



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

Online Grant Application Process Opening Soon Local Community Fund grants now available

Our Community Foundation is pleased to announce the dates that nonprofits are invited to apply to our Local Community Funds (LCFs). These funds provide competitive grant funding to specific geographic communities in our region.

In 2018, our LCFs distributed nearly \$80,000 in the five communities they serve. This year, these local funds will be distributing almost \$100,000 in grants.

Below are the application dates and deadlines for each Local Community Fund.

**Ouray County
Community Fund**
Opens: August 1
Deadline: September 16

**West Elk Community
Fund** (serving Paonia,
Hotchkiss and Crawford)
Opens: August 1
Deadline: September 16

**San Juan County
Community Fund**
Opens: August 15

Remembering Tillie Tilman M. Bishop 1933-2019



Tillie Bishop was a leader in Colorado politics and higher education. He also was a long-time member of the GJ Lions and "just a great community guy."

Long-time community leader Tillie Bishop passed away last month at the age of 86. Many hundreds of people attended a memorial service for Tillie hosted by CMU on June 25th. Appropriate tribute was paid to his many legislative accomplishments and his huge commitment to higher education through his decades of service as Dean of Students at Mesa State College. Later in life he would serve on both the Colorado Mesa University Board of Trustees and on the University of Colorado Board of Regents.

One slide in the tribute tried to capture the essence of this extraordinary man in four words: Statesman, Educator, Philanthropist, Coloradan. For those of us involved in the public service and nonprofit community, philanthropist is

Deadline: September 30

TRUE Grants Fund

(serving Glenwood Springs south to Carbondale and west to New Castle)

Opens: August 15

Deadline: September 30

Mt. Callahan Community Fund

(serving Parachute and Battlement Mesa)

Opens: September 15

Deadline: October 30



Did You Know...

The Western Colorado Community Foundation is a regional organization serving seven counties and governed by an 18-person board of directors. Seven of our board members live in communities outside Mesa County and serve as local ambassadors and liaisons to our local community funds and affiliates.

Local Community Funds are geographic funds managed by our regional Community Foundation. WCCF provides "back office" administration (accounting, investment management and grants administration) while working in close partnership with a local steering committee. Local community leaders, who know their communities best, raise awareness, attract resources and identify worthwhile

perhaps the most important descriptor.

The word "philanthropy" comes from the Latin, "love of man." Tillie Bishop was indeed a philanthropist. Certainly generous with his money, Tillie also gave - in a huge way - of his time and expertise to many. The range of organizations and causes Tillie supported in this community was extraordinary, from the Legends Sculpture Project and Great Outdoors Colorado and wildlife preservation (Tilman Bishop State Wildlife Area in Palisade) to his many education interests including Rocky Mountain PBS, D51 Foundation and vocational training at the WCCC Tilman Bishop Campus ("Tillie Tech").

Tillie was one of the local community leaders who was visited by our Community Foundation founders, Herb Bacon and Pat Gormley, in the early days of our start up. Tillie's wife, Pat, remembers the meeting in their living room and Tillie's excitement about the promise and potential of a local community foundation.

The Bishops established an endowed fund in their name in 2011 and were steady donors to our foundation. Our Community Foundation is one of several foundations included in the Bishops' estate plans.

Tillie loved "being in the room where things happened," facilitating new projects and policies and legislation - new deals that would create positive change to benefit others across the state of Colorado. He indeed put into action his strong belief in serving others and a deep love of mankind.

Rest in peace, statesman extraordinaire and champion of education, good friend of the community, and a very special philanthropist.

Grantee Spotlight:
Garfield School District Re-2

projects to fund each year.

While these community funds distribute relatively small grants in their early years, over time they will grow through good investment returns and new donations. Donors who love their home community can make provisions for an end-of-life donation in their wills or estate plans.

If you are interested in learning more about our local community funds, please contact Kristin at klynch@wc-cf.org for more information.



One of our local community fund steering committees meeting and enjoying lunch in the sunshine, planning for 2019 grants

Welcome New Board Members!

Our Community Foundation wants to recognize and thank five board members who are term-limited after six years of service on our board of directors: **Russ George** (Rifle), **Mick Graff** (Ridgway), **Dave Murphy**, **Mike Stahl**, and **Chris West** (Grand Junction). Thank you for your years of leadership and for sharing your skills and expertise promoting local philanthropy here in western Colorado and for helping our regional

Meal Monkey Summer Food Truck



Our Community Foundation has supported Garfield School District Re-2's summer meal program since 2016. Called the Meal Monkey, the program provides free lunches to children ages 0-18 in underserved areas of Rifle. For several years, the program used a cargo van to deliver meals, but sponsors nurtured a long-term goal to acquire a bonafide food truck with steamer trays and a serving window. Thanks to several of our Community Foundation donors, that goal turned into reality earlier in July with the purchase of a gently used food truck for the program.

Notes Mary McPhee, Director of Nutrition Services for Re-2, "There are children in our community that without school lunch, may not have enough food during the summer. The Community Foundation's generosity has helped us purchase our new food truck to be able to serve even more children in need of healthy food. I can't say how much we appreciate them - 'thank you' doesn't seem enough!"

Just over 50% of students in Garfield School District Re-2 qualify for free and reduced lunch. The new Meal Monkey truck is expanding delivery sites this summer, now delivering meals in Rifle, Silt and New Castle.

Meal Monkey joins its Mesa County

Community Foundation through a period of tremendous growth!

We welcomed two new board members at our May 2019 Annual Meeting:

Hazel Stevens Price of Ridgway, who is actively involved in our Ouray County Community Fund and several other local organizations in Ouray County, and **Dan Prinster**, Vice President for Business Development at St. Mary's Hospital, long-time community leader and son of one of our founders, Joe Prinster.



New Milestone! \$80 Million in Total Assets

Our Community Foundation is pleased to announce that we have surpassed the milestone of \$80 million in total assets under management! This is a tremendous testament to the growth of our foundation and the generosity and trust of our donors who invest and partner with us to manage their charitable giving.

counterpart, the Lunch Lizard, in meeting the needs of hungry kids all year long. Summer food programs... *feeding hungry kids one neighborhood at a time.* This summer marks the 5th year of the Lunch Lizard summer meal program and the 4th summer of the Meal Monkey.



Instead of receiving gifts for his birthday, this six-year-old philanthropist requested that donations be made to the Lunch Lizard. Here he is delivering a \$200 check to support summer meals for hungry kids.

Reflections from the Executive Director

It is with sadness but great fondness and many positive memories that our community mourns the recent passing of Tillie Bishop.

I have known Tillie and Pat only 18 years, the time I have been executive director of the Western Colorado Community Foundation. During those years, Tillie was technically "retired" from working but of course was hardly retired. He was



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involved in so many things, and his energy and commitment to the community serve as a shining example for all of us and what we might do in our golden years, also known as our "giving back years." As our memorial tribute story above tries to articulate, Tillie gave back over his entire lifetime.

Tillie was known across Colorado. He was colleague to, and friends with, some of our state's most well known philanthropic leaders - Bill Daniels (The Daniels Fund), Tim Schultz (Boettcher Foundation) and Bill Hybl (El Pomar Foundation), to name a few.

According to his wife, Pat, Tillie was particularly fond of El Pomar's Youth in Community Service (EPYCS) program. This statewide initiative encouraged high school students to raise funds (matched by El Pomar) and make grants in their communities, thereby instilling an awareness about community needs and the importance of philanthropy. I can understand why Tillie was fond of this program, as it embraced the intersection between two of his passions, education and philanthropy. I too share this interest of promoting philanthropy to young people, having developed a Kids Club for young donor advisers and other initiatives at our Community Foundation.

We all mourn the passing of Tillie Bishop, and we celebrate his philanthropic spirit as a legacy and inspiration for all of us.

-- Anne Wenzel