The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY

Contact: Chris Barge
Chris@commfound.org
303-442-0436 x110

**For Immediate Release**
**September 8, 2011**

# Community Foundation raises $3 million in 3 years for The Community Trust

Donors across Boulder County have helped The Community Foundation raise $3 million in 3 years for an endowment that supports local needs.

The Community Foundation announced an ambitious initiative on Sept. 8, 2008, to increase The Community Trust endowment by $4 million in 4 years. Today, on the third anniversary of the initiative, the Foundation announced that it remains on-time and on-target.

More important than the dollars raised is the impact those dollars have already had on local needs. The funds have been used to raise awareness for the achievement gap and to campaign for last year's Ballot Issue 3A, which successfully brought an additional $22.5 million annually to the Boulder Valley Schools. Of that, $5 million will be spent each year to increase preschool and full-day Kindergarten slots at low-income schools.

The funds have also put The Community Trust endowment on a path to permanently double its annual grants to Boulder County nonprofits. The Community Trust is the Foundation's most responsive fund, granting annually to local nonprofits that are working to improve the quality of life in Boulder County.

"This is a remarkable testament to the generosity of our community, and to the power of working collectively on tough issues," said Bryan Biesterfeld, Chair of The Community Foundation's Board of Trustees. "We are grateful to everyone who has helped move our community forward, especially during these tough economic times. More people than ever are in need of support locally, as our latest TRENDS Report shows."

The Community Foundation's newest biennial TRENDS Report on the social and economic health of Boulder County was released last week. It showed that Boulder County's poverty rate has risen to the national average of 14%.

The $3 million raised for The Community Trust Initiative has come from more than 1,600 individual gifts. They include the gift just yesterday of a fund that was established 10 years ago as a local philanthropic response to the attacks of September 11, 2001. The Sargent-Bickham 9/11 Fund was an endowed component fund of The Community Foundation that made grants annually to local nonprofits. Its

founders decided to donate it The Community Trust to mark the 10th anniversary of the attacks, as well as two other anniversaries: The Community Foundation's 20th birthday, and the 3rd anniversary of The Community Trust Initiative.

Other noteworthy donors to The Community Trust include the Boulder VFW Post, The Jeff Sands Blue Skies Memorial Fund, The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, current and former Community Foundation Trustees, and their families.

For more information on The Community Trust Initiative, visit www.commfound.org, call 303-442-0436 or email Chris Barge, at Chris@commfound.org. To donate, please make a check out to The Community Trust and mail it to The Community Foundation, 1123 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO, 80302.

**Purpose of The Community Foundation**

Now in its 20th year, The Community Foundation has granted more than $43 million to nonprofits in Boulder County and beyond. Our mission is to improve the quality of life in Boulder County, now and forever, and to build a culture of giving. We are committed to intimately understanding needs and connecting to the nonprofits that address those needs. Together, Boulder County residents and The Community Foundation can make a meaningful impact on our fellow residents' quality of life today and in the future. To learn more, please visit www.commfound.org or call 303-442-0436.