The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Surpassing 2009 fundraising goals and support from The James S. and John L. Knight Foundation support long-term work for Boulder County

Boulder (January 13, 2010) – **In one of the toughest years to raise a dollar, The Community Foundation exceeded its 2009 fundraising goal of $5 million, raising $5.6 million and granting $4.5 million to non-profit organizations in Boulder County and beyond.**

The campaign to raise $4 million in four years for the Foundation's unrestricted grant making fund, The Community Trust, is also making good progress having raised $858,000 in 2009—approximately $45,000 more than in 2008. The Community Trust Initiative's early success is allowing The Community Foundation to not only increase grant-making, but also start working on preventing one of Boulder County's thorniest problems: the educational achievement gap. Two key goals for The Community Foundation this year are to raise awareness about the achievement gap in our schools and to explore ways to sustainably fund preschool for at-risk kids.

A grant from The James S. and John L. Knight Foundation will fund an awareness campaign about the significant state and consequences of Boulder County's achievement gap and what the community can do to change the situation. The grant is part of the Knight Community Information Challenge, a five-year, $24 million contest helping 24 community and place-based foundations find creative ways to use new media and technology to keep residents informed and engaged.

The Community Foundation was also awarded a three-year grant from the James S. and John L. Knight Foundation to expand and enhance the Boulder County Civic Forum in serving as a catalyst for greater civic engagement in Boulder County. The grant is the largest in the Civic Forum's history, a program that has been tracking community indicators in Boulder County since 1995.

"We are thrilled by Knight's support," says Josie Heath, President of The Community Foundation. "The new Information Challenge grant and Knight's continued support of the Civic Forum allow The Community Foundation to inform our grant-making, identify strategic opportunities for community investment, and bring that knowledge to the broader community for their input and participation."

The Civic Forum program began 15 years ago as an inclusive effort to promote healthy decision-making through sustaining the environmental quality, livability and economic vibrancy of the Boulder County region. Since that time, the Civic Forum has biennially published TRENDS, an overview of 50 community indicators outlining the quality of life in the community that is used by businesses, policy makers, nonprofits, and residents of Boulder County. The newest TRENDS was released in October of 2009 and is available online at The Community Foundation's website, www.commfound.org. Highlights of the TRENDS report include Boulder County's growing achievement gap among students, the impact of the recession on Boulder County families, and the community's high rate of volunteerism but lower rates of giving.

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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