



WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2013 Highlights

2013 was another fabulous year for our regional Community Foundation! Highlights and accomplishments include:

\$1.9 million in grants and scholarships awarded (a 25% increase over 2012)

\$8.8 million in new donations

24% growth in total assets (from \$35 million to \$44 million)

13 new donor funds established

Expanded office and new computer system gives us capacity and space to grow

Remembering a Community Builder

Bob Denning

1931 - 2013

Long-time local businessman, civic leader, talented musician and founder of our Community Foundation, Bob Denning passed away in late 2013 at the age of 82.

Bob's lifelong community-mindedness and interest in organized philanthropy was much influenced by his beloved sister. Barbara Denning Finberg worked for decades in organized philanthropy, the first woman in a senior executive position at Carnegie Corporation of New York. When Grand Junction community leaders came together in the mid 1990s to discuss the idea of launching a

community foundation here, with initial support and seed funding from the Boettcher Foundation, Bob was right there at the ground floor. He was part of the committee to write



Bob sold building materials for a living but an equally important part of his life was building charitable foundations... our Community Foundation and the Grand Junction Symphony Foundation.



**DID YOU KNOW...
that the single largest
donation made by an
individual in the U.S.
in 2013 in was made
to a community
foundation??**

Mark Zuckerberg,
founder of Facebook,
made a donation of 18
million shares of
Facebook stock valued
at more than \$990
million to the Silicon
Valley Community
Foundation in late
December 2013.

**You don't have to be a
billionaire to get
involved with our
Community
Foundation!**

Many of your friends and
neighbors are involved
and "giving back" to
their home communities
in western Colorado.
Learn more about local
philanthropy and legacy
funds by visiting our
website www.wc-cf.org.



Confirmed in compliance
with National Standards
for Community

articles of incorporation and served as the founding chairman of our Community Foundation's board of directors.

Long-time friend and fellow Rotarian, Pat Gormley remembers Bob's contributions to our Community Foundation in the early years. "He had excellent business acumen. He was always very positive and upbeat about the concept of the community foundation. His leadership gave us a great deal of credibility in our early years and helped forge important relationships, before people really understood what we were about. This made a huge difference in getting the Western Colorado Community Foundation launched."

Bob served on our board of directors for two terms and stayed involved as a member of our Community Grants Committee for many years. He was very committed to building up a pot of funds to be directed by local community leaders to support new projects and programs benefiting the community. He was thrilled to see our Community Foundation growing steadily, from virtually nothing in the early years to approaching \$45 million in total assets today.

Avalon Theater Renovation



Several years before he passed away, Bob Denning and his wife Kate established **The Denning Fund for the Avalon Renovation Project** at the Community Foundation. A violin and viola player for decades with the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra, Bob and his fellow musicians dreamed of a state-of-the-art venue and stage for orchestral music and other musical arts in Grand Junction. He was an early supporter of the Historic Avalon Theater renovation project,

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and was especially interested in the proposed expanded stage and acoustical enhancements that would make this venue fitting for the orchestra he so loved.

Bob made annual donations to the Denning Fund with instructions to distribute those funds as the project moved forward with Phase II.

The Avalon restoration project is nearing the completion of its Phase I. The community is invited to participate in the **Take Your Seat** campaign. For more information, [click here](#).

Reflections from the Executive Director

I started my job as Executive Director of the Western Colorado Community Foundation back in 2001 and am well into my 13th year. When I started, WCCF was about \$1 million in assets. I was the only employee and I was part-time. As we project to the end of 2014, we expect to be over \$50 million and six employees. When I moved to Grand Junction for this job, the only people I knew were the board members who founded WCCF. Bob and Kate Denning were amongst my first friends. They had me over to dinner several times and hosted a "let's welcome our new Executive Director" party in their home. Bob and I shared an affinity for things French and he always enjoyed home-made bouillabaisse and chocolate mousse at my annual Bastille Day party. A man who traveled a lot and had lived in many places, Bob loved Western Colorado and called this community home.

I am especially sad to process Bob's passing... both because of many years of personal and professional friendship but also because our Community Foundation is losing many of its founders and long-time donors - within the past several years Bruce Dixson, Dave Wood and now Bob Denning. This is the nature of things. The current generation of leaders and community builders pass on and make way for the next generation. Their time and efforts and generosity have made our Community Foundation what it is today. The beauty of our Community Foundation mission is that the spirit of people who care and want to make a difference continues on, even when they are gone. Bob Denning is gone from this life but will not be forgotten.

Anne Wenzel



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

Charitable funds for community good

Want to learn more about setting up a CHARITABLE LEGACY FUND to honor a loved one AND help our community? Please visit our website or contact us for more information.

www.wc-cf.org (970) 243-3767