



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

Alleviating Child Hunger in our Region

Feeding Hungry Kids... One Neighborhood at a Time

View a brief presentation of
the Lunch Lizard Summer
Meal Program below.



**WCCF thanks our
generous donors for
making the Lunch Lizard
a great success!**

A special thanks to:

Bruce Dixson Fund

**Dave and Mary Wood
Fund**



The Lunch Lizard Celebrates a Successful Pilot Summer!



The Western Colorado Community Foundation partnered with Mesa County Valley School District 51's Nutrition Services to develop its first community leadership project, addressing food insecurity and child hunger in Mesa County this summer.

District 51 Nutrition Services had previously provided summer meals at five schools in low income areas and were down to two sites this summer due to lost grant funding. This left some communities with free and reduced lunch rates of up to 80% with no summer meal options.

The pilot program brought hot lunches to five different sites, from Orchard Mesa to Grand Junction, from June 1 - July 16. Youth ages 0-18 enjoyed a nutritious meal from the food truck. **WCCF is ecstatic to report that the Lunch Lizard provided over 4,000 meals in its first summer!**

The Lunch Lizard would not have been possible without District 51 Nutrition Services Director Dan Sharp as an entrepreneurial partner who mobilized staff and resources to implement a sustainable model for our community. The food, kitchen prep and two staff for the truck were covered through the USDA Summer Food Service Program which reimbursed the District for hot, nutritious meals made at Chipeta Elementary and delivered to low income areas. The food truck will be

Hunger Alliance of Mesa County featured through Colorado Nonprofit Association

Last year, various food providers in Mesa County, from food pantries to soup kitchens to meal delivery programs, came together to talk about hunger needs and gaps in services in the Grand Valley. This group of about 40 organizations and agencies has come to be known as the Hunger Alliance of Mesa County and is meeting on a quarterly basis. WCCF is proud to be a part of a community where collaboration among organizations is the norm.

For more information on the Hunger Alliance and hunger in Mesa County, please see [Anne Wenzel's article](#) in the Colorado Nonprofit Association's newsletter.

Listening Tour coming to Garfield County August 31

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) will host a listening tour in Glenwood Springs, along with 8 other counties this August. If you would like to participate and raise the profile of hunger in your community, please consider attending the event.

For more information and to RSVP, please click the following to learn more about the [CDHS Hunger Listening Tour](#).

utilized during the school year to bring hot meals to alternative schools that do not have kitchens, including R-5, The Opportunity Center and Valley School West.

School principals helped identify where kids spend their time in the summer and recruited volunteers, or "neighborhood liaisons", at each site to help spread the word about the Lunch Lizard within their community. Mesa County AmeriCorps volunteers were integral to the pilot, ensuring that day-to-day delivery of food went smoothly. Community organizations including [Kids Aid](#), [Marillac Clinic](#) and Mesa County also supported the pilot - **Kids Aid disbursed 780 bags of food through the Lunch Lizard!**

Partnering with the [Western Slope Food Bank of the Rockies](#), an integrated flyer and map were created to better inform the community of where children could access free meals this summer.

Various WCCF donors provided the grant funding to purchase, retrofit and wrap the truck to be welcoming and kid friendly. WCCF also thanks [Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation](#) and [Share our Strength/Arby's Foundation](#) for their generous support of the Lunch Lizard project.

The need is clear, community support has been tremendous and WCCF is looking to expand sites in Mesa County with a second route next summer. We are also guiding and supporting other counties we work in who are asking for assistance to launch similar programs.

Donor support, partners and grant funding are all welcome to help us expand and bring meals to youth next summer!



Save the Date!
Hunger Free Colorado's

**A Special Thank You to
our Community Partners**



Many components went into launching the Lunch Lizard and we would like to extend a special thank you to community volunteers from AmeriCorps and Kids Aid in making sure kids received adequate nutrition this summer. In Colorado, 1 in 7 people struggle with having enough food to meet their basic needs. Studies show that when children receive nutritious meals, they are more ready to start school off on the right foot and better able to engage in the classroom. We know that once students fall behind in school, it is exceedingly difficult for them to catch up to their peers.



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



September 29, 2015

One in seven Coloradans are not always sure when or where they will get their next meal. [Hunger Free Colorado](#) strives to diminish such statistics and is one of the state's leaders working to make sure that every Coloradan has access to the food they need to thrive.

The Summit will be held in Denver and include nonprofit organizations, educators, faith community leaders, government representatives, foundation and corporate leadership, and community members for a full day of cross-sector learning.

Register before August 31 for the best rates at <http://www.hungerfreecolorado.org/summit/>



**HEALTHIER
COLORADO**

**August
Listening Tour**

Healthier Colorado is holding various town hall meetings throughout Colorado to learn how to make communities stronger and healthier. To learn more, please visit

[Healthier CO's listening tour.](#)