



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

# WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

## Igniting a Passion Richard W. Pippenger Scholarship Supports Continuing Education for Firefighters



Long-time Grand Valley resident Dick Pippenger is wrapping up a 50+ year career in fire safety that includes working for five different federal agencies, a stint as Fire Chief and Marshal at Yellowstone National Park and most recently serving as the fire marshal at the Lower Valley Fire Protection District. In addition, Dick has many decades of experience with the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) which presented him with a distinguished leadership award last year.



*These Delta High School seniors are part of a group of 49 students receiving awards from 15 different scholarships WCCF manages in partnership with the Delta County School District.*

**Our Community Foundation  
commits over \$662,000 in  
scholarship awards for 2016  
90 students from our seven county  
region will receive financial support  
over the next four years**

The 2016 scholarship season has been a very busy time for our scholarship team. We manage 34 different scholarship funds that benefit students across our region, including six new ones established by donors last year. Our Community Foundation is pleased to report that we have committed \$662,125 in scholarship funds, to be paid over four years, to 90 students to pursue their educational goals.

Starting in 2015, all scholarships managed by WCCF are available through one on-line, common application. This year we had a record 114 students apply and an additional 80 students apply through the Clough Fellowship

Dick's new scholarship is available for active members of a recognized fire department who are working towards a BS or AS degree in Fire Science or Public Administration/Public Safety on-line.

Notes Dick, "Once you've seen families who have lost a loved one in a fire, you start to really care about fire prevention. I want to help the next generation of firefighters get more education and management in this field I care so much about."

**For more information about WCCF's many scholarship funds, please visit [wc-cf.org/students](http://wc-cf.org/students)**

### Dave and Mary Wood Scholarships Awarded to Four Graduating Seniors



Ridgway High School graduate Isabella H. will be attending Colorado State University.

Four students from Ouray and Montrose counties received awards from the new **Dave and Mary Wood Scholarship Fund** to attend college this fall.

These scholarships are available to students graduating from schools

application process.

Outstanding student loan debt in the U.S. is currently \$1.2 trillion - second only to consumer mortgage debt. Through these scholarship funds, our generous donors are helping more and more students pursue their dreams and start their careers without crippling debt.

Congratulations to ALL our scholarship recipients and best of luck in your future endeavors.

## Lunch Lizard food trucks serve record numbers in first weeks of program

*Daily enrichment activities add fun and learning during lunch stops*



*Kids get a free lunch and books at Lunch Lizard summer meal stops along two routes in Clifton and Orchard Mesa.*

Summer mobile meal programs around our region have kicked off to a great response in the neighborhoods, parks and schools where kids are finding summer meals AND some fun and learning as well.

Our two Mesa County Lunch Lizard routes (12 stops) are seeing record numbers; 5,257 meals were served within the first three weeks of the program. Thanks to volunteers helping with enrichment activities, kids may pick out a free book, play games and do arts and crafts projects after eating their lunches.

where Citizens State Bank has a branch. Selection criteria for this scholarship include a 3.5 or better GPA and an active interest in music and the arts.

This scholarship was established by Dave and Mary Wood's children to honor their parents who actively supported education.

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### School District 51 R.E.A.C.H. Program Honors Students



*Madalyn is one of five R.E.A.C.H. students who navigated high school while homeless and beat the odds to graduate from high school.*

The R.E.A.C.H. (Resources, Education and Advocacy for Children who are Homeless) program supports 600 homeless students in District 51 schools. These students overcome tremendous challenges to stay in school and complete the requirements for graduation.

Recently, five graduating seniors from the R.E.A.C.H. program were honored for their achievements at the Western Slope Celebration of Excellence. They each received a laptop computer funded by a grant from our

Our Community Foundation is providing funding and technical assistance to other summer feeding initiatives. **Fruita Food for Kids** is serving at two locations on Fridays. A huge shout out to the **Fruita Rotary** and other volunteers who served 45 children on their first day last week. It is sure to get busy this Friday as the Fruita Fire Department brings out their waterworks to cool the kids down.

**Delta's Panther Power Bites** began serving meals on June 1st and runs Monday through Friday at the **Abraham Connection** homeless shelter. They will serve meals through August 19th.

**Rifle School District's** mobile meal program is expanding this summer to feed kids in low-income neighborhoods along a three-stop route over 4 weeks, starting June 27th.

In Eagle County, our \$10,000 grant will allow **InteGreat!** to expand beyond their school-based sites to offer mobile meals in low-income neighborhoods in Edwards and Avon.

The programs we support are as unique and diverse as the communities they serve. Our leadership work addressing child hunger through innovative summer meal programs caught the attention of national media recently with this story in The Atlantic's blog CITYLAB. To read story, click on link below.

**Where Travel is a Barrier, Food Trucks Roll in to Feed Kids.**

***Feeding hungry kids, one neighborhood at a time... all across Western Colorado.***

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## Reflections from the Executive Director

Graduation season was extra special this year for our family. We traveled to upstate New York to attend our First Born's graduation from college. For parents who are celebrating the graduation of a son or daughter from high school and managing all the feelings of pride

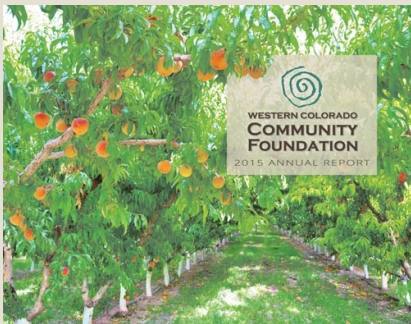
Community Foundation to help them start their college careers.

Prevention Coordinator Cathy Ebel notes "It's amazing to see these students succeed, despite what they've been through. It's so rewarding that with WCCF's help we were able to recognize how hard they've worked to graduate."

For more information on D51's R.E.A.C.H. program, [click here](#).

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**To read our recently released 2015 Annual Report, [click here](#).**



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

**Visit our Website**

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and joy that encompasses, just wait 'til you watch them graduate from college! High fives: they did it! Financial relief: no more tuition payments, no more college loans! To make matters even better, our daughter landed her first "real job" right before graduation - a job in her field, good pay and with company benefits. A college education is worth so much in terms of setting up a young person for success. College provides not just learning opportunities and training but exposure to a bigger world and many different kinds of people. A huge THANK YOU to our many scholarship donors who understand the value of a college education and are generously investing in the next generation, working in partnership with our Community Foundation to MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of our young people. Thank you!

*- Anne Wenzel*