COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
BOULDER COUNTY
INSPIRING IDEAS. IGNITING ACTION.™

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Community Foundation Celebrates 25 Years as Community Catalyst

Milestone anniversary highlights leadership and stories of impact that shape and strengthen Boulder County

Boulder (October 12, 2016) – Celebrating a quarter-century of catalyzing community to improve the quality of life for everyone who calls Boulder County home, The Community Foundation Boulder County kicks off an eight-week campaign to highlight the role and impact of the foundation, its grantees, and its donors and partners. We invite our media friends and citizen journalists to join the campaign by sharing on the foundation's social channels their own related stories, experiences and reflections with the hashtag #CommunityCatalyst.

"As a community catalyst, we respond to immediate needs and anticipate future challenges," says Josie Heath, President, who announced in July her retirement at year's end. "Through informed decision-making, we inspire ideas, ignite action and mobilize resources to improve our quality of life countywide. And as a collaborator and a convener, we promote inclusivity and provide leadership on key issues, working with community-minded individuals and organizations that want to make a difference."

Indeed, since its founding in 1991, The Community Foundation has granted $67.6M to nonprofits representing a broad range of funding areas – including health and human services, basic needs, children and youth, education, civic engagement, arts and culture, and animals and the environment – and established an endowment of more than $52.3M. The foundation's refreshed and updated website – commfound.org – features stories of impact, as well as detailed information about grant cycles, ways to give, and how to work with the foundation to make smart decisions about meaningful philanthropy.

"Guided by our biennial TRENDS Report [now, for the first time, available online], we invest in things that matter. We respond to fires and floods. We build permanent endowments, like the Community Trust, Millennium Trust, Arts Trust, Open Door Fund, BRAVO Fund and Veterans Fund," continued Heath. "Additionally, Leadership Fellows Boulder County – a joint program of The Community Foundation and the Boulder Chamber – brings together emerging leaders and experts across sectors to build networks and advance a culture of inclusivity countywide. And contributions from members of Pledge 1% Colorado (formerly the Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado) have returned hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community."

Adds Board Chair David Brantz, "We believe that we accomplish more together than we do alone. Alongside community-minded donors and partners who want to make a difference, The Community Foundation is committed to continuing to be a catalyst for good in the next quarter-century, ensuring fair and equal opportunities for all."

Specifically, The Community Foundation catalyzes communities by following emerging trends to inform our grantmaking and leadership initiatives; partnering with individuals, diverse nonprofits and others who are passionate about making local communities stronger; and responding to our communities most urgent needs – when and where it matters most.

Boulder County community leaders and residents share their thoughts on The Community Foundation's role as community catalyst, convener and collaborator over the last quarter-century:

Making informed decisions:
"When tackling our most pressing issues – like early childhood school readiness – we need to drive both community engagement through funding and volunteer support. Josie recognized the power of the indicators [TRENDS Report] to inspire this type of community action." *~John Tayer, President I CEO, Boulder Chamber*

Accomplishing more together than we do alone:
"The Community Foundation is a great resource for my clients – not only educating them on community needs, but also offering charitable giving vehicles, such as Donor-Advised Funds, that provide an easy way for clients and their families to get involved in giving." *~Shelly Merritt, S.D. Merritt & Associates, PC*

Being responsive:
"The Community Foundation takes the lead and makes tangible connections to needs. They make community real. That's the difference, and we're so grateful." *~Kristy Anderson, grant recipient after the 2013 flood*

Inspiring ideas and igniting action:
"The Community Foundation provides the kind of nurturing that's needed to launch and grow new ideas – in this case, paving the way for Colorado companies to take the lead, nationally and internationally, in demonstrating how to marry for-profit business objectives with support for local nonprofits." *~Seth Levine, EFCO Founding Board Member (EFCO is now Pledge 1% Colorado) Managing Director, Foundry Group*

Stay tuned for upcoming #CommunityCatalyst communications and activities in the weeks ahead via our blog and social channels. And be sure to tune in to our monthly radio show – a partnership with KGNU Community Radio – to stay informed about issues and opportunities in Boulder County.

The Community Foundation welcomes the crucial role of the media to share stories of change and transformation across Boulder County. To arrange an interview with Josie Heath – or to interview members of our board, donors, grantees or partners – contact Gretchen Minekime at 303.442.0436 x107, Gretchen@commfound.org. More information and media photos are available in our Media Center: commfound.org/news-media

The Community Foundation Boulder County

For 25 years, The Community Foundation Boulder County has been a community catalyst, responding to immediate needs and anticipating future challenges. Through informed decisionmaking, we inspire ideas, ignite action and mobilize resources to improve the quality of life for all. Advancing inclusivity and providing leadership and on key issues, the foundation collaborates with community-minded individuals and organizations that want to make a difference, accomplishing more together than we do alone. Since its founding in 1991, the foundation has granted $67.6M to nonprofits focused on health and human services, basic needs, children and youth, education, civic engagement, arts and culture, and animals and the environment. *commfound.org/news-media*