

Round Up

December 2020



Gratitude and resilience / Tribute to Nino Gallo / Staff changes and openings / Race conversations / Fresh grants

Plus, our grantees, our donors and the TRENDS we're watching now

Hello and welcome to this month's Round Up from Community Foundation Boulder County. In this edition:

Our board chair and CEO offer thanks to the community for an extraordinary year;

We pay tribute to a community service pioneer taken from us much too soon by COVID;

We announce two new staff positions;

We invite applications to a new series of conversations about race in Boulder;

Millennium Trust and BRAVO Fund distribute grants to support the Arts and Latino serving organizations.

Tune in to **KGNU 88.5 FM** at 8:30 this morning to hear our very own Jim Williams interview our District Attorney about local instances of elder abuse and what we can do to prevent them. And keep reading to catch up on all the news and stories you may have missed this month from your Community Foundation.

Light on the Horizon

By Sue Anderson, Board Chair
and Tatiana Hernandez, CEO

As we come to the close of such a challenging (and really long!) year, gratitude is at the top of our minds. While we are mindful that we have lost far too many people, seen others fall ill and there are serious economic losses across the county, our community has stepped up and leaned in. You have answered the call to help your neighbors and for that we are grateful. It is our privilege to be your trusted philanthropic partner.



It has been a year of change and one of re-evaluation. At the Community Foundation, we started the year in search of a new leader not knowing that person would take on the role in the midst of a pandemic. Six months into the transition, we can share that despite the challenges of this year, our foundation is strong.

The pandemic continues to test our resilience and resolve to ensure Boulder County is a place where all can thrive. This year reminded us of what and who is truly essential. It reminded us that home is a privilege and that nothing should be taken for granted. It exacerbated inequities that have long been with us and that will need even more attention to resolve.

The death of George Floyd sparked a resurgence of national protests and conversations around race. Even further moments of police brutality in response to community protests have laid bare the institutional and cultural barriers to equity. Many are examining their own privilege with fresh eyes, a hopeful baby step to creating change and responding to the challenge of centuries of history.

Then, as if in response to the emotional fires raging in our country, actual fires ignited across our area and other states, highlighting drought, high temperatures, and the consequences of a changing climate. Again, our communities experienced the privilege of having resources to fight the fires and get people safely out of the way. We are deeply

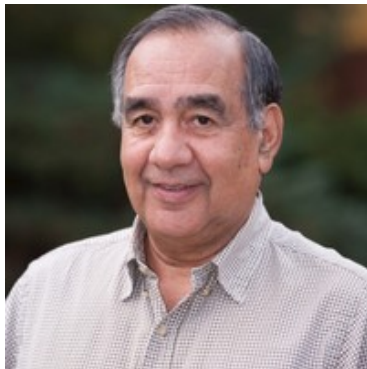
grateful to the nearly 1,500 of you who stepped up and donated to the 2020 Fires Relief Fund.

Community foundations are built to move resources where they are needed when they are needed. This is true all the time but more visible in moments of crisis. It is our responsibility to understand our community and take action where we can make the most difference. Of course, we don't do this alone. Our partners – donors, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and the corporate sector – make this work possible.

This year, we made more than 2,600 grants totaling more than \$10.8 million, as our community faced these challenges together. In the midst of it all, we quietly passed a major milestone. Thanks to your support, we have now distributed over \$100 million over the course of our history.

While we close 2020 with a light on the horizon, the pandemic is far from over. We will eventually emerge from our homes to find a new set of challenges and continue the work of economic, social, civic, and environmental recovery. And, as was demonstrated this year, we will lean in with deepened resolve and resilience and work towards a more equitable Boulder County.

Thank you for your partnership, your leadership, and your financial support. We could not do this without you.



Celebrating the life of a community service pioneer

By Guillermo Estrada-Rivera
Boulder County Community Action Programs

Boulder County has lost a gentle giant who inspired many as a champion and social innovator for Latino families.

Nino Gallo succumbed to COVID-19 on December 1.

Nino was involved with many people on a wide variety of projects inside and outside the Boulder County government. His work linked to education, economic development, civic participation, and a variety of areas of community impact. Nino began working in Boulder County in 1995 and was assigned to support the migrant farming communities at Casa de la Esperanza and Casa Vista.

In 2000, he held a new position in the Department of Community Services to support the Latino community, and, for the last several years, he created and directed the Personal Investment Enterprise program in the Division of Community Action Programs. Nino was a pioneer on many fronts in community service programming and won awards over the years for his innovative work. Nino, who never turned down additional duties, stepped in to help this year with the 2020 Census by providing critical outreach support to our county's Latino community.

The social sector mourns the loss of not only a co-worker, collaborator, and mentor but also a member of our extended family. This loss feels particularly heavy to those who knew and loved Nino as a close relative. We know the sadness of his departure will remain for a long time, but his legacy as the original Boulder County Cultural Broker will be remembered for much longer.

