The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY

For Immediate Release

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Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund Grant Process Begins October 27th
First Grants to be Distributed before Thanksgiving

Boulder County (October 26, 2010) – Nearly two hundred applications for assistance from the Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund have been received (deadline was Monday, October 25th), and tomorrow the Advisory Committee to the fund will begin reviewing applications from individuals, families, and affected community organizations. The vast majority of applications received came from individuals and families. Their identities will remain confidential throughout the review process.

The fund was established the week of September 6th, when the Fourmile Canyon fire began, and its first grants to individuals, families, and non-profit organizations will happen before Thanksgiving.

"The Advisory Committee's task will be challenging," said Rich Lopez, Chair of the Advisory Committee. "At tomorrow's first meeting we will review our draft scoring system to see if it works or needs adjusting. Regardless of the scoring we will take the time to discuss each application on its merits. Numerical scores are only part of the task. We want to feel comfortable about making a grant and the amount we recommend. There may need to be some follow up work prior to a final recommendation, if some critical information is missing or questions need to be answered. We understand the importance of the work we have ahead."

The Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund provides support for individuals, families, fire departments, and community organizations severely impacted by the fire. To date, the Fund has approximately $690,000 available to grant. The Fund's Governance Committee recently approved that at least 1/3 of the fund will support affected fire districts, at least 1/3 will support individuals, families, and non-profit organizations, and 1/3 will be reserved until all the applications are reviewed and a deeper understanding of the needs is known.

Proposals for assistance from affected fire departments are still being developed and will be reviewed at a later date, but an initial commitment of $100,000 for affected fire departments was announced at the Fourmile Canyon Revival concert on October 9th. The concert was produced by AEG Live and KBCO and is responsible for raising $355,000 for the Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund—approximately half of the fund.

Grants from the Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund will provide support in the following categories:

- Individuals and families who have incurred significant damage to or loss of personal property from the fire that will not be reimbursed by insurance or otherwise.

- Fire departments directly impacted by the fire, to rebuild or replenish their resources depleted by the fire.
- Loss of income by individuals or families that is directly related to the fire, including loss of income by firefighters resulting from their efforts in fighting the fire.
- Community organizations and services that were directly impacted by the fire and that are in need of funds (not available from other sources) to rebuild or replenish their resources.

Members of the Advisory Committee are residents of the fire area or are members of the fire departments in the affected areas. They will review all applications and make recommendation for funding to The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. No member of the Advisory Committee will be eligible for Boulder Mountain Fire Relief funds, and all members have signed both conflict of interest and confidentiality statements.

Josie Heath, President of The Community Foundation, said, "We've been very moved by our conversations with people applying for assistance. Yesterday I was particularly touched when someone told me that it's not easy to reach out for help and how moved he's been by the care and concern from folks in Boulder and beyond."

How to Donate to the Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund:

To donate online, visit http://www.commfound.org , click "Donate Now," and be sure to designate your gift to the "Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund."

Or write a check to "Boulder Mountain Fire Relief Fund" and mail it to: The Community Foundation, 1123 Spruce St., Boulder, CO 80302.

For more information, or to make a gift involving a stock or wire transfer, please call us at 303-442-0436.

Purpose of The Community Foundation

The Community Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving. The Foundation is the place where giving is informed and inspired to have the greatest impact on the vision of a better Boulder County. To learn more or make a gift, please visit www.commfound.org or call 303-442-0436.

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