



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good

2019 Highlights

We share some highlights from our year:

\$5.4 million in new donations

\$4.3 million in grants and scholarships awarded (up over 25% from 2018)

16 new donor funds established

7 new legacy gifts documented

21% growth in long-term invested assets, from \$61.5 million to \$74.7 million*

* 12/31/19 financial statements are not yet audited. Total assets will include non-liquid assets as well as invested assets.

A big thank you to our donors and friends for their involvement and confidence in our Community Foundation!

Together, we make a big difference in improving the communities we live in and call home.

A great year! Looking Back at 2019

2019 was another great year for our regional Community Foundation! We share our standard metrics for growth and impact through grants and scholarships (see story box to left). We continue to grow steadily, yet the year-end numbers paint but a part of a larger picture.

For several years, we have been actively building our local community funds. Last year, we received several significant donations to these funds from community-minded donors. We received our first end-of-life donation from Michelle Alford of Glenwood Springs, directed to their local community fund, the Two Rivers Unrestricted Endowment Fund. 2019 was also the year our newest local community fund, the Surface Creek Community Fund for Cedaredge and the surrounding communities, started organizing, with a formal launch in early 2020.

Our Community Foundation is also very committed to building permanent funds for targeted issue areas like hunger, housing, and substance abuse. In 2019, several new field-of-interest funds came on line: the Trutta Fund provided \$70,000 to organizations providing services to veterans and their families; a suicide prevention fund made its first round of grants; the Bray Cares Foundation vetted applications for housing related needs in



2020 Theme for Community Grants Youth Outside!

Our Community Foundation is pleased to announce our grantmaking theme for discretionary grants this year: Youth Outside! Youth, ages 12 to 18, are under stress across our communities, suffering from social isolation, anxiety, and even depression. Research shows many benefits of outdoor recreation and exploration for children and youth.

We have up to \$100,000 to support youth development through outdoor recreation projects. The online application process opens at the end of February.

For more information, visit wc-cf.org/nonprofits/grant and click on the Community Grants 2020 tab.



2020 Scholarship
Applications Now Open

Mesa County; and our new CORE Fund starting funding conservation, outdoor recreation and environment projects.

In 2020, we will begin making grants from new field-of-interest funds for domestic violence programs, arts/culture/literacy, and animal care, funded by a generous legacy donation from Evelyn Haley.

These issue-focused grant funds are important for us to build, as they provide flexible funding to meet current and emerging needs in our community.

Board Member Spotlight Mike Sewell



Our Community Foundation's board chairman, Mike Sewell, has followed our work since its early days. Mike remembers first hearing about the community foundation concept back in 1998 from a long-time friend, Jane Quimby. Mrs. Quimby was the first legacy donor to our foundation when she passed away in 1999. Many members of the Quimby family are still involved with our organization today.

Mike and his wife, Jean, are originally from

Our Community Foundation's scholarship application process is now open! Students can apply for one or more of 35 different scholarship funds managed by our Community Foundation. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$5,000+ and many are renewable for up to four years.

In addition to scholarships for graduating seniors, we manage several scholarship funds for non-traditional students and students interested in vocational and technical training.

The deadline to apply is March 3rd for graduating high school seniors and March 15th for non-traditional scholarships.

In 2019, our Community Foundation distributed \$809,560 in scholarship funding.

For more information or to apply, visit: wc-cf.org/students/available-scholarships.

Save the Date!



The Community Impact Council (CIC) *Inspire Impact*

Oklahoma but have lived in the Grand Valley for 43 years. "Now that I am retired, I serve on a lot of nonprofit boards. Given my professional background in financial services, I always end up being treasurer or serving on an investment committee. But what a fulfilling 'job' this has been to help so many local organizations do their work in our community." Mike served on the Grand Junction Symphony Foundation board for ten years and is still active with the Colorado West Land Trust; both organizations have endowment funds with our Community Foundation.

Mike is particularly pleased to have served on our board as we developed community leadership initiatives in child hunger and, more recently, the environment. "Jean and I were pleased to support the new Conservation/ Outdoor Recreation/ Environment Fund as founding donors. The CORE Fund provides another giving vehicle for people who care about our environment to fund projects and make an impact right here in Western Colorado."

