



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

2018 Highlights

2018 was another fabulous year for our growing Community Foundation! Highlights from our year include:

\$7.4 million in new donations

\$3.5 million in grants and scholarships awarded

25 new donor funds established

Nearly \$75 million in total assets under management*

* 12/31/18 financial statements are not yet audited.

A big thank you to our donors and friends for their involvement and confidence in our Community Foundation!

Together we make a big difference in improving the communities we live in and call home.

Welcome New Staff Member Chris Herrman

Bray Cares Foundation Bray & Company Launches Philanthropic Partnership with our Community Foundation



CEO Robert Bray (right) and President Lynn Thompson (left) of Bray and Company visit with Anne Wenzel about their new corporate giving program

Over the past 75 years, three generations of the Bray family have built a successful real estate/property management/development business. The company has always been committed to giving back to the local community - through financial support of many different nonprofit organizations and encouraging their employees to volunteer. They are now taking their community giving to a new level.

Robert Bray recently announced the formation of the Bray Cares Foundation, an endowed, donor-advised fund managed by our Community Foundation. "Over the years, our company has contributed to a



Our Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Chris Herrman to develop our new Conservation, Outdoor Recreation and Environment (CORE) Initiative. Chris has worked in the conservation field for over 30 years and is well versed in fundraising, organizational development and grantmaking. He served as the Board Chair of Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA) and Colorado Canyons Association and was a Board member of the Mesa County Conservation Forum and the Western Colorado Center for the Arts.

Whenever he isn't working, Chris takes every opportunity to play in the beautiful outdoors - cross country skiing on the Grand Mesa or fly fishing at his favorite spot in the Gunnison Gorge.

Contact Chris at cherrman@wc-cf.org.



Online Scholarship Application Now Open

WCCF's annual on-line scholarship application process is now open. Students can apply for one or

variety of organizations here in the community. We think it is time to focus our efforts a little more and increase both our funding and our leadership in the area of housing-related needs in Mesa County."

The tag line for the new Bray Cares Foundation is "*Supporting our HOME Community.*"

Anne Wenzel worked with Robert Bray and Lynn Thompson to define their grantmaking criteria for the new foundation. "Their focus is very appropriate and much needed in our community. Bray is a successful local company, recognized in the community for selling homes. How wonderful for them to give back to the agencies in our community who help those who struggle to keep a roof over their heads."

Bray Cares Foundation will support a variety of different projects that provide emergency shelter, affordable housing, housing for special needs populations, services to help seniors stay in their homes and rent assistance.

Nonprofit grant seekers can visit our website and apply for the first round of funding between May 1st and June 28, 2019. For more information, visit wc-cf.org/nonprofits/grantmaking/BrayCares.



In Our Backyard
Year-end Grants for
Environmental Education and
Outdoor Recreation

more of 36 different scholarship funds managed by our Community Foundation. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$5,000+ and many are renewable for up to four years. Each scholarship has its own criteria, as established by the scholarship donor. In addition to scholarships for graduating seniors, WCCF also manages several scholarship funds for non-traditional students and those planning to attend vocational and technical training.

In 2018, WCCF distributed \$775,000 in scholarship awards.

The deadline to apply is March 3rd for graduating high school seniors, and March 15th for the non-traditional scholarships.

For more information or to apply, visit:
wc-cf.org/students/available-scholarships

Seeking Funding?
New Request for Funding
process now open



Our Community Foundation has a new way for nonprofit organizations to share their funding needs. The Request for Funding (RFF) is now available through our online grants management system wc-cf/grants. While the majority of WCCF's funds are donor-directed, this is a way for organizations to share a brief summary of their needs for general support, project-based, or capital campaigns. We will review these and determine if there is a fit for any of our donor-directed funds. This is an ongoing



Our Community Foundation was pleased to make year-end grants to reflect our commitment to increase resources and funding for conversation, outdoor recreation and environment projects in western Colorado.

Pictured above, Chris Herrman presents a \$10,000 check to Scott Winans of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association for trail management and interpretative signage for the new Palisade Plunge mesa-to-river mountain bike trail.

Our Community Foundation also awarded a \$10,000 grant to Palisade High School for their fish hatchery. Students and teachers from the school are working with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, irrigation companies and other partners to convert a storage shed on the school property into a fish hatchery for endangered razorback suckers. Students will learn about balancing competing uses for river water and the impact of drought on fish habitat, agriculture, and recreational uses.

process over the course of the year.

Please see our website for more information or contact Tedi Gillespie at tgillespie@wc-cf.org.

Save the Date!
Western Slope Rural
Philanthropy Days
June 12-14, 2019



Our regional Community Foundation is proud to sponsor Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days, June 12-14, in the North Fork Valley. This is an opportunity for nonprofits to increase their understanding of best practices, collaborate with other community leaders and connect with Front Range and local funders. Registration opens March 25th, and more information can be found at CRCAmerica.org/Programs/RuralPhilanthropyDays.



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](#)




Mike Gross with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service holds a razorback sucker. He is helping Palisade High School set up its own fish hatchery. Read the full [Daily Sentinel story here](#).


Last but not least, we congratulate the Colorado National Monument Association on their success in meeting a challenge match and securing \$25,000 in funding from us for the renovation of the Saddlehorn Amphitheater next to the Monument Visitor Center.


Meeting the match proved extra challenging in light of the partial government shutdown which kept the visitor center and CNMA offices closed for five weeks at year end. Notes Michael Paxton, "We are very appreciative of the Community Foundation's support for this project and for working with us to succeed in attracting new funds to renovate this important community asset."



The Saddlehorn Amphitheater at the

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*Colorado National Monument will get
much needed repairs with funding from
our matching grant*

Reflections from the Executive Director

Here's hoping that 2019 is off to a great start for our friends - donors, nonprofit and community leaders! In addition to making New Year resolutions, this time of year provides opportunity to look ahead and make plans.

Our Community Foundation has some exciting plans for this year. In October 2018, we received a grant from the state-wide Colorado Health Foundation to continue our work in hunger and pull together a comprehensive community plan to address food insecurity in Mesa County. More important than the funding itself is the recognition from the largest charitable foundations in the state that we are doing good work here in Mesa County.

Five new field-of-interest funds were established in 2018 which will provide more discretionary funding to address needs in our communities, from suicide prevention and support for at-risk teens, to more literacy and art/cultural programs. Stay tuned for more information on what funding is available and how to apply.

Finally, we are very excited to move more fully into the conservation, outdoor recreation and environment arena with the hiring of a dedicated part-time staff person to lead these efforts. Many locals are proud to call western Colorado home because of the beautiful environment and access to outdoor recreation. Our tourism and economic development groups tout the outdoor lifestyle in their marketing and outreach material. There are many people who care about these issues - clean air and water, recycling and composting, well-manged outdoor recreation and expanded conservation efforts. We look forward to working with the many stakeholders interested in these issues and find ways to support different projects protecting and enhancing the landscapes and environments that make western Colorado special.

So many good things on the horizon for
2019! Happy New Year!

- *Anne Wenzel*
