organizations will be awarded a NOVA Award at the event for their outstanding and innovative work within their field. Each award consists of a beautiful John Haertling plaque and a $1,000 grant. The winners in the categories of Health & Human Services, Environment, Arts, Civic Engagement, and Education will be kept secret, as is the NOVA Awards’ tradition, until the luncheon. The annual NOVA Award winners are chosen by a committee of community members who review nominations every summer.

Also being honored, for their years of committed volunteer service in Boulder County, are Bob Charles, Stan Black Award winner, and Jane Carlson, Pat on the Back Award winner. Bios of both Bob and Jane follow. Both will receive $1,000 to donate to the non-profit organization of their choice.

“Community Stars is like the Academy Awards of the Boulder County nonprofit community,” said Josie Heath, President of The Community Foundation, “It's where we recognize the real heroes of our community, the organizations and the volunteers who make this a better place for all of us.”

In keeping with the day’s festivities of celebrating milestones, The Community Foundation is hosting a short reception for its Legacy Society Members at 2:00pm in the Foundation’s courtyard at 1123 Spruce Street, Boulder. The names of the Legacy Society Members have been etched in the courtyard stones to honor their thoughtful gifts to Boulder County.

The Community Foundation exists to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to encourage an ethic of philanthropy. It works with local donors and has assisted
350-plus nonprofits over the years. Since 1992, the foundation has granted over $19 million locally and elsewhere.

Robert (“Bob”) F. Charles, Jr. –
Stan Black Award Recipient 2006

Those are just a few of the words that Bob Charles’s numerous fans and supporters use to describe his pleasant personality and the many significant contributions he has made to multiple causes in the Boulder and Denver Metro areas.

Despite a demanding business life – Bob owned and operated up to 13 McDonald’s – he has always been involved in multiple community activities.

Some of his most impressive accomplishments include being the founder or co-founder of the Ronald McDonald House of Denver, the Boulder Memorial Hospital Foundation, the Boulder Economic Council, and most recently, the Imagine! Foundation. At Imagine!, he has helped raised $800,000 in the past three years to help meet the needs of families with young children with disabilities and adults with disabilities.

“We have seen that Bob’s commitment comes from an underlying belief – really a passion – that one’s responsibility is to try and make one’s community a better place,” writes Bob’s nominator, Susan LaHoda, who has worked with him at Imagine!. “He sees a need and finds a way to answer it.”

He has also served on numerous boards, including the Boulder Chamber of Commerce; Boulder Community Hospital Foundation; the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools (now Impact on Education); the YMCA; and various advisory boards for the University of Colorado, including the Leeds School of Business, the College of Music and the School of Education.

Clearly, his nonprofit resume is impressive. However, perhaps even more impressive is that those who have served with him on these boards say repeatedly that Bob takes on not only the time commitment of board service, but involves himself thoroughly. In fact, they say, he is always one of the most active and best-informed board members in each organization.

For example, Bob has been involved with the Ronald McDonald House since it was founded in 1979. He was a founder of the project then, and when a new Ronald McDonald House was opened in Denver, Bob was again one of the first to give and get involved. His colleagues there report that even the excited new board members have a tough time matching his energy.

“He has a personal style that is immediately engaging,” writes LaHoda. “He is self-effacing and humble, has a marvelous sense of humor, displays earnestness about projects that he is involved with, and exudes approachability.”

Writes another supporter, Clair Beckmann: “He is a philanthropist in the true sense of the word… time, money and heart are freely given because he loves people and loves the community.”

Bob, of course, is more modest about his impressive contributions.

“Anything you can do to help someone maximize their potential you’ve got to do,” he says. “When you do things, you do them because it’s the right thing to do.”

PREVIOUS STAN BLACK AWARD WINNERS
1998 Jackson Fuller
1999 Dr. Oakleigh Thorne
2000 Dr. Bob McFarland and Laurence Paddock
2001 LaVern Johnson
2002 Beverly Sears
2003 Gerald Lee
2004 Ruth Wright
2005 Doris Hass
The Pat on the Back Award is named to honor Pat Shoemaker and to recognize other individuals who have given extraordinary, but often unsung volunteer time in caring for the community. A “pink lady” volunteer for the Boulder Community Hospital for 28 years, Pat also produced monthly original craft displays for the hospital. Pat was the Boulder Community Hospital Outstanding Volunteer of the Year in 1983 and was honored as the Colorado Auxilian of the year in 1984. She was a homemaker and the mother of two daughters, Linda Shoemaker of Boulder and Judy Miller of Tucson, Arizona.

Jane Carlson—2006 Recipient

In 1980, Jane Carlson, a single mother of five, was working as an English teacher at Boulder High School when a colleague mentioned a volunteer opportunity with HospiceCare of Boulder and Broomfield Counties. She was intrigued, and after learning more information about the organization, Jane began volunteering.

This year, Jane will observe her 26th year of volunteer service in a variety of capacities with Hospice and, as nominator Darla Schueth says, “We couldn’t be more grateful.”

In the early years, Hospice was a fledging organization, without the benefit of nursing assistants. Jane’s first role was in patient care, where she did the unglamorous but essential tasks that needed doing, such as bathing, shampooing and dressing patients, and helping them eat and walk. She supported their caregivers by performing housekeeping tasks, running errands or offering respite and compassion. Without her volunteering these services at that time, Hospice couldn’t have provided them.

“I’ve always been interested in stepping out into the community,” says Jane of her volunteer efforts. “I should step and do something for humanity, even if in a small way.”

As she worked with Hospice’s terminally ill patients, she learned about the powerful grief families experience following a death. Eventually, she shifted her volunteer work from patient care and, after completing Hospice’s bereavement training program, Jane began helping bereft spouses navigate the complex and painful grieving process.

With her exposure to teens through her teaching job and her experience with her own children, Jane next wanted to extend her expertise in grief counseling to a younger group. So, Jane switched her volunteer focus to the organization’s children’s grief and loss support group.

“With her help,” Darla Schueth writes of Jane, “we’ve been able to give comfort to hundreds of children and their families when they need it most.”

In time, and after touching hundreds of people’s lives, Jane felt ready for another change. Her new job is with the Community Development department, writing acknowledgements for memorial donations. In this role, which she does still, Jane works about four hours a week, notifying families when contributions are made in their loved one’s names, as well as thanking the donors themselves for their gifts.

Here’s what her nominator for this award wants you to know about her: “In all of her positions, she has impressed patients, their family members and our staff with her genuine compassion, wisdom, kindheartedness and thoughtfulness. Her boundless generosity and energy have been an inspiration to all who have worked beside her and a blessing to all who have benefited from those efforts. In all ways, Jane has personified the spirit of volunteering: service to others above self.”

PAST “PAT ON THE BACK” AWARD WINNERS
2000 Elaine Meyers
2001 Ann Rose
2002 John Goodenbour
2003 Carol Carminati
2004 Ester Quintana-Matheson
2005 Marilyn Tiedke