Suicide prevention is another personal area of interest. "The Community Foundation has been identifying ways to address this problem. Last year we funded a research study on Social Worlds and Youth Well-being here in our school district. Mesa County is one of two counties in the State of Colorado to be chosen for this research to try to figure out trends and ways to intervene in addressing this issue."

Mike will be wrapping up his six years on our board of directors when he is term-limited in May. "Our board is doing strategic planning this year. I'm so excited about how far this organization has come, and how much potential there is."

Breakfast is Tuesday, March 10, 8:00 - 9:30 AM at the Two Rivers Convention Center. Hilltop Community Resources is lead sponsor as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary. Long-time donors to our Community Foundation, Bernie and Mary Beth Buescher will receive the Living Legacy award.

After the breakfast, nonprofit organizations are invited to attend a special presentation ***Inspired Funders: Update 2020***. The presentation will feature a panel of foundations providing information on their funding priorities, including Caring for Colorado, NextFifty Initiative, the Colorado Health Foundation and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

More information and tickets, click [HERE](#).

[A new way to support nonprofits... including WCCF!](#)
ReFUND Colorado



Your refund. Your community. Your choice.

Coloradans now have the

Roaring INTO THE 2020's

Reflections from the Executive Director

The year and the decade are over...
roaring twenties - here we come!

We have barely wrapped up 2019 and are already busy looking forward to some special activities for 2020. In the coming months, our board will be undertaking a new five-year strategic planning process. We have made excellent progress on achieving the goals in our last plan, WCCF Vision2020. In the past eight years, we have greatly expanded our mission and purpose, becoming a full-service community foundation that not only works closely with our donors to develop charitable legacy plans, build endowments and distribute grant and scholarship funding but also providing leadership on important community issues. We had set \$75 million in assets as our goal for 2020 and have zoomed past that target, as we are close to \$85 million in total assets. We are excited to develop a new strategic plan that builds on the enormous accomplishments and growth of recent years to expand resources and have even more positive impact on the communities we serve.

Also in 2020, we are pulling together our Mesa County Blueprint to End Hunger. With a generous grant from the Colorado Health Foundation, Mesa County and our Community Foundation are pioneering local action plans to address hunger and food insecurity. Watch for more information about this blueprint and how to get involved in addressing hunger in the

option to give all or part of their state income tax refund directly to one or more of 7,750 eligible nonprofits registered with the State.

Through the new ReFUND Colorado program, taxpayers can choose to directly support an eligible Colorado-registered charity with a simple designation on their state income tax return.

Taxpayers can look for the **"Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit"** line of their tax return or tax software and enter the name and registration number of the organization they want to support. Taxpayers can also ask their accountants and tax preparation professionals to use the ReFund option. Nonprofit registration numbers are searchable by using the database on the ReFUNDWhatMatters website.

Nonprofit organizations can promote this opportunity to their donors through a variety of tools and resources found on the ReFUND What Matters website.

ReFUND Colorado is a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Association and implemented by the Colorado Department of Revenue and Colorado Secretary of State. It's the result of bipartisan state legislation enacted in 2018 and is the first of its kind in the nation.

coming months.

Substance abuse is an ongoing problem in our community; more and more of our donors want to find out how to help, from prevention and education efforts to treatment programs to providing housing and supportive services to folks who are dealing with addictions. As the opioid epidemic rages across our country, Colorado is not immune. From 2000 to 2018, Colorado lost 13,450 residents to drug overdose, and 44% of these deaths involved an opioid (either a prescription or heroin). In March, our Community Foundation, in collaboration with the Mesa County Opioid Response Group and the Brownson Memorial Fund, is producing a newspaper insert, highlighting this topic and the resources available to help.

In celebrating the new year this year, there was a lot of chatter about the "roaring twenties." Synonyms for roaring: booming, reverberating, thriving. Our Community Foundation will be roaring in 2020! These are just some of the many things we are working on, in the new year and the new decade, expand local philanthropy and engage community-minded donors to make a real difference, right here where we live. Join us!

-- Anne Wenzel

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

Visit our Website

 Like us on Facebook

View our profile on  **LinkedIn**

 Forward to a Friend

View our videos on  **YouTube**
