



WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

On Philanthropy

Bruce DeBoskey

How to Make Your Donations More Effective in the "Giving Season"

Denver Post columnist Bruce DeBoskey, founder of The DeBoskey Group, wrote an excellent article on December 8, 2013 detailing some simple steps to make your holiday donations count. Read the article [here](#).



Please remember our Community Foundation in your year-end giving!

We very much appreciate general donations to help us fulfill our mission, promote local philanthropy, award grants and scholarships, and provide management training and support to nonprofits.

Any size donation is appreciated

Health and Healing for Children

Dorothy Ross Legacy

Dorothy Ross is remembered by those who knew her well for her hearty laughter and having a large and cherished circle of friends. A lifelong resident of western Colorado, Dorothy passed away almost a year ago at the age of 90. She and her husband had no children of their own, but loved children in their extended family and in the community.



Dorothy ("Toni") Ross and her husband, Al, share a laugh at one of their Grand Junction High School reunions

Dorothy and her husband, Al, were involved for many decades with the Shriners. Dorothy made provisions in her will to leave all of her assets to charity. Along with her church and the Shriner's Children Hospital in Denver, our Community Foundation is the recipient of her generosity.

The Dorothy Ross Fund has been established to support programs that meet the health care needs of children, in our community and beyond. The national slogan for Shriners is "Love to the Rescue," and that sentiment captures Dorothy's philanthropic impulse exactly. Children in our community with illnesses and in need of medical care will benefit from her kindness for many years to come.

***To learn more about a charitable legacy,
please contact our Community Foundation at
(970) 243-3767.***

Child Hunger in Mesa County

and is tax deductible as allowable by the IRS.

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you may want to consider making a donation from your IRA. Please call the office or ask your financial advisor for more information about the IRA charitable rollover gifting option.



Kids Aid Update Expansion Plans

Founded six years ago, the Kids Aid emergency weekend food program has grown rapidly. The program began serving 10 students in one elementary school as a pilot program in 2008. Today, Kids Aid is in every school in Mesa County School District 51 and serves 1,800 children each week.

The program has been run through the generosity of many hard-working volunteers and community donations. In June of this year, Kids Aid hired its first part-time staff person to help expand the program.

Kids Aid is exploring how to provide emergency food to hungry kids during school holidays - the upcoming Winter

A number of donors and friends of our Community Foundation participated in a special education and tour event, *A Place at the Table, A Seat on the Bus* in mid November. Child hunger is a huge problem in Mesa County, and there are a number of community leaders and nonprofit organizations working to address it. When a child is hungry, he or she cannot focus and learn in school. If a child gets behind in school, he or she won't learn to read or do basic math, falling behind in terms of skills and cognitive abilities for years to come. The young brain needs healthy and plentiful nourishment, and too many children in our community go hungry.

The tour included presentations by District 51 Nutrition Services and the Community Food Bank, and site visits of Rocky Mountain Elementary School/Kids Aid Backpack Program and the Food Bank of the Rockies.

Here are some interesting facts:

- 45% of students in School District 51 are eligible for free or reduced cost lunch, a measure of poverty and hunger as defined by the federal government and USDA.
- One out of three children in Mesa County is "food insecure" - unsure where their next meal will come from.
- The School District is committed to increasing the quality and "made-from-scratch" food served in school cafeterias while holding the cost per meal constant.
- Kids Aid, which provides emergency food provisions for children so that they have something to eat over the weekend, has grown from one school and 10 backpacks in 2008 to being in every school in the district and serving over 1,800 children each week.



On tour at the Food Bank of the Rockies' new warehouse in Palisade. The Food Bank now has 3,200 square feet, almost triple the space of its old warehouse, expanding to respond to growing needs.

Break and the longer Summer Break. This will require creative thinking about logistics, as the delivery points (schools) are closed. More donations and more volunteers will be needed to fulfill the organization's expanded mission.

Cash donations are always appreciated. In addition, Kids Aid is in search of a new warehouse. If you are in a position to consider donating or underwriting warehouse space that would provide 4,000 square feet, climate controlled and with a loading dock, please contact Kids Aid.

Kids Aid

P.O. Box 2569

Grand Junction, CO 81502

(970) 712-2847

"I learned that many kids who are in the free and reduced lunch program didn't eat anything on weekends. They went from lunch on Friday to lunch on Monday without any food..."

- Mike Berry

Founder, Kids Aid

Reflections from the Executive Director **Hunger Games - Can There Be More Winners?**

Hunger in a land of plenty. Food - extravagant and abundant for those living in the Capitol and a constant lack of it for those living in the outlying Districts - is a key plot line in the popular book and film series, *The Hunger Games*. I recently saw the new movie, *Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, with my teenage son. My son who has never known hunger and gets plenty to eat, which for a 17-year-old is a lot.

Hunger is not a fantasy or fiction for many of our neighbors here in Mesa County and across Western Colorado. Almost one out of two students in School District 51 qualifies for free and reduced lunch. Our emergency food banks and pantries see more traffic, up substantially in the past five years. A new nonprofit organization, Kids Aid, founded by a local man has received national attention; the program provides emergency food in backpacks distributed through schools to children who otherwise would not get enough to eat over the weekend. The program has grown exponentially since it started in 2007, *see related article*.

Our Community Foundation wants to explore different ways to respond to child hunger here in Western Colorado. In *The Hunger Games*, the one winner in the gladiatorial fight-to-the-death competition receives plentiful food... for his or her family and the whole community or district back home. There are definitely winners and losers. Wouldn't it be terrific if our community could find a way for all to "win" in the hunger games? Please join us as we have more conversations and brainstorm ideas in 2014 on how to address this most basic of needs here in our own community.

***Western Colorado Community Foundation...
Connecting people who care with causes that matter...***

Join Our Mailing List!

Happy Holidays from our Community Foundation!



Confirmed in compliance with National Standards for Community Foundations
by the Council on Foundations

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

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