The family will organize a memorial event in the coming months. In the meantime, if you would like to express your condolences to Nino's family, you can send letters to the following location, where they will be forwarded to the family: Nino Gallo, Sundquist Bldg., 3482 Broadway, Boulder, CO, 80304.



Community Foundation restructures staffing, announces new positions

Do you want to join a team of passionate people dedicated to building a more equitable Boulder County?

Community Foundation Boulder County seeks a **Communications Officer** and a **Grants Administrator** (Grants Administrator job description coming soon). The new positions were created as part of a staff restructuring to increase capacity in key areas and to better serve the needs of the community.

The changes include the following new titles for these staff members (pictured above, left to right):

Chris Barge is now Vice President of Communications and Engagement;

Peggy Driscoll is now Philanthropic Services Officer;

Brooke Kahl is now Philanthropic Services Associate;

Caroline Landry is now Philanthropic Services Officer;

Sarah Mikkelsen is now Programs Associate; and

Lisa Moreno is now Vice President of Programs.

After 18 years of dedicated service to the foundation, Gretchen Minekime's last day was Nov. 30. Gretchen led the foundation's marketing and communications efforts, which included the original Culture of Giving campaign all the way to the design of our website, a major re-branding, our annual appeal, and many, many successful Friends Parties and other public events. We wish her happiness and success in her future endeavors.

Are you ready to talk about race in Boulder?

We in Boulder remain in the throes of two pandemics: COVID-19 and our own reckoning with race relations. The Boulder Police confrontation last year with Zayd Atkinson (pictured here) sparked a local conversation about police bias that still reverberates as we grapple with the police killings of George Floyd and others across the country.



As we wait for our turn to receive the first shots of the new vaccine, we invite you to participate in a community conversation about the racial divide in our local community.

We will begin with four cohorts of approximately 10 participants each who will meet, virtually and biweekly over dinner, four times between January and March 2021. Participants will receive gift cards redeemable for a meal to be delivered to their home ahead of each meeting.

Join us as we break bread, share stories, and engage in honest and difficult conversations about race and how we can help change inequities in our personal lives and on a policy level. Anyone aged 18 or over is welcome to apply. We especially invite people of color to do so.

To express interest in joining a facilitated conversation, [please complete this form](#).

Grants support the Arts and Latinos

Arts and Latino-focused organizations were the focus of recent grants from the



Community Foundation's Millennium Trust and BRAVO funds.

Arts and Culture organizations that had received grants from the foundation's Community Trust fund earlier this fall were awarded unsolicited, additional grants of \$1,650 each from the Millennium Trust. The foundation sent these grants to **22 organizations** in recognition of the extraordinary impact of COVID-19 on their bottom lines. Landlocked Films was one of the recipients. The company is producing an upcoming documentary film, "This Is (Not) Who We Are," in collaboration with Blackat Productions. It explores the gap between Boulder's progressive self-image and the more complex lived experiences -

both historical and contemporary - of its Black citizens (two of whom are pictured here, from the Boulder Carnegie Library archives).

The OUR Center in Longmont and Sister Carmen Community Center in Lafayette received grants of \$1,933 each in general operating support for Latino basic needs. The awards from the BRAVO Fund (Building Resiliency through Active Voices and Opportunity) were made as a bonus to two 2020 Community Trust grantees that have a proven track record of effectively addressing the needs of Latino residents in Boulder County.

In Case You Missed It

Here are some of this month's headlines from the Community Foundation's blog and our partners at KGNU Community Radio:

Spotlight: [Wild Plum Center and YMCA of Northern Colorado](#) provide childcare in a pandemic

Spotlight: [El Centro Amistad](#) serves Latinos through a new basic needs fund

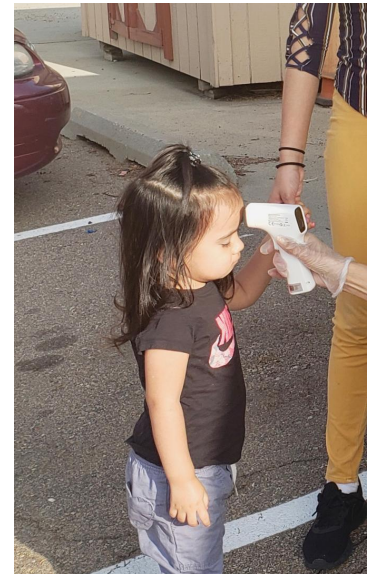
Spotlight: [Margaret's Hope Fund](#) keeps family focused on mental health

TRENDS Podcast: [Cal-Wood's E.D.](#) on the recent wildfire

TRENDS Diary: [Direct Aid Program Benefits LGBTQ Community, Union Leader Fights for Health and Wellbeing of Campus Workers](#)

Radio Show: [Key Takeaways from the 2020 Ecosystems Trends Report](#)

Thank you: [Community Foundation donors step up on Colorado Gives Day](#)



Don't miss another headline. [Subscribe to the foundation's blog.](#)

Make a Gift You Can See. If you haven't given to Community Foundation Boulder County yet this year, there's still time. Donate today, and make a gift with an impact you can see in our community.

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