



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

\$40,000 in Grant Funding for Ouray County This Year

Community funding doubles through special partnership with Citizens State Bank



Members of the Ouray County Community Fund deliver a grant check to Voyager Youth Program, one of 22 organizations receiving funding this year.

Now in its fourth year, the **Ouray County Community Fund**, serving the communities of Ridgway and Ouray, is pleased to be distributing \$40,000 in grants this year - twice the amount of funding it had available last year. This expansion in community impact is due to a new partnership with a local business, Citizens State Bank, which made a sizeable donation to OCCF for grants. The Bank has also provided expanded marketing support.

Notes Doug Price, president of Citizens State Bank "We've always been seen as a community bank that gives back to its community through

Give Where You Live \$80,000 granted through Local Community Funds

Our Local Community Funds (also known as Geographic Funds) are truly a hallmark of our place-based giving mission. These funds are established by people who live in a defined community (be it a town or a county in western Colorado) who raise funds through special events and individual donations and then run a grants process to distribute funds to local nonprofits.

The WCCF Board is committed to building the number of Local Community Funds and commits initial grant funds and staff support to bolster local efforts. We also provide back office administration, from grants administration and planned giving expertise to endowment investment. A representative from each community fund serves on our regional Foundation's board and provides input and perspective for the seven-county region we serve.

This year we launched new community funds in the North Fork Valley (eastern Delta County) - the **West Elk Community Fund** - and in Silverton - the **San Juan County Community Fund**. We now manage five such funds. We view these funds as a great vehicle to encourage and inspire local philanthropy and give back to the community that many people care about the most - their home!

New Local Community Fund
Launched
West Elk Fund to benefit Paonia,

financial donations and encouraging our employees to volunteer. This was very much a commitment of previous bank president Dave Wood, and we want to carry on his tradition by working in partnership with the Western Colorado Community Foundation - an organization he helped start 21 years ago and supported very generously." Doug's wife, Hazel, serves on the Ouray County Community Fund along with five other community leaders.

OCCF met in October to review 34 grant applications and committed funding ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 to 22 different local organizations.

A big THANK YOU to Citizens State Bank, Western Colorado Community Foundation's Community Grants Fund, the Dave and Mary Wood Fund and the generous donors of Ouray County for their financial support!

For a full list of OCCF 2018 grants, [click here](#).



Hotchkiss, Crawford and surrounding communities



Most of our Local Community Funds get launched at someone's kitchen table. Here founding members of the West Elk Community Fund meet in Elaine Brett's home in June.

The North Fork communities of Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford are known for their commitment to locally-owned farms and orchards and field-to-fork restaurants. Now they have their own home-grown community fund.

Former WCCF Board member and long-time North Fork resident Elaine Brett has been envisioning a local community fund for years. This year in June her dreams became reality with the launch of the West Elk Community Fund, a new geographic fund under our Community Foundation's umbrella. Eight founding donors have made an initial gift of \$5,000 or more to start an endowment and serve on the steering committee. A subset of these donors also served on the grants committee, reviewing 26 grant requests through our on-line grants system, and deciding how to distribute \$21,000 in grants.

To our colleagues in the North Fork and all our other local communities - thank you for all you do to improve the places you live and for partnering with us to provide opportunities for local philanthropic giving!



Members from the Two Rivers Unrestricted Endowment (T.R.U.E.) and grant recipients celebrate in Glenwood in October

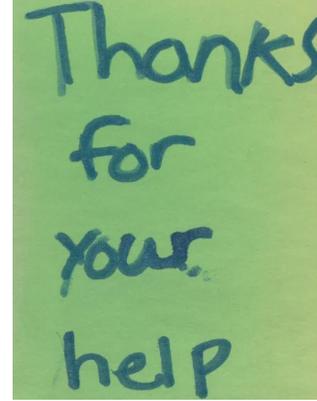
[Community Grants Awarded](#)

in Glenwood Springs and surrounding communities

The T.R.U.E. Grants Fund recently awarded its first round of grants to six local organizations that benefit communities from Carbondale, to Glenwood Springs and west to New Castle. Funded projects include a range of needs where a small amount of funding (grants were \$1,000 or less) is making a big impact: Garfield County Search and Rescue; KDNK Community Radio for Spanish language programming; Project PACK crisis kits; River Center food programs; Smiling Goat Ranch for horse therapy programs; and Stepping Stones for computer equipment.

Two Rivers Community Foundation (2RCF) partners with the Western Colorado Community Foundation to build the endowment and distribute the earnings annually. Jake Lasko, 2RCF Board Chair, noted, "We see the great need for this funding and are building this endowment so it is here for our community well into the future."

For a list of T.R.U.E. 2018 grants, [click here.](#)



Children prepare a special Hanukkah celebration meal as part of The Learning Council's Community Gift Education Lunch, supported with a grant from the West Elk Community Fund.

For a full list of WECF 2018 grants, [click here.](#)



Board Member and Donor

Spotlight:

David Livingston



David Livingston moved to western Colorado two years ago with his wife, Michelle. After living many years in Denver, they were drawn to the North Fork valley for a change of pace and to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. While Michelle manages her organic chicken farm in Hotchkiss, David



Silverton Youth Center received a grant to fund games and activities for K-12 youth. Support this year for SYC was down due to the 416 fire and its impact on the local economy.

New this year, the **San Juan County Community Fund** distributed seven grants totaling \$6,000 to support an array of organizations serving the residents of Silverton, CO.

SPECIAL NOTE: In this e-newsletter we are featuring the grants made to local communities through our Local Community Fund process, involving local leaders, raising and distributing their own grant funds. Our regional Community Foundation has made almost \$3 million in grants this year through our many donor-directed funds; the majority of these grants support nonprofit organizations across the seven counties we serve.

Not too Late!

It is not too late to make a year-end charitable donation and receive a tax deduction for 2018! WCCF is pleased to accept cash, stock or distributions from a donor's IRA (Minimum Required Distribution) to support any of our Local Community Funds or the many other things we are working on. Contact Kristin Lynch in our office today about your year-end giving!

stays busy consulting to various health care organizations.

David's background is in banking, real estate and health care. He served for nine years on the board of the Colorado Health Foundation and a variety of health care related networks and policy committees. He has a real passion for nonprofit organizations and is interested in helping them develop strong operational and financial plans for sustainability. Michelle is also very active in the community and is serving as coordinator for the upcoming Rural Philanthropy Days event to be held in the North Fork next June.

David joined our regional Community Foundation board of trustees in May and went right to work starting a new local community fund to support nonprofit organizations and improve the communities of Hotchkiss, Crawford and Paonia. The West Elk Community Fund has attracted eight founding donors this year and distributed \$21,000 in grants in 2018.

In speaking about his passion for building local philanthropy, David notes, "To keep a place special is up to the people that live there, and it has been an honor to work with folks in the North Fork Valley to establish this grants endowment. Our first year launch was a celebration of the community and the great work the non-profits do to make Paonia, Hotchkiss and Crawford a treasure. As knowledge of the West Elk Community Fund grows and more donors join us, the potential is very exciting!"



Happy Holidays from our Community Foundation staff team!

Reflections from the Executive Director

My favorite thing about Christmas and the other year-end holiday traditions is the celebration of light in the darkness. George H. W. Bush once said about America that



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

our country is made up of "a thousand points of light." Our community is, too. Every adult partner/mentor who shows interest in a child or teen, every meal served at Catholic Outreach's soup kitchen or by the Lunch Lizard food truck, every counselor or "Normal Joe" man on the street who helps another step off the brink of suicide is a point of light.

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View our videos on  YouTube

Light does shine in the darkness - everywhere you look. Thank you to everyone who serves as a point of light in our community - staff and board members of our nonprofit organizations, schools and churches, volunteers, donors. Happy holidays and blessings to you all!

-- Anne Wenzel

