Showcasing
Groundbreaking
Programs

Home for Homeless Youth
Karis Apartments
Breaks Ground

Community leaders grab shovels and break ground for Karis Apartments.

In November, Karis/The House broke ground on Karis Apartments, 34 units of permanent, supportive housing for youth who are most at-risk for long-term homelessness. In 2018, Mesa County counted more than 250 youth without homes or guardians. Karis Apartments will offer a safe, stable place that these youth can call home, and includes mental health and other support services to give them the tools for long-term success. Four of our donor-advised funds have granted nearly $60,000 for this important project.

Multiple Pathways
to Philanthropy
Celebrating New Donor Funds

Our Community Foundation offers a wide variety of ways to support the charitable interests of our donors. These interests are as diverse and unique as the people in our community. We celebrate some of the new funds that have been established recently by five different donors; these funds will provide future funding to many causes.

Mike and Kay Ferris Family Fund

High school sweethearts, Mike and Kay Ferris met in Des Moines, Iowa. They
St. Mary's Food Recovery

We're pleased to welcome St. Mary's Hospital as the newest partner in our efforts to increase food recovery in our community. Surplus food from the hospital cafeteria is donated to HomewardBound to serve to the homeless. St. Mary's is the first hospital in our community to participate. A small grant from our Community Foundation purchased special food storage containers and blast cooler equipment for the project.

Over 700 pounds were "recovered," rescued from going into the landfill and redirected to hunger relief in the first month of operations. A big thank you to St. Mary's Sodexo team for making this commitment!

Scott Fasken Memorial Fund

An outdoor enthusiast, small plane pilot and proud Scotsman, Scott Fasken passed away suddenly this fall at the age of 68. His family established a donor-advised fund to receive memorial contributions. Scott's wife and two daughters will make a grant every year in Scott's name to a local organization serving basic needs, such as the Lunch Lizard summer mobile meals program or Hope of the Grand Valley, thereby keeping his name and spirit alive.
A STRiVE worker turns fresh fruit into treats at Alida's Fruits. STRiVE provides employment for persons with disabilities and an income stream to support the nonprofit's mission.

STRiVE purchased Alida's this past October to provide employment opportunities for some of their 900+ adult clients in Mesa County. In addition to providing meaningful employment, the goal is to transition the program into a business venture that will provide earned income to support all their services for individuals with development disabilities and their families. A $25,000 grant from our Community Foundation will help purchase computers, safety equipment and technology upgrades for the business.

Read more in the Daily Sentinel article.

Eric S. Johnson Fund

Eric Johnson worked at City Market for two decades and was active in the Jubilee Fellowship Church, the local Outing Club, and Barbershop singing group. He didn't know about our Community Foundation but was introduced to the idea of a legacy gift by his attorney. With no children of his own, he left a generous estate gift when he passed away. The new Eric S. Johnson Fund is a field-of-interest fund to support children in Mesa County with limited financial resources to cover their medical expenses, making health care more affordable to those who need it the most.

Mary Ferguson Carbondale Teacher Mini-Grants Fund

Formerly a separate 501(c)(3) organization, the Carbondale Education Foundation has been transferred to our Community Foundation for management, rebranded and re-energized after years of sitting idle. The name of this new fund says it all; Mary Ferguson was a beloved teacher in Carbondale for many years. The fund will provide up to $5,000 a year in small grants to school teachers in Carbondale public schools in any grade level to enhance classroom learning.

COPMOBA Trails to the Future Fund

2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association (COPMOBA). As their website brags, that's "30 years playing in the dirt."
A $10,000 grant from our Community Foundation helped purchase five merchandiser refrigerators for elementary schools in School District 51. These units will store fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy products for healthy snacks, as well as extend the life of food items from the cafeteria lines, thereby alleviating hunger and reducing food waste.

Support for Veterans
Trutta Fund

Our new Trutta Fund distributed nearly $70,000 in grants to organizations serving veterans in Mesa and Delta counties. Colorado Discover Ability, HomewardBound and the Western Region One Source (all pictured above) were three of the seven organizations who received grants.

Board Member Spotlight:
Kim Giannone

Kim Giannone was raised in Fruita and graduated from Fruita Monument High School.
Harmony Acres Equestrian Center

Harmony Acres Equestrian Center held a celebration of their new home in early November. Harmony has been operating since 2014 and moved to their new location in 2018. They provide equine and animal-assisted therapy to over 250 individuals annually, including veterans, children, and individuals with physical and mental challenges.

Housing Assistance

The Bray Cares Foundation distributed over $20,000 in grants to organizations addressing housing-related needs in Mesa County. 2019 is the first year our Community Foundation managed the grants process for Bray & Company.

Healing with Horses

Healing with Horses is an equine therapy center that provides healing opportunities for people through the power of horses. They offer a variety of programs, including individual therapy sessions, group therapy sessions, and workshops. Their mission is to help individuals overcome physical, emotional, or psychological challenges through the healing power of horses.

Bray Cares Foundation

The Bray Cares Foundation distributed over $20,000 in grants to organizations addressing housing-related needs in Mesa County. 2019 is the first year our Community Foundation managed the grants process for Bray & Company.

School. She served 5 years of active duty in the US Air Force stationed in Germany and is a graduate of Christopher Newport University. Kim has been a financial advisor for over 25 years, currently with Baird Private Wealth Management. Dogs are her passion. She breeds and shows Bernese Mountain dogs and is active in the Grand Valley Kennel Club.

In addition to serving on our Community Foundation board for the past three years, she serves on our Investment Committee - developing our investment policy statement and monitoring the investment performance of our long-term assets, a critical stewardship function of our organization.

Kim will be the first to say that, while the $80 million in assets under management is important and impressive, it is really about the impact these assets have in terms of benefiting the community.

"The Community Foundation is one of my favorite local nonprofit organizations. We support so many different projects and are working on important community issues like hunger and opioid addiction." Kim and her husband, Joe, generously provide unrestricted funds which provide flexible dollars to meet unmet needs and support leadership projects. "They are pros at understanding what the community needs and making sure our donations have the most impact."

Kim's personal contributions are eligible for partial matching funds from her employer. Donors to our Community Foundation are encouraged to explore if their places of employment offer matching funds for charitable donations, as this is a way to make charitable donations go further.
The Western Colorado Community Foundation is confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations by the Council on Foundations.

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Holiday time means parties with friends and family gatherings, concerts and carols, playing in the snow and sitting by the fire with hot cocoa, lights in the darkness, hope for our world, peace on earth.

From our Community Foundation staff team, best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2020!