Why Choose the Western Colorado Community Foundation?

**Commitment to western Colorado** – we are a regional, placed-based organization whose board and staff all live in the community.

**Maximum tax benefits** – we are a 501(c)(3) public charity offering full charitable tax deductions as allowed by the IRS.

**Complex gifts** – we can accept a wide range of assets, from cash and stock to real estate, royalty interests and business holdings.

**Administrative ease** – we take care of all legal, tax and accounting reporting so you don’t have to.

**Low fees** – our administrative fees are less expensive than establishing a private foundation.

**Community expertise** – we conduct research and share our knowledge of community needs and nonprofit organizations with our donors to help them maximize their philanthropic impact.

**Community of donors** – you are part of a larger circle of donors who can learn from each other and work together to make a difference.

**Charitable legacy** – your donation will be well-managed and used for the purposes you intend, invested over the long-term and benefiting the community for generations.
The Western Colorado Community Foundation (WCCF) is a nonprofit public foundation established by local community leaders in 1996. We work with community-minded donors who share a connection with western Colorado and want to make a difference where they live.

WCCF serves a seven county region that includes Mesa, Garfield, Eagle, Delta, Montrose, Ouray and Rio Blanco Counties.

We currently manage over 250 charitable funds totaling $55 million in assets and award over $2 million in grants and scholarships annually.

Community Foundations are

- Tax-exempt, public charities dedicated to improving communities.
- A collection of many funds established by separate donors to carry out their charitable interests within a defined geographic area.
- Primarily endowed funds – invested to grow over the long-term, with the earnings available annually for charitable purposes.
- Experts on the needs and opportunities in our communities, providing grants, scholarships and other resources to the counties served.
- Community leaders, identifying problems and bringing together donors, nonprofits and other resources to help communities grow and thrive.

Legacy is a word to describe something you leave behind when you are gone. Your children, your professional work and accomplishments, and gifts to your community are all part of the legacy you might leave.

Many people establish legacy funds at our Community Foundation while they are alive; others make provisions for an end-of-life gift as part of their will or estate plans.

Most legacy gifts are permanent endowments. Assets are invested to grow over time and earnings are available for charitable purposes. Unlike other charitable donations that might be “used up” as a one-time gift, endowment and legacy gifts provide ongoing funding for something you care about for years to come. In this way, our donors leave legacy gifts to support their favorite causes or help future generations.

Thinking about your charitable legacy

As you think about your own charitable legacy, here are some questions you might want to consider:

Are there family members (your parents, your spouse or another loved one) you would like to honor and memorialize by setting up a legacy fund in their name to support something near and dear to their hearts?

Is there a group where you are a member (e.g., your church, a service club) or an organization which you would like to support by setting up an endowment to continue providing annual contributions of financial support in your name?

What community organizations or causes have you been involved with – as a client, volunteer, donor or board member – that mattered the most to you? Why is this organization or cause important to you? Would you want to support it in an ongoing way?

Our nephew died young, in his twenties...

He always loved hunting and fishing and hiking. He loved western Colorado. We wanted to do something that would allow other young people to enjoy the outdoors and to preserve the forests and wilderness for future generations. Every year we make a donation from our fund in his memory.

“ My mother was the most gentle and caring person I ever knew... She always helped out at the soup kitchen and took food to the sick and elderly unable to leave their homes. We set up a fund in mom’s name to provide food, clothing and shelter to those in need in our community.”

CONNECTING PEOPLE WHO CARE WITH CAUSES THAT MATTER
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