



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

Remembering Two Long-time Friends



Harold Moss

Our Community Foundation is saddened to learn of the passing of two long-time donors and friends. Both men were judges in Mesa County and deeply committed to improving the community they lived in.

Harold Moss died in August at the age of 100. He and his wife Ruth were our very first donors, establishing the **Harold and Ruth Moss Charitable Fund** in 1997.

This endowment benefits their three favorite local organizations: the Western Colorado Boy Scouts (Harold was recognized with the special Silver Beaver Award), the Western Colorado Center for the Arts (which Ruth helped found), and their



Teachers attending a summer training on the Orton-Gillingham method for reading instruction for children with dyslexia.

Specialized Training This Summer

*30 teachers develop new skills to
work with dyslexic students*

Several years ago one of our donors expressed interest in what was being done in the schools for students with dyslexia. This reading disability is much more common than people know. Statistics show that as many as one in five students are affected by some degree of dyslexia. Many students are not diagnosed or do not receive adequate reading support and intervention. As a result, they may be behind grade level in reading or never learn to read effectively.

church of 50+ years, First Christian Church.



William (Bill) Ela

Retired Judge and long-time advocate for the Colorado Riverfront Trail, **Bill Ela** passed away in early September at the age of 93. Bill's wife of nearly 70 years, Shirley, was one of our founding board members back in 1996. The Ela family has been involved with many charitable foundations over the decades. The family set up their **Ela Family Fund** five years ago to involve their school-age grandchildren in philanthropy.

Both men were hard-working, well-respected community citizens and will be missed. Rest in Peace Judge Ela and Judge Moss.

**Waldeck Nursing
Scholarship Now in
Seventh Year**

Our program staff met with special education administrators at School District 51 and parent support groups to identify opportunities for addressing the needs of dyslexic students. The idea of bringing a national expert with a specialized teaching methodology to train our teachers this past summer emerged as an exciting new initiative.

Our donor has a child who benefited greatly from the Orton-Gillingham (OG) method and funded 80% of the cost of the week-long training held in July. This made the program more affordable for teachers who attended the training on their own time over summer break. Thirty spots were available and the program filled almost immediately. Notes our donor, "we were so pleased to be able to offer teacher training in the OG approach. This will have a big impact on the educational success of so many dyslexic kids."

Because of our donor's initiative and generosity, a small corps of teachers are now equipped to better help students with dyslexia and other reading disabilities in our classrooms. One participant's comments reflect the spirit of the whole group. "Because of your generous underwriting, I was able to afford and participate in this amazing training. I have acquired many new skills and will be able to help so many students when the school year begins."

This dyslexia training initiative is a compelling example of our mission **to connect people who care with causes that matter.**

Mobile Summer Meal Program a Huge Success

*Mesa County Lunch Lizard Triples
Numbers of Meals Served in 2016*



Nursing students celebrate their success through the generosity of the Waldeck Nursing Scholarship at the annual luncheon. Each year one nursing school candidate receives a full-ride scholarship to Colorado Mesa University.

Introducing our New Director of Development Kristin Lynch



Kristin Lynch joined our staff team in mid-August in a new position: Director of Development - Major and Planned Gifts. She will be working closely with current and prospective donors and our Legacy Society members to encourage legacy endowment gifts to benefit this community.

Kristin moved to the Grand Valley five years ago from the St. Louis area and has quickly become involved with



Students in Mesa County School District 51 and other counties in Western Colorado we serve headed back to school with adequate nutrition to start the new school year with a bang. Thanks to a strong partnership with D51 Nutrition Services, the Lunch Lizard Summer Mobile Meals Program expanded from one food truck in 2015 that served five locations to two food trucks this summer that served twelve locations. The number of meals served were more than triple what they were in 2015, with 15,700 meals served to children in their neighborhoods this summer. Kids Aid provided over 2,600 weekend bags of food for children through the program.

Our Community Foundation also provided grant funding to support summer mobile meals regionally, including new programs in Delta, Garfield and Eagle Counties. We also supported a new program in Fruita through the Fruita Rotary Club. In total, nearly 18,700 meals were provided to children this summer.

A huge thank you to our many donors and volunteers who helped make Lunch Lizard 2016 a huge success, including Rocky Mountain Health Plans, Lions Club, Alpine Bank, Share our Strength and many caring individuals in the community.

Congratulations!

**D51 Foundation Successful in
Raising \$10,000
Meets Fundraising Challenge
for Chromebooks**

the United Way and the D51 Foundation here. Having worked for both Edward Jones and Merrill Lynch, she brings over ten years of experience in financial investments and customer service to the position. Most recently she worked for the local Visitor and Convention Bureau promoting the Western Slope to visitors.

Kristin and her husband Sean enjoy outdoor activities and stay busy with their three school-age children.

Contact Kristin at klynch@wc-cf.org.



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

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The board of D51 Foundation, the independent nonprofit organization raising funds for district-wide initiatives, has met a matching challenge issued by our Community Foundation at the beginning of summer. Several teams of board members have been busy conducting fundraising events - home garden parties, restaurant nights and a benefit bike ride. Our Community Foundation is supporting these efforts by providing a \$20,000 match from two of our donor-advised funds.

New funds will purchase four tech carts, each loaded with 30 Chromebooks, for elementary schools piloting the new Performance-based Learning (PBL) approach adopted by School District 51. The new technology allows District students to engage in individualized learning and mastering content at their own pace, a key component to the Performance-based Learning approach.

Reflections from the Executive Director

Beautiful cool and crisp days of autumn are upon us as we transition into a new school year here in Mesa County and across our Western Slope communities. What a great summer we had in terms of new programs supporting our school-age children, from basic needs like adequate nutrition (the expansion of the Lunch Lizard mobile meals program), to helping our local school district successfully raise funds for more technology in our schools, to training

teachers with new tools and techniques for children with reading disabilities. Each of these initiatives is terrific, in and of itself, but together they make up a community of leaders and organizations willing to explore new and innovative models for better serving our children. It is inspiring to work with a group of donors committed to helping the kids of this community and to investing in the next generation.

- *Anne Wenzel*
