



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

Kids Aid Gets a Permanent Home

The Kids Aid backpack program that provides weekend food supplies to hungry children has been growing steadily for years. The organization currently serves 2,200 children a week and has maxed out what it can do in its current donated warehouse. The program has been growing 7% annually.

The Kids Aid board has been looking to purchase their own warehouse where they can store more food items and provide more space for volunteers to prepare food supplies for delivery.

On May 24th, Kids Aid moved from its current location into its own warehouse at 2978 Gunnison Avenue.



Two of our Community Foundation donor funds and the Kids Aid Board have contributed \$100,000 as a matching challenge to the



Second Lunch Lizard Food Truck serving Clifton to Launch

Meal delivery starts May 31st

Last summer, School District 51 Nutrition Services piloted a new mobile food delivery program. Funding from our Community Foundation purchased a used food truck. The Lunch Lizard covered a 5-stop route in Orchard Mesa and Grand Junction, serving more than 4,000 meals over a seven week period.

Given last summer's huge success, we are moving ahead with a second truck and a Clifton route this summer. Generous donations came from Rocky Mountain Health Plans, the Grand Junction Lion's Club, Alpine Bank, WCCF donors and Share our Strength/Arby's Foundation. Fundraising efforts by the CMU Business Department and Independence Academy students raised additional funds for the new truck.

Lunch Lizard 2016 begins Tuesday, May 31st and will run nine weeks this summer. For information on the two routes and stops, [please click here.](#)

community. All donations made before June 30th will be matched dollar for dollar. Any size donation is appreciated.

As of May 25, \$80,000 has been raised towards the \$100,000 match.

Help Kids Aid meet the fundraising challenge and get your donation for the new warehouse matched!

Please mail checks payable to Kids Aid - PO Box 2569, Grand Junction, CO 81502. Note "for warehouse campaign" in memo line.



All donations up to \$20,000 made by June 30th will be matched dollar for dollar to fund the new Kids Aid warehouse.

[Watch the News Channel 5 story here.](#)

Meet Our Summer Intern Taylor Kidd



Interested in volunteering with the Lunch Lizard? Contact Jody Valente at jvalente@wc-cf.org or call 970.243.3767

For the latest Lunch Lizard news, schedules and updates: www.facebook.com/lunchlizard/

New summer mobile meal programs "spawned" across Western Colorado

Other mobile programs inspired by Lunch Lizard food truck

Our regional Community Foundation is providing technical assistance and seed funding to a handful of other mobile meal programs in other counties we serve.

The Fruita Rotary Club plans to launch a cold lunch food delivery program in Fruita neighborhoods this summer.

In Delta, Abraham Connection will be piloting a mobile summer food program at two sites.

Rifle School District started a Friday mobile lunch program last November. This program grew to serve 135 children on Fridays, and will expand to five days/week for four weeks this summer. Their mobile meal program will be cold lunches this summer, expanding to hot meals next year once they can purchase and retrofit their own food truck.

In Eagle County, we are partnering with the local community foundation and a coalition of youth-serving organizations to expand their school site program by adding a mobile delivery component for five weeks at the end of June and July.

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

Taylor grew up in Grand Junction. A graduate of Grand Junction High School Class of 2015, she is currently attending the University of South Dakota and studying political science and strategic communications. She is excited to be organizing volunteers for our Lunch Lizard routes this summer.

"I hope that the Lunch Lizard will positively impact the community and make a difference in people's lives."



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](#)

New Faces on our Board of Directors

At our Annual Board meeting on May 3rd, we recognized four board members who are term-limited and rotating off our board after six years of service. A big THANK YOU to **Ann Brach (Glade Park)**, **Aaron Clay (Delta)**, **Jim Grisier (Grand Junction)** and **Ken Stein (Glenwood Springs)** for their many contributions and deep commitment to this organization.

Our board welcomes four new board members. **Jim Brown** is a community leader and attorney in Delta. **Monique Serra** brings decades of experience in banking and investments and nonprofit board service. **Katie Steele** is very active in the environmental community. **Steve Vanderhoof** is a long-time donor-advisor from Glenwood Springs.



New WCCF board members from left: Monique Serra, Steve Vanderhoof, Katie Steele. Jim Brown not shown.

Reflections from the Executive Director

Just a year ago, our Community Foundation and program partners from D51 Nutrition Services, Kids Aid and Americorps were finalizing the route and distributing flyers for our Lunch Lizard mobile summer meal program. The pilot program was

successful beyond our imagination. The initial five week period was expanded to seven weeks. A very rainy June gave way to warm and sunny days in July. We ended up serving over 4,000 meals, an average of 160 children per day. As we prepare for the launch of Lunch Lizard 2.0, we add a second route to Clifton neighborhoods and expand the program to five days/ week for nine weeks. We project serving over 10,000 meals to hungry kids this summer.

It is dismaying to think about kids going hungry here in our community. I think that is why the community response has been so overwhelming... from our donors who generously support the purchase of used food trucks and grant funding for our child hunger program coordinator to the volunteers who raise their hands and sign up for a shift helping children at the food truck or provide interesting activities, everyone involved in this project is excited to get involved and make a difference. These projects - finding a permanent home for the Kids Aid weekend food program and the expansion of D51's summer mobile meals program - are making a difference and alleviating hunger for those most vulnerable in our community.

- Anne Wenzel
