



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

# WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

## Community Foundation Hits \$75 Million in Assets!

Our Community Foundation is pleased to share exciting news! As of the end of July, our regional foundation reached an important milestone: \$75 million in assets!

It was less than two and a half years ago we were celebrating \$50 million in assets.

Notes Mike Sewell, WCCF Board Chairman, "The growth of our Community Foundation is so exciting to watch. Thanks to so many charitable-minded donors and strong investment performance, our total assets reached a new high of \$75 million last month. We appreciate the confidence so many generous people in western Colorado have in our organization."

The target goal of \$75 million in assets was one of six strategic goals set forth in WCCF's Vision 2020 Plan. Anne Wenzel, President and Executive Director, commented, "We've come such a long way from our early days to this milestone. To reach \$75 million is a tremendous accomplishment. For the many nonprofits working to serve the people of western Colorado, this means we can provide ongoing funding

## \$100,000 in Grants to Alleviate Hunger in Western Colorado Eighteen organizations receive Community Food and Hunger Relief grants



*Sharing Ministries volunteers building a community garden and fruit orchard.*

Community food and hunger relief is the theme for our competitive grants this year. We are pleased to announce 18 organizations received grant funding to expand work they are doing to alleviate hunger for our most vulnerable citizens in communities across western Colorado.

Grants include (in alpha order):

***Cedaredge Community Gardens*** - fresh produce for the local food bank.

***Child and Migrant Services*** - healthy foods for farmworkers and their families.

***Clifton Christian Church*** - expanding food bank needs.

***Colorado Farm to Table*** - fresh produce for food pantries in Delta and Montrose.

***CSU Foundation*** - Community Alliance for Hunger Relief and Education at Orchard Mesa

and other resources to carry out their missions to improve lives."

Please join us as we charge onward to \$100 million!

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*The former Jeans Westerner Building in downtown Montrose is being renovated into a multi-service Youth Access Center.*

### [CASA Montrose](#) *New facility will provide services for teens*

Back-to-school time just got a little easier for foster care teens and other at-risk youth in Montrose, thanks to the vision and commitment of Carlton Mason, Executive Director of CASA of the 7th Judicial District.

What started as a need for more affordable office space for CASA turned into an ambitious vision of a community center where youth can walk in and receive a host of services in a safe and friendly environment. \$35,000 in funding from several of our donor-advised funds will help this vision become a reality.

Notes Carlton Mason, "The young adults in our community need this type of center and support services. We're hoping to set up a bakery apprenticeship, "first job" training and skills development program for our teens in partnership with Back Street

research station.

**Common Ground Montrose** - backpack weekend food program.

**Community Food Bank** - commercial refrigerator and freezer to meet expanding storage needs.

**Delta Food Pantry** - dairy products for expanding program.

**Food Bank of the Rockies** - Fighting Hunger Feeding Hope program in Fruita.

**Gray Gourmet** - new transportation services for seniors in Clifton.

**Karis/The House** - food for youth in transitional housing.

**Kids Aid** - expanding backpack program.

**Learning Council** - community lunches and agricultural classes.

**Lift Up** - protein and other hard-to-get foods for Garfield County pantry.

**Sharing Ministries** - infrastructure for new community garden and fruit orchard.

**St. Mary's Hospital** - Food on the Move mobile pantry for Clifton neighborhoods.

**Surface Creek Community Services** - walk-in cooler.

**Vail Valley Salvation Army** - irrigation system for community garden (see below).

Bagels which will be right next door to our new space. Getting young people some skills training is critical to their launch into the adult world of work."



### *Middle school pop up food pantries*

The Food Bank of the Rockies is experimenting with new ways to provide fresh produce and shelf stable food items to people who may be struggling with food insecurity. The regional warehouse in Palisade has always done a brisk business of receiving and distributing food to hunger relief providers like food pantries and churches. Increasingly they are finding ways to "go direct" to clients.

One innovation is mobile pantries. They have started a monthly distribution at Clifton Christian Church and one at Dos Rios Elementary School. Bread and produce pantries will be available every other Thursday at Mt. Garfield Middle School. Mike LoSordo explains, "This idea of a pop-up food pantry right at the school - with food items available on outdoor tables close to the bus - allows families to pick out fresh produce and other items they might need to fill out their meal planning."

Mike notes that Food Bank of the Rockies has a good supply of food. "What we really need is a cadre of reliable volunteers who can be available to oversee the food distribution at



*An expanded irrigation system will allow Vail Valley Salvation Army to grow more fresh vegetables for their clients.*

## Grantee Spotlight: Kids Aid Piloting Teacher Snack Program for 2018-19 School Year



*Families pack bags of food to be distributed along the Lunch Lizard food truck routes. 11,700 bags of weekend food were distributed the summer of 2018, up from 4,500 bags the previous summer.*

The organization that galvanized the weekend emergency food backpack program is expanding to include teacher snacks. Starting this fall, Kids Aid will be piloting its new hunger relief program. Called **the SnackPack program**, Kids Aid will leverage its bulk purchasing power to secure granola bars, raisins and other snacks at a very good price and use its existing food distribution program to deliver snacks to five

the schools for a small window of time, typically between 2:40 and 3:30."

To learn more about volunteering, contact Mike at (970) 464-1138 x 210, or [mlosordo@foodbankrockies.org](mailto:mlosordo@foodbankrockies.org)

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### *Donor Spotlight:* *Kids Musn't Go Hungry*



ANB Vice President and Trust Officer, Jessica Shaffer is active in her church and her community. She had been following our Lunch Lizard food truck program and reached out to find out how she could help with our efforts to alleviate child hunger in our valley.

A member of the Women's Giving Club, she sees lots of local non-profits worthy of support, but the challenges faced by the working poor and their children is particularly close to her heart. "I knew there was a hunger issue in Mesa County, but I didn't understand its depth. Growing up, there are a multitude of issues for children to be insecure about... access to food should never be one of them."

Jessica has set up a recurring monthly donation to our Hunger Relief Grants Fund.

of D51's highest need schools.

Lindsay Anderson is a former classroom teacher who now runs Kids Aid. "I know firsthand how many teachers use their own money to buy snacks for their students at places like Sam's Club or regular grocery stores. This new program will provide snacks to as many children who need them. We want to be sure children who get hungry mid-morning get a nutritional boost and aren't penalized if they don't have their own snacks. This is a natural expansion of our core mission - to make sure kids are 'only hungry to learn.'"

The cost for the pilot program is modest. Kids Aid has secured \$20,000, including a \$5,000 grant from our Community Foundation. They are now looking for business, church or service club sponsors who would be willing to "adopt" one school for the year, commit to pay for the snacks and deliver snacks in their own vehicle to their designated school once a week. Financial donations are being collected now to expand the number of schools starting in January.

To make a donation or volunteer, please contact Lindsay at [lindsay@kidsaidcolorado.org](mailto:lindsay@kidsaidcolorado.org)



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### *Food on the Move*

**St. Mary's Mobile Health Clinic  
adding food pantry to help  
address hunger**

**Donations of any amount are appreciated to support our hunger work! Please send a check payable to Western Colorado Community Foundation or give online on Colorado Gives Day!**

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[www.wc-cf.org](http://www.wc-cf.org)



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Launched in Clifton last month, **Food on the Move Mobile Market** delivers fresh produce to neighborhoods. The mobile pantry piggybacks on St. Mary's Mobile Clinic, which provides basic health screenings and helps with enrollment for Medicare, WIC and SNAP programs. Notes Gretchen Gore with St. Mary's Mission Integration team, "We know that having access to healthy foods positively impacts overall health. As a health care provider we have the opportunity to connect communities with fresh, local foods through an innovative and fun delivery system."

## Reflections from the Executive Director

Back-to-school time is pretty exciting for families with school age children. Lazy summer routines make way for alarm clocks (I guess it is cell phone alarms these days) and busy family schedules chock-a-block full of activities. I remember my school age children loving the ritual of shopping for school supplies, new backpacks and lunch boxes. The new school year held excitement and great promise.

For children living in more modest

circumstances or in homes with a parent struggling to find a job or dealing with an illness, back-to-school time can be a little more difficult. Our Community Foundation recognizes and thanks classroom teachers and other school personnel who create a climate of trust and safety for all children, especially those who need loving and caring adults and a place to belong.

While it may be a little overused, I resonate with the popular quote, "it takes a village to raise a child." Especially this time of year. We are thrilled to support nonprofit entrepreneurs... Kids Aid's Lindsay Anderson piloting a new teacher snack program, Carlton Mason of CASA in Montrose, expanding programming to foster care youth through a variety of social services, job training opportunities and affordable housing.

Thank you to our many donors and nonprofit partners for making back-to-school time a little bit easier for those students needing support from the proverbial village. You make our communities better for many.

-- Anne Wenzel

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