



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

# WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

## Community Foundation partners with Mesa County School District 51 to tackle summer feeding



*WCCF staff met with the District 51 School Board on April 21 to answer questions about the new mobile summer feeding program and to deliver a check for the purchase of a used food truck.*

To view the KREX coverage of the School Board meeting and presentation of the grant check, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Daily Sentinel runs extensive 4-part series on District 51 school lunch program

District 51 has come a long way in the past five years to comply with new USDA nutritional guidelines and turn a revenue-losing operation into a solid business. Under the management of Nutrition Services Director Dan Sharp, the District has transitioned

## Community Foundation Grants \$50,000 to District 51 Nutrition Services

*Pilot Mobile Summer Feeding Program  
to Launch in June*

Our Community Foundation is pleased to make a \$50,000 grant to District 51 for the purchase of a food truck in support of a new mobile summer feeding program to be piloted in June.

42% of Mesa County District 51 children qualify for free and reduced lunch, with some schools as high as 80%. These same children are likely to be hungry in the summer months. Historically, some school children receive meals during summer literacy and enrichment programs. Budget cuts have steadily eroded summer offerings, and this coming summer there will only be two schools open for programs in June.

Federal funding through the USDA Summer Food Service Program will reimburse the District for hot nutritious meals made in a school kitchen and delivered to four low-income neighborhoods.

Notes Dan Sharp, Director of Nutrition Services, "We are turning the traditional summer feeding model on its head. Our school buildings are just not open in the summer. Group feeding sites are limited. We are going to take hot nutritious food to the children who need it most where they live... to the neighborhoods they live

from processed foods (think chicken nuggets and tater tots) to more healthy made-from-scratch meals.

The series covers federal guidelines, new menus, student tastes, and future plans. For links to those articles, [CLICK HERE](#).

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## A New Face at our Community Foundation

We welcome Jody Valente to our staff team as a new Program Associate. Jody just completed her Masters degree and worked for four years for the Oregon Community Foundation before relocating to Grand Junction with her husband, Dr. David Scott, and their young son.

One of Jody's job duties is coordinating our new child hunger initiative (see related story to right). Jody also helps on research and evaluation projects for our donors who want to learn more about projects and programs to support.



Contact Jody at [jvalente@wc-cf.org](mailto:jvalente@wc-cf.org)

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Interested in hunger in Colorado? Sign up here for Hunger Free Colorado's monthly e-newsletter filled with information and updates on a variety of statewide initiatives.

in and the parks they play in. The meals are fully funded through a federal nutrition program for all children 18 and under. We just need the delivery vehicle to make this program work. We are so pleased to work in partnership with the Community Foundation to make this program happen."

Plans are underway now to finalize a route, determine menus, and design an attractive "wrap" for the used food truck recently purchased in Denver.



*Staff of District 51 Nutrition Services with the new used summer food truck that will be visiting several neighborhoods and parks in June 2015 with free meals for children 18 years old and younger.*

The \$50,000 grant is made possible from the **Bruce Dixson Fund for Basic Needs** and contributions from half a dozen other donor-directed funds. Bruce Dixson was a founder and long-time supporter of our Community Foundation. An entrepreneur and inventor, Mr. Dixson was quick to support nonprofit organizations to meet new needs or try innovative ways to expand programs. This mobile summer food program is very much in keeping with Mr. Dixson's legacy.

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## Introducing New Child Hunger Project

Our Community Foundation is pleased to receive a generous grant from an anonymous source to support of our first community leadership project - addressing child hunger in Western Colorado. We will be looking at issues



related to child hunger and how it impacts both children themselves and the community at large.

Lack of adequate nutrition stunts physical growth and cognitive development. Research shows that children who do not receive enough healthy food get sick more often, are tired and unable to pay attention. When children come to school hungry, they are not able to focus on learning.

We will be working with direct service providers to identify gaps in service, as well as organizing community awareness and education events.

[Click Here](#) to sign up for updates on our child hunger work.



**The Western Colorado Community Foundation is certified in compliance with national standards of U.S. Community Foundations as determined by the national Council on Foundations.**

[Visit our Website](#)

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## Reflections from the Executive Director

Many people know us for our role as Manager and Stewards of charitable legacy gifts and Funder of nonprofit grants and scholarships. Community Foundations are also called to identify unmet needs in the community and leverage their resources and assets, bringing people together to work on finding solutions to community problems. Our Community Foundation is very pleased to be stepping into this kind of community leadership work with our new child hunger project.

Our mission is to improve the community we live in and call home. We bring many assets to our work, above and beyond traditional grant funding. We are a trusted partner to many nonprofits and government entities working on issues in the community. We can gather information and data, and then provide forums for people to learn about issues and discuss solutions. We identify new models in other communities and bring those ideas here for consideration. (The mobile summer food program is one such idea.) We can forge partnerships between organizations that may not yet work together. We can involve dozens of

our donors - people who care and who want to make a difference - in funding new initiatives. And we can educate the whole community about issues and how to get involved.

Join us in supporting this new leadership work to address child hunger in our western Colorado communities!

-- Anne Wenzel

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