



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

Funding Available 2019 Community Grants to support the Environment

Our Community Foundation is pleased to announce the community grants application for 2019 opened June 17th. Our funding focus this year is the environment, in support of our new commitment to expand funding for conservation, outdoor recreation and the environment.

The Community Grants for the Environment funding opportunity is available to organizations that operate within the seven counties we serve. Grant funding is made possible from our unrestricted endowment and from generous donors across western Colorado.

Grants in the size of \$2,500 to \$10,000 are available for nonprofit organizations working to protect and enhance the environment in western Colorado. Focus areas include projects that promote the 3 R's (reduce, reuse and recycle), efforts to expand composting and reduce food waste, promote clean air and

Double 7-0 Local Couple Gives Back to Celebrate Milestone Birthdays



Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher present grant checks to Joy Hudak of Riverside Education Center and Doug Sorter of STRiVE at the WCCF Board meeting on May 14.

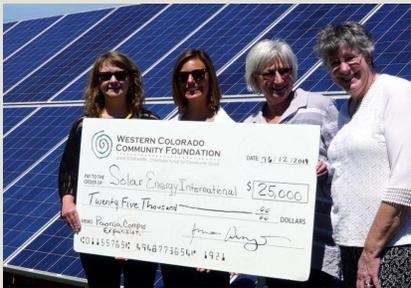
Long-time donor advisors, Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher, celebrate their 70th birthdays soon, one in June and one in July. "Together, we are 140 years old this year!" laughs Bernie.

The Bueschers recently reviewed their estate plans and realized two things: The charitable gifts they intended to make in their wills were already outdated, and a question arose: Why wait? Why not make donations now? Their four children are all established and doing well, and lots of their favorite organizations need resources to pursue new programs now. "We are so blessed that we can make some bigger grants to nonprofits we have supported over the years. We realized we wanted to do it

water, and engage and educate youth and the public about these issues. Priority consideration will be given to projects that encourage local citizens to take part in protecting and caring for our environment in this corner of the world.

The deadline for application is July 19th. For more information and to apply, visit: wc-cf.org/nonprofits/grantmaking.

Additional donations for these grants in any amount are appreciated.



A \$25,000 grant from the Dave and Mary Wood Fund is supporting Solar Energy International's capital campaign to expand its campus facilities and train more solar tech workers. Over the past three decades, the international organization, located in Paonia, CO, has trained 70,000 solar tech workers. According to their leadership, these SEI-trained workers have been involved with 10% of the world's solar projects. Our grant is designated for classroom programs for youth from Delta County and training for western slope residents.

Learn more about Solar Energy International's work [here](#).

now and be able to see the impact of our giving instead of waiting until we are gone. Plus it will be fun to see the smiles on people's faces!"

WCCF President and Executive Director, Anne Wenzel, has been working with the Bueschers to plan this special event. "We frequently see donors make donations to charity in celebration of a milestone birthday or in honor of parents. Sometimes children ask for donations to a nonprofit organization in lieu of birthday gifts. What the Bueschers are doing is extraordinary, and we hope this will inspire others to share their wealth with those who are less fortunate. What a great way for generous people to celebrate a big birthday!"

The **Buescher Charitable Giving Fund** will distribute sizable grants in the next few weeks to 12 favorite organizations, including a handful of local nonprofits and Denver organizations such as The Colorado Children's Campaign, Invest In Kids, and Colorado Public Radio.

One of the 12 recipients is our Community Foundation. A donation of \$50,000 is designated for our leadership projects and supporting greatest needs in the community.

In addition to these one-time birthday gifts, the Bueschers have made provisions in their wills for end-of-life gifts to our Community Grants Fund to respond to current needs, with an emphasis on early childhood education and literacy. Notes Mary Beth, a WCCF board member, "We've been so impressed with how much the Community Foundation is doing to address community issues like hunger, drug addiction and suicide. We want them to have some unrestricted dollars to meet whatever needs there are to be tackled when we are gone."

Spotlight:
Buescher Fund Grant Recipients

2018 Annual Report Growing Community Philanthropy, Making an Impact



Many of you may have already received our 2018 Annual Report in the mail. Our report has expanded to 16 pages this year to better capture the full scope of our work. You will read stories of generous donors, grant recipients making a difference, and highlights from our hunger and environment leadership initiatives.

The full report can be found at: [WCCF 2018 Annual Report](#).

WCCF Featured in *Spoke + Blossom*



Our Community Foundation

Our Community Foundation is pleased to be able to provide significant grant funding to three organizations that don't typically receive funding from other donor-advised funds.

Riverside Education Center (REC) provides after-school tutoring and enrichment activities for K-12 students to improve academic achievement and foster positive social and emotional development. In their 13th year, they now have nine program sites serving 406 students. REC's expansion efforts include partnership with the RIO Coalition to get youth outdoors and involved in physical activity to improve both physical and mental health, and foster confidence and self-esteem.



The mission of **STRIVE** is to provide community-based services to individuals with developmental disabilities and support for their families. Through their model of person-centered services, they help their clients *strive* to meet their full potential. Serving from birth to end of life, their programs include assessments, therapy, independent living support, employment training and job connections. STRIVE also has a shop on Main Street, *Uniquely Yours*, where shoppers can support their mission and purchase locally made items and other gifts. Our grant is to help with their capital campaign, *Framing the Future*, to purchase and occupy a larger, better equipped building to provide high quality medical services for their 900+ clients.

is delighted to share the summer issue of *Spoke + Blossom* magazine, where Kristen Lummis did a terrific job of capturing our leadership work on hunger and now the environment. Be sure to pick up your free copy of this beautiful magazine around town or read the full article [here](#).

Welcome Karen to our Staff Team!



Our Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Karen Binder as our Administration and Database Manager, a new position for our Community Foundation. Karen brings decades of experience in financial reporting, database administration and project management.

Notes Anne Wenzel, "We've been growing quickly and very much need someone with Karen's experience and range of skills to help us develop systems and operating processes for the larger and more sophisticated organization we are becoming. We're thrilled to have someone with Karen's background on our team."



We're hard at work Framing the Future for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and here's how you can help!

Finally, a grant to [Colorado Public Radio](#) will support expanded programming, including coverage of special topics and a reporting team on the Western Slope.

Reflections from the Executive Director

I am just returning from 2 1/2 days in the North Fork Valley of Delta County and the Rural Philanthropy Days event where Front Range funders leave their desks behind and spend several days in smaller rural communities, learning about local issues and the nonprofit organizations working on them. For many funders, this event may provide the first opportunity for them to visit some places across our beautiful state.

Reflecting on rural philanthropy, I have been thinking about what makes philanthropy here in western Colorado different, perhaps even special. We have fewer charitable foundations, and for many communities, the local community foundation is the largest, if not the only, charitable funding institution around. In our smaller rural communities, the same people are volunteering, serving on boards and providing funding for the nonprofit organizations serving their communities. While this may strain, on occasion, the good nature of the busiest of local community leaders, one feels a strong sense of pride and commitment to make things better combined with a determination to get things done. Resources may be limited, but passion and ingenuity are in big supply. I heard variations on the theme of "small but

In her free time, Karen likes to go to GJ Rockies and Colorado Rockies baseball games. She enjoys going to spring training games at Salt River Fields in Phoenix, Arizona. Karen and her husband, Matt, can often be found at their cabin at Vega State Park.

You can reach Karen at kbinder@wc-cf.org.



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

mighty" over the course of the event.

The increase in charitable foundation funding for projects and programs benefiting rural communities in Colorado has been well documented over the past several decades. Kudos to Sue Anschutz-Rogers and the Anschutz Family Foundation for conceiving of the idea of Rural Philanthropy Days and providing leadership and major support to the event. And thank you to our regional Community Foundation board members and North Fork residents, Elaine Brett (emeritus) and David Livingston, for their local leadership, time and effort in making the latest Western Slope Rural Philanthropy Days a huge success!

-- *Anne Wenzel*

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