



LEAVE YOUR MARK...

WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charitable Funds for Community Good



Wearing a mask in the school colors for her graduation speech, Anna B. will study robotic engineering at Colorado State University.

"Zooming" Through 2020 Scholarship Season

**93 Students Awarded
\$822,700 in
Scholarships**

Scholarship season was in full swing in mid-March, with over 200 applications submitted to our 38 funds. Then the stay-at-home order went into effect and staff proceeded to work from home - which



A 27-year volunteer at Catholic Outreach, Bob Shales chats with Soup Kitchen Manager Angela Walsh.

Remembering an Altruistic Spirit

**Robert Shales
(1920-2020)**

Long-time Community Foundation friend and donor, Bob Shales passed away in April at the age of 99 3/4, just three months shy of his 100th birthday.

A mid-western boy, Bob grew up, raised his own family and practiced dentistry in Illinois before retiring and moving to Grand Junction in 1992. He was active in his church, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and a generous donor to the parish and its school. Bob seemed to have countless friends. He enjoyed people and conversation, read voraciously and was always ready to discuss the latest play at CMU or issues of the day, quick to joke and with a twinkle in his eye.

presented unique challenges for students, our scholarship team, and the committees who traditionally conduct dozens of in-person interviews and deliberation meetings to select scholarship recipients.

Our Scholarship Manager, Deirdre McLoughlin, quickly responded to the challenge by setting up and facilitating 65 virtual Zoom interviews and multiple committee review meetings to select 93 high school graduates for scholarships.

Award nights and high school graduations looked different for these young people this year, but gratitude for our generous donors and the scholarship funding they will be receiving for their college education is, as always, much appreciated.



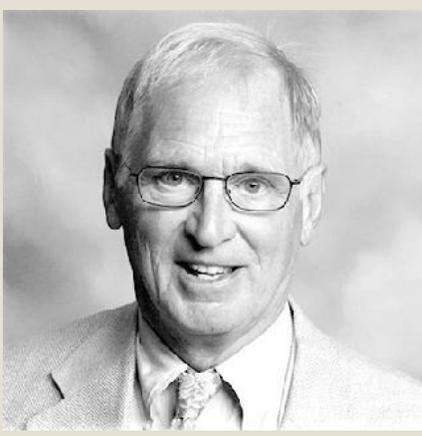
Madison W. enjoys a pick-up truck graduation parade. She will attend Colorado Mountain College.

One of the many activities he pursued in retirement was volunteering at Grand Valley Catholic Outreach's Soup Kitchen, something he did for 27 years. Sr. Karen Bland commented on Bob, "He was such a faithful volunteer at Catholic Outreach. During his last year of volunteering, when he could no longer pick up donations at the food markets, he joined his Thursday crew helping serve beverages. He said Thursdays were the highlight of his week. In his later years, when he was confined to his house and could no longer volunteer, he relished hearing stories of the Soup Kitchen."

Bob's life was book-ended by two periods of severe economic crisis in this country - the Great Depression and the current COVID pandemic. As a boy, his family survived several difficult years because of the generosity of others. He and his sister received scholarships to attend the local Catholic school when his family could not afford the tuition. Bob's life was shaped by these early experiences and he developed a lifetime commitment to helping others.

At the end of his life, he was more worried about people in his community losing jobs and not getting enough to eat than he was about his own health problems. His estate gift will provide tuition scholarships at Holy Family Catholic School and will also support our Community Grants Fund to meet unmet needs in the community.





**William R. Patterson
(1935-2020)**

Respected orthopedic surgeon and enthusiastic outdoorsman, Dr. William Patterson passed away in April of this year.

Bill and his wife, Donna, are long-time donors to our Community Foundation. In 2011, they established a scholarship fund in memory of their son, Bill. These scholarships are awarded to students graduating from a high school in Mesa County who demonstrate high academic achievement and leadership potential. Preference is given to students interested in science and the environment, passions of both father and son.

Bill and Donna served on the annual selection committee for a number of years and have awarded a total of 12 renewable scholarships. They always enjoyed receiving thank you notes and updates on some of "their students" who have gone on to

The Cycle Effect provides mentoring and mountain biking skills for girls in Eagle County.

2020 Community Grants Youth Outside!

This year, the focus for our annual community grants is to help get Youth Outside! to address stress and anxiety through organized outdoor activities. In May, our Community Grants Committee awarded \$100,000 to nonprofits in 6 of our 7 counties.

Notes Barb Chamberlin, chair of the grants selection committee, "Our young people are more stressed than ever - helping them access outdoor recreation to increase their confidence and resiliency was a major goal of this funding. Once COVID-19 hit and youth, along with everyone else, had to stay at home and inside, we saw this funding as more important than ever. We are really pleased that these organizations were able to adapt their programs to follow social distancing and help our youth get outside and active this summer."

Below is the list of funded projects:

- Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club - summer outdoor adventures
- Colorado Canyons Association - youth education and recreation on public lands
- Friends of Youth and Nature - outdoor recreation for at-risk youth
- Hilltop Community Resources - recreation for residential youth services clients
- Karis/The House - summer camp for homeless youth
- Mesa County Partners - bