Our Regional Board Approves Community Grants for 2015

At a meeting in Glenwood Springs on November 3, the WCCF board approved over $40,000 in small grants to benefit the communities we serve in our seven-county region.

Blythe Chapman of River Bridge Regional Center received one of six grants recommended by our affiliate in Glenwood Springs, the 2 Rivers Community Foundation. The Center provides child advocacy services for the prevention, assessment, treatment and investigation of child abuse.

Other grants approved for Glenwood Springs include: One Moment Fund, the Aaron Roberts-Gray Memorial Scholarship; Glenwood Springs High School's coStudio; Junior Achievement; Feed My Sheep; Windwalkers; Mountain Madrigal Singers; and the Glenwood Springs Center for the Arts.

In Rifle, the Rifle Community Foundation recommended a grant of $5,000 to Vet Trans, an organization that provides transportation to Garfield County veterans seeking a way to get to their VA and other medical appointments.

In Eagle County, a $5,000 grant to InteGreat! will allow this coalition of youth-serving organizations to expand their summer feeding programs for 2016.

In Delta County, over $15,000 was awarded to nine nonprofits, including Delta-Montrose Partners providing mentor programs for at-risk youth and to KVNF Community Radio in Paonia for general support for their locally

Montrose Center for Hope Opens

HopeWest's Robinson Center Acknowledges Major Donors

Two of Dave and Mary Wood's children tour the new Dave and Mary Wood Clinical Team Room at Montrose HopeWest named in honor of their parents.

The Week of October 5th marked a happy occasion... the dedication and grand opening of HopeWest's new Center for Hope in Montrose. Two of Dave and Mary Wood's children were on hand to celebrate and be recognized for their $100,000 donor-advised fund contribution to the project. Long-time community leader and Rocky Mountain Health Plans board member Curt Robinson for whom the building is named addressed the large group of supporters regarding the importance of hospice and palliative care services in our communities.

Anne Wenzel reminded the group that HopeWest's tag line is "we're there for you." While neither Mary or Dave Wood of Ouray, CO needed hospice services themselves, they had a lot of friends who received care and support from this organization and wanted to help the Montrose programs expand.
In **Ouray County**, WCCF is awarding grants to six organizations including Ouray Colorado Mountain Rescue; Ridgway Chautauqua Society; Ouray County Historical Society; the Axel project, Top of the Pines and the Ouray School District. WCCF is pleased to work in partnership with the Massard Trust again this year.

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**Spotlight on Cedaredge**

Local Community Raises $3,300 in Matching Funds, Over $7,000 in Grants Awarded

When our board allocated $2,000 for small community grants to be awarded in Cedaredge, one of our Cedaredge donor-advisors matched that amount with their own $2,000 and challenged the community to raise an additional $2,000.

The community responded generously and raised $3,300. Nonprofit organizations were invited to submit information regarding their mission and what they needed funding for.

Our board approved a total of $7,300 in grants to Cedaredge nonprofits. WCCF has also made an additional $6,000 in grants from donor-directed funds to Cedaredge this year.

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A check for $2,000 from the David Moore Fund is presented to the Cedaredge High School Drum Majors to support the local marching band’s trip to Washington DC.

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**Community Grants in Mesa County Target Youth with Environmental Engagement and Prevention Programs**

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Bruce Dixson Fund Awards $50,000 in Grants for Basic Human Needs in Montrose and Delta County

The Bruce Dixson Fund, a field-of-interest fund managed by our Community Foundation, awarded grants for $25,000 each to two organizations proving basic human needs in Montrose and Delta County. **Sharing Ministries Food Bank in Montrose** received $25,000 to help meet a DOLA grant match for their capital campaign to build a new facility. **Abraham Connection**, a new shelter for the homeless in Delta, is set to open in a month, providing expanded services to this community.

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Anne Wenzel presents a $25,000 check to Sharing Ministries Food Bank President Tom Vogenthaler.

Abraham Connection built a new shelter for homeless individuals and families in Delta.

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**Ouray School Back in Show Business**

Grant funding to enhance lighting and sound for concerts and theater productions
Two community grants approved for Mesa County aim to engage our youth through programs that introduce them to our area's natural resources and engage them in adrenaline-filled activities to keep them away from drugs.

A $4,500 grant to Colorado Canyons Association will support the Scavenger Hunt Program that introduces 3rd through 5th graders to national conservation areas through fun activities emphasizing stewardship and conservation.

A $2,500 grant to Neural Activity supports a new and innovative program to teach teens the developmental effects and legal consequences of drug and alcohol use. Funding will help expand this program to middle schools where a kids-teach-kids approach will help students make better choices.

Donations of any size to our Western Colorado Community Fund are greatly appreciated and allow us to respond to pressing and unmet needs in the seven counties we serve. Make checks payable to WCCF and mail to P.O. Box 4334, Grand Junction, CO 81502, or make an on-line donation via our website, wc-cf.org. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generous support!

Long-time Ouray residents Dave and Mary Wood loved music and were well known for being generous patrons to the arts. A grant from the Dave and Mary Wood Fund, an endowed donor-advised fund managed by our regional Community Foundation now provides enhanced opportunities for music and theater students at the Ouray School. Notes Alyssa Preston, Artistic Director for Ouray School, "this grant gives our students the opportunity to learn a craft on state-of-the-art equipment for performances. Because of the training students will receive on this new equipment, their futures will have a multitude of possibilities."

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Thank you for your generous support!

Reflections from the Executive Director

When my son was in 4th grade, his teacher organized a bring-your-parent-to-class-and-let's-learn-about-careers day. My son thought it was really cool that his mother raised money and gave out Big Checks to organizations that helped people. He begged me to bring my prop to school. He beamed that day and was very happy to show me off. His peers were much more interested in the father who ran a local construction company and had brought a huge backhoe for them to sit in.
While gimmicky, those erasable Big Checks are a mainstay for us charitable foundations. They are a simple and visual reminder about the power of charitable giving. And, while common, believe me - when I show up with a Big Check made payable to a nonprofit organization for $10,000, adult men and women who serve on boards of directors, volunteer or work as paid staff for a nonprofit are VERY happy to see me and eager to jump in the photo opp.

Our Big Check gets a lot of use September through November, our grantmaking season. We take a lot of photos with donors and recipients alike sporting big smiles. The grant check is what brings us all together - the people giving back to wonderful organizations working to help others in need. It is not the Big Check or the real check but what these rectangular slips of paper or bulky foam core represent: people who care supporting causes that matter.

A big thank you to our generous donors who make the distribution of Big Checks across Western Colorado happen.

- Anne Wenzel