



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good



A new nonprofit dedicated to helping victims of mass tragedy crime has been launched. The Colorado Healing Fund was founded in 2018 by a group of victim advocates and community leaders to establish a secure way for the public to contribute to victims of mass shootings and other crimes. Created with initial seed funding of \$1 million from the Colorado Attorney General's Office, the fund will provide immediate and long-term assistance for unmet needs of victims, survivors, families and the impacted community. The Healing Fund will work with established victim assistance providers to identify where help is needed.

If you are interested in helping victims of the recent shooting at the STEM School in Highlands Ranch, you might want to consider this option. More information can be found at coloradohealingfund.org.

*Giving Back
Comes Full Circle*
Young Man Taught
Philanthropy from Early

Vets Helping Vets

New Trutta Fund to Support Veteran Service Organizations



Last year, our Community Foundation started working with a new donor when he established a donor-advised fund to support a number of local organizations. The donor, who wants to remain anonymous, made a significant contribution to the Western Region One Source Center in honor of his two deceased brothers who also served in the military. He wants to do more to support fellow veterans in western Colorado and honor their service to our country. To do this, he has established a field-of-interest fund - ***the Trutta Fund to Support Veterans.***

Age Benefits from Another Donor's Generosity

Long-time western Colorado residents Bill and Shirley Ela have been family farmers for decades, in Palisade and more recently the Ela Family Farms in Hotchkiss. Bill Ela served as a district judge and was very involved in environmental issues during his lifetime. His wife Shirley was a founder of our regional Community Foundation 22 years ago.

In 2013, Bill and Shirley established a donor-advised fund and named their grandchildren, Will and Adair, as the advisors. Their hope was to encourage their grandkids to look around at needs in the community and have some money to donate to causes each year. Over the years, Will and Adair supported the local Montessori, Paradise Theater and Trout Unlimited in the North Fork.

Now a high school senior, Will is graduating from Hotchkiss High School this May. An independent selection committee selected him as a first recipient of a new scholarship established by one of his Hotchkiss neighbors, Mary Rebeck. Will is headed to Colorado State University to study Automotive Engineering and wants to work on designing and building the next generation of electric vehicles.

If you google "Trutta," photos of a World War II submarine pop up. Our donor served in the U.S. Navy and was aboard the submarine USS Trutta for several years in the late 1960s. He remembers those years of service with great pride. "They have a new motto for the Navy: *Forged by the Sea*. That motto rings true to me. I signed up for the Navy when I was 19 years old and was just a young man. I had been looking for a job and found one that changed my life and outlook forever. It taught me pride in my country, family and fellow servicemen. It taught me to be a better human being. I am so glad I found my direction in the service and would enlist all over again."

Our donor wants to help those who proudly served our country. "I have friends who have physical disabilities and emotional scars who could use some extra support. By establishing this fund, I hope to provide additional funds to help our veterans in need. Even small amounts can impact their lives."

Notes Mike Sewell, WCCF Board Chairman who also served in the Navy and lived on a submarine for months at a time, "What an incredibly generous gift this is. I know this will be appreciated by the men and women who served their country so ably. A big thank you to our new donor for his generosity!"

The Trutta Fund will have \$70,000 to distribute in grants to local organizations who provide support services to veterans and their families in western Colorado. Grant funding will be available in early June. For more information, visit wc-cf.org/nonprofits/grantmaking.

Additional donations to the Trutta Fund are always welcome.



Three generations of the Ela family: Will Ela who graduates in May with his father, Steve Ela, and grandmother, Shirley Ela. Family members are proud to celebrate not only his academic accomplishments but the personal characteristics this young man exudes - having learned the value of helping others from an early age.

Grantee Spotlight: Delta Hospital Helping Babies (and Parents) Breathe a Little Easier

Established in 2013, the **Dorothy Ross Fund** supports organizations that improve access to and services for childhealth. During her lifetime, Dorothy Ross supported many nonprofits providing healthcare to children.

We recently made a grant to Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH) to purchase equipment to provide Respiratory Therapy and Treatment to newborns and pediatric patients. Many of these patients require a specialized respiratory therapy called Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) to help newborns adapt to breathing outside of the womb. DCMH did not have the equipment and had to either manually administer the therapy or send the tiny infants to facilities in Denver or

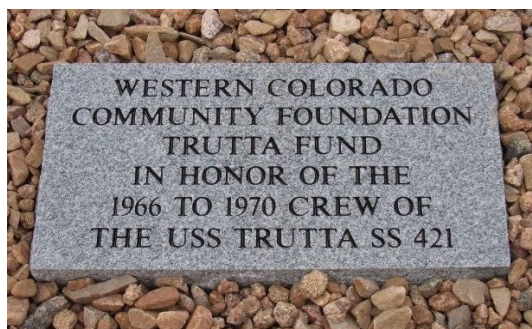


The USS Trutta (SS 421)

Serving Those Who Served Us Western Region One Source Now Open



Maj. Gen. Michael Loh acknowledges the many individuals and organizations who worked to make the new "One Source" center for veterans and their families a reality for the Western Slope at the Grand Opening on May 9th. Funding from our new **Trutta Fund** and the **Dave and Mary Wood Fund** helped the Western Region One Source purchase furnishings, flagpoles and other resources not covered through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.



Reflections from the

Salt Lake. Simply getting these young patients and a guardian to one of the facilities will cost a family on average \$18,000, in addition to the cost of treatment that typically lasts for three days.



Our \$10,000 grant allows DCMH to purchase this high flow oxygen equipment for newborn and pediatric patients, so they can rest more comfortably and be treated close to home, without causing more difficulties and stress to the family.

Welcome Talitha to our Staff Team!



Our Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Talitha Costello as our new Administrative Assistant. Talitha recently graduated from Colorado Mesa University and is

Executive Director

Last week I sat in a crowd of supporters at the opening of the Western Region One Source, a newly renovated facility that will house dozens of support services for veterans and their families. The new facility provides a "one-stop" center, making programs easier and more accessible. There were many veterans in the crowd who understood the symbolic and actual importance of these resources and the commitment of the DMVA to vets living on this side of the state. "Serving those who served us" was used as a frequent description of the program.

I sat there feeling great pride in our community leaders who steered this project, from dream to reality. Our Director of Grants, Tedi Gillespie, served on the advisory committee and several of our donor-advised funds provided financial support to the project. Pride that our community will be able to do more for our friends and neighbors who so bravely served their country. I also was dealing with strong stabs of sadness remembering my husband's stepson who served in the army in Iraq and never made it home, never needed the variety of services that help integrate veterans back into civilian life and set plans for the future. This young man lost his life way too young back in 2002. He left behind a nine year old son, a child the same age as my daughter at that time.

This week we celebrate high school graduations. So many accomplishments and dreams in the young and eager faces sitting through commencement addresses and tossing mortarboards in the air. I leave town next week to attend and celebrate my son's college graduation. Feelings of pride and great joy will fill this special occasion. Here is a young man who is blessed to complete his formal education (no plans for graduate school at this point) healthy and eager, ready to start the

a welcome set of extra hands and energy, greeting guests to our office and supporting the staff team on a number of tasks, including grants and scholarship administration. Talitha grew up in Grand Junction. She likes to read and teach Sunday School.

Please introduce yourself to Talitha next time you come by the office!




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

next chapter of his life. He is wrapping up 13 years of primary education and four years of college without encountering any random acts of shooting or violence in a classroom or campus setting. This mom will have many feelings of gratitude and pride but I also cannot help the moments of deep sadness for young people who will not be walking across the graduation stage this year as planned.

May we all practice love and kindness in our families and communities.

- Anne Wenzel

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