

Round Up

January 2021

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

Our CEO offers a reflection on our commitment to racial equity;

We give thanks to our donors, grantees, and volunteers as we review an extraordinarily generous year;

We announce a new mental health program from our Fires Relief Fund;

We invite participants to a two-day interactive environmental film event;

Pledge 1% Colorado celebrates 5 companies generating \$750K for philanthropy.

We welcome applicants to apply to become our next Grants Administrator.

If you expect a state income tax refund this year, you can [give some or all of it](#) to the charity of your choice. Keep reading to catch up on all the news and stories you may have missed this month from your Community Foundation.



We do this together

Each of us can work to pursue racial equity

Dear friends and neighbors,

We ended 2020 with resilience and resolve, understanding that while, yes, there is a light at the end of our pandemic tunnel, there is also much to do to heal and rebuild. The inequalities in our society have been exacerbated, racial injustices magnified, and our ability to tangibly connect to one another practically eliminated. And yet, our community continues to show up. Our community continues to lean in. Our community is committed to being there for each other. It is humbling to witness, and our hearts are filled with gratitude for you.

The insurrection that occurred on January 6 was heartbreaking and terrifying. But, not surprising. Our nation's history is riddled with examples of white supremacist terror filling our streets. Our communities of color are all too familiar with its image and exhausted by its relentlessness. Now is the time to confront our history and our present and identify ways that each of us either actively or passively uphold or actively dismantle white supremacy.

Thank you to everyone who has committed to deepening their inner work on racial equity by joining us for a Conversation on Race. There will be more opportunities to engage in the coming months. We will continue to identify and undo ways that our funding practices and behaviors build barriers to entry. It is our job to open doors.

Your community foundation made a formal commitment to equity in 2018 though that commitment was evident from our onset. We believe our community is stronger when all people - women and men, children, older adults, immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ individuals, those with varying abilities and from all faiths - are respected, welcomed, and invited to share their assets and contributions in community building. As always, we encourage you to take local action and invite you to join us in our ongoing leadership work that includes grant-making, outreach, and advocacy.

We do this together.

Warmly,
Tatiana Hernandez, CEO

*"And yes, we are far from polished
far from pristine
but that doesn't mean we are
striving to form a union that is perfect
We are striving to forge a union with purpose*

*To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters, and conditions of man
And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us
but what stands before us"*

- Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate

Year in review: Community responds with generosity to COVID, wildfires, Census, and more

You saw the needs in 2020, and you and your neighbors stepped up to meet them. We at Community Foundation Boulder County want to express our deep thanks to our grantees, donors, and everyone who did what they could to make a difference.

Your efforts added up. At the Community Foundation, we processed record numbers of gifts and grants last year, adding nearly \$18 million to a variety of endowed and non-endowed funds and distributing more than \$10 million to nonprofit organizations.

Here's a recap of 2020 by the numbers*:

- **We received more than 4,600 gifts** - more than twice the average number received during the previous four years.
- **We distributed nearly 3,000 grants** - a 50% increase over the same time period.
- We received assistance and guidance from **160 volunteers** who helped us distribute grants during this historic year, almost double the volunteers in 2019.
- **Our COVID-19 Response Fund received \$1.9 million from almost 900 contributors.** To date, we have distributed nearly \$1.1 million of that in grants to fantastic local nonprofits such as Bridge House. A Bridge House "Ready to Work" program trainee is pictured above. The balance of the funding will continue to be granted thoughtfully and strategically as we wade through this pandemic together. Our community is still in crisis. **Consider supporting the COVID-19 Response Fund today.**
- **Our 2020 Fires Relief Fund raised almost \$900K from more than 1,700 donors.** **Grants totaling more than \$400K** have been awarded for direct assistance, mental health vouchers, and nonprofit organizations and fire protection districts impacted by the Cal-Wood and Lefthand Canyon Fires. The remaining funds will be invested in land restoration and wildfire mitigation and preparedness.
- **Our 2020 Census Fund raised \$130K** and was paired with an additional \$120K from additional funders. The grants funded 12 agencies across Boulder County to hire 21 cultural brokers who encouraged residents from historically hard-to-count populations to complete the Census.
- We supported small business relief efforts. **We issued 185 grants to Boulder County small businesses, totaling nearly \$450K**, in partnership with the Boulder Chamber and with major support from the City of Boulder and others. The Lyons Community Foundation, our affiliate, also issued 74 grants totaling more than \$40K to small businesses in their town.
- Along the way, we passed a significant milestone: **Your Community Foundation has now granted more than \$100 million since its inception in 1991.**



Thank you for helping us respond to the crises of 2020 and for joining with us in building a more equitable Boulder County.

* Numbers are preliminary



Photo by Matthew Jonas, Boulder Daily Camera

New program offers mental health services for those impacted by Boulder County wildfires

By Rachel Skytta, KDVR

A new program in Boulder County will offer mental health services for individuals and families seeking crisis support following the two wildfires that burned nearly 11,000 acres last fall.

Boulder County Community Services, Community Foundation Boulder County, and Jewish Family Service are launching the Wildfire Mental Health Program (WMHP) to assist those impacted by the Cal-Wood and Lefthand Canyon wildfires. The fires forced thousands of Boulder County residents to evacuate and destroyed dozens of homes.

The program offers up to \$500 toward five individual therapy sessions or up to \$875 toward five family therapy sessions and provides more than 70 licensed providers to choose from.

Lisa Moreno, Vice President of Programs for Community Foundation Boulder County, says the WMHP provides long-term support for those affected by fires.

“We know that these things can impact people at different lengths of time after a disaster or there are just different stresses that become additive and stacking,” Moreno said. [Read more and view the TV version of this story](#)

[Providers can register for the program here.](#)

[Those seeking services can register here.](#)

You're invited! Plastics in Boulder County and a move to a more circular economy

Join us for this two-part event, February 9 and 10

The Community Foundation's Environmental Affinity Group invites you to a virtual event focused on practical strategies to minimize plastics in Boulder County and how we can move together toward a more circular economy.

First, you will have the opportunity to watch *The Story of Plastic* at home. Then, on Tuesday, February 9 from 5 - 6 PM, we invite you to participate in a conversation about the film with Executive Producer Michael O'Heaney. The following afternoon, Wednesday, February 10, we will host two panel sessions to explore the challenges and opportunities for local solutions, including advocacy, philanthropy, and individual action.

You will find more details about each segment of the event below. [Please register here](#) to attend any or all portions of one or both days.





Five companies generate \$750K for philanthropy through Pledge 1% Colorado

It's been 13 years since Pledge 1% Colorado - originally EFCO - was started to make it simple for startups to give back to their communities. In those 13 years, our network has created more than \$11M in philanthropic funds, something we're beyond proud to officially shout from the hills. More than 300 companies up and down the front range have made generosity a core tenet of their culture, helping shape the way our communities respond to their most pressing needs.

Today, we celebrate the tenacity of our Colorado startup community after a tumultuous year. We're pleased to share that 5 of our member companies were acquired during 2020, totaling more than \$750,000 in philanthropic capital created during a year where we witnessed outsized need across every town and city in our state. Many of these "seeds" were planted years ago, with these businesses setting aside 1% of their equity (shares of stock), and we couldn't be prouder to watch these companies double down on being outstanding corporate citizens.

Please join us in celebrating the success of [Altvia](#), [Brandfolder](#), [Dizzion](#), [Halp](#), and [Yonomi](#), and check out our website to learn more about [Pledge 1% Colorado](#).



Community Foundation seeks Grants Administrator

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

Community Foundation Boulder County seeks a [Grants Administrator](#) who sees philanthropy as a vehicle for community engagement and empowerment. The new hire will report to the CFO & COO and will take responsibility for managing all grants authorized by the foundation.

In Case You Missed It

Here are some of this month's headlines from the Community Foundation's blog, our partners at KGNU Community Radio, and other local news outlets.

Donor Spotlight: [New parents Sarah and Erik Cumming donate stimulus check to COVID-19 relief](#)

Spotlight: [Marta Loachamin becomes county's first Latina commissioner](#)

TRENDS Diary: [Longmont brewery works to make industry more inclusive](#)

"A Public Affair" on KGNU: [Organizers tackle Boulder County's affordable housing crisis](#)

Colorado Sun: [How three families that lost their homes in Colorado's record-breaking 2020 wildfires are coping](#)

Free Press: [TRENDS Reporting Fellowship explores community, power, and the future of journalism](#)

Westword: [Foundation Wars: Struggling Nonprofits Beg Foundations to Cut the Red Tape](#)

Daily Camera: [Boulder CEOs discuss disparities in way COVID-19 impacted different industries](#)

[Click here](#) for additional local news coverage of your Community Foundation. Don't miss another headline. [Subscribe to the foundation's blog](#).

Make a Gift You Can See. Donate today to Community Foundation Boulder County, and make a gift with an impact you can see in our community.

commfound.org

