The Community Foundation
BOULDER COUNTY

Media Release

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The Community Foundation's Open Door Fund grants $50K

Local nonprofits funded to enhance the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning people in Boulder County

Boulder (July 18, 2016) – The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County today announced $50K in Open Door Fund grants to 13 nonprofits serving Boulder County's LGBTQ community.

"Boulder County is increasingly diverse," says Elvira Ramos, Programs Director, The Community Foundation. "According to our most recent TRENDS Report, 75% of Boulder County residents are open to gay and lesbian people. We're thrilled to see more and more nonprofits becoming open and inclusive, and thinking outside the box, when it comes to providing culturally competent services to our diverse communities."

From seniors to youth, Boulder County's LGBTQ community faces persistent challenges. For example, LGBTQ older adults are less likely than straight elders to have children to look after them as they age – and they're more likely to live alone.

Challenges also persist among LGBTQ youth. According to TRENDS, LGBTQ high schoolers report higher rates of dating violence, including sexual assault, than their straight peers. As well, LGBTQ youth are bullied to a much greater degree (30%) than straight teens (17%); and are significantly more likely to contemplate and attempt suicide.

In response, The Community Foundation's Open Door Fund aims to support the strengths and needs of LGBTQ residents countywide. "The fund fosters collaboration and dialogue between our LGBTQ population and the broader community," explains Ramos. "And it's a resource for local organizations serving the LGBTQ community."

This year's Open Door Fund grantees include:

- **Aging Services Foundation / Rainbow Elders**
  LGBT programs of the Boulder County Area Agency on Aging: Project Visibility trainings and Rainbow Elders outreach.
- **Attention, Inc.**
  LGBTQ, runaway and homeless youth program.
- **Boulder County AIDS Project**
  Atlas program to support HIV awareness through outreach, education and testing.
- **Boulder County Public Health OASOS**
  Support services for LGBTQ youth.

- **Boulder Pride dba Out Boulder**
  Main Street Longmont to expand presence and services in Longmont.
- **Boulder Shelter for the Homeless**
  Winter sheltering and transition program.
- **Boulder Valley Women's Health Center**
  LGBTQ inclusive subsidized programs.
- **Bridge House**
  Provide a safe space for the Boulder County LGTBQ homeless community.
- **PFLAG Boulder County**
  Provide support, education and advocacy for families and friends of the LGTBQ community.
- **PFLAG BOULDER COUNTY/TYES (Transg-Youth Education & Support)**
  Empower and support families and caregivers of gender nonconforming youth.
- **Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley**
  Inclusive outreach program.
- **Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence**
  Hear Our Voices: LGBTQ Survivors of Violence Art and Outreach Project.
- **The Women's Wilderness Institute**
  Queer nature program.

The Open Door Fund is a permanent endowment of The Community Foundation, supporting the Boulder County community by raising money and distributing grants for programs that enhance the lives of its gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning people. Since the fund's founding in 1996, grants totaling more than $400K have been distributed to local agencies and programs serving Boulder County's LGBTQ community; an endowment of more than $900K has been established to for future needs. To support the Open Door Fund, visit *https://commfound.givecorps.com/projects/2216-around-boulder-county-open-door-fund*. For the Boulder County TRENDS Report – including a closer look at countywide demographic shifts, and trends among both youth and older residents – visit *commfound.org/trendsmagazine*.

About The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County:
For 25 years, The Community Foundation has been a community catalyst, responding to immediate needs and anticipating future challenges. Through informed decision-making, 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 more than $68.9 million to nonprofits focused on animals and the environment, arts and culture, basic needs, children and youth, civic engagement, education, and health and human services. *commfound.org/news.*

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