



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

Partnerships to Promote Local Philanthropy Across our Region

Our regional Community Foundation has over half a dozen relationships with other groups promoting local philanthropy in our seven county region.

Partnership affiliations with established community foundations include **2 Rivers Community Foundation** (Glenwood Springs), **Rifle Community Foundation, Our Community Foundation** serving Eagle County and the **Lake Fork Community Foundation** (Lake City).

WCCF also manages four geographic funds: the new **Ouray County Community Fund** (see related article), the **Mt. Callahan Community Fund** serving Parachute and Battlement Mesa, the **Cedaredge Community Fund**, and the **Mesa County Small Grants Fund**.

Spotlight: Mt. Callahan Community Fund



Ouray County community leaders are launching the Ouray County Community Fund to provide a permanent source of grant funds for local nonprofits. Pictured above are the founding steering committee members: Mick Graff, Sue Hillhouse, Francie Tisdell, Kevin Chismire and Bob Risch. Not in photo: Hazel Price.

Ouray County Community Fund Established

*New geographic fund to provide
small grants to Ridgway and Ouray
nonprofits*

Our regional Community Foundation distributes small grants across our seven counties every November, working with our local board members to identify needs and invest small amounts of funding where it can have the most impact. This year, a group of WCCF donors and friends in Ouray County established their own endowment fund to encourage additional donations and expand the amount of funding provided in Ouray County. The new Ouray County Community Fund (OCCF) will be distributing \$15,000 in small grants this year, up from \$5,000 in 2016. Sue Hillhouse has been involved with the small grants process for almost five years. "We always get way more



Raising a Reader is one of many programs the Mt. Callahan Community Fund has supported over the years.

The Mt. Callahan Community Fund serving Parachute and Battlement Mesa is our oldest geographic fund. Established in 2003 with a leadership gift from Unocal, a group of local leaders has built the endowment to over \$100,000. A local steering committee reviews grant requests each year. To date, **over \$80,000 has been awarded to Parachute and Battlement Mesa nonprofits.** Grants include equipment for the Grand Valley Senior Center, operating support of the local KSUN radio station, and expanded programs offered by Lift Up and YouthZone to the Parachute community. In January our Executive Director was interviewed by Mary Lee Mohrlang on KSUN Community Radio's *Community Connections* program. She thanked the community for their twelve plus years of giving back to the community they live in and call home.



**Board Member
Spotlight
Katie Mackley
Rifle, CO**

grant requests than we have funds to use. Last year we had \$54,000 in requests and we only had \$5,000 to distribute. We hope our community will see the benefit of this kind of community-wide funding vehicle and get involved to support these great programs."

Notes OCCF founder and WCCF board member, Mick Graff: "we don't have a general purpose funding entity like a United Way in our community. People support their favorite organizations - and there are lots of them doing good work. We wanted to set up a structure that will be here well into the future supporting many different organizations that make our communities great."

The Ouray County Community Fund endowment is currently \$70,000. The local steering committee hopes to raise a total of \$100,000 by the end of the year. Donations from community-minded citizens who like the idea of a local source of grant funding for area nonprofits are encouraged to contribute. For more information, contact Mick Graff or Sue Hillhouse, or call the WCCF office, 970-243-3767.



Ouray County grants distributed in 2015 included funding for Ouray Mountain Rescue Team to help purchase a new rescue vehicle.

Regional Strategy: Partnerships Make us Stronger

The Western Colorado Community Foundation serves seven counties here in western Colorado. One of our strategies to provide highly localized service across a large and diverse geographic territory is to develop and build geographic funds and affiliations with other community foundations.



Katie is a native of the Rifle area. She and her husband, Ryan, own a digital marketing company, Align Multimedia, and are raising three school-age children. Katie has served on the Rifle Community Foundation board for many years, including five years as chairperson from 2010 to 2015. That local community foundation awards between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in grants each year to improve the Rifle area.

Elected to our regional Community Foundation's board in 2015, Katie serves on our marketing committee and helps develop our regional affiliation strategy. She is also involved in our child hunger project, working with the Rifle School District, Lift Up and Live Well Garfield County to start a mobile meals program in Rifle on Fridays during the school year and now during the summer months.



The Western Colorado Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations by the Council on Foundations.

Our organization provides excellent investment stewardship for managing long-term assets entrusted to us by our donors, specialized software and sophisticated accounting and back office support, and a deep experience working with donors on legacy gifts that will live on and help our communities for generations to come. Local community foundations and steering committees like the one featured above bring familiarity of their own communities and an understanding of current needs to the annual process of distributing grants.

We are building more strong and vibrant partnerships with local community groups to better serve all the communities in our seven county service area.

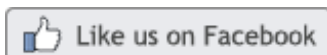
Reflections from the Executive Director

"By the people, for the people..." These words from our country's founding principles for me capture the essence of what a community foundation is about: encouraging local philanthropy by providing a vehicle for many different people in one community to pool resources and give back to meet needs in their home community. Our donors have a wide variety of options to consider when they make a gift to our Community Foundation. A geographic fund like the one featured above is built up by many people, making donations over many years and planning for end-of-life gifts in their wills or estate plans, to benefit the community they live in and call home.

Those charitable endowments are managed to grow over time and provide annual funding for nonprofits and community projects designed to improve those communities. Doing good, here for good.

- Anne Wenzel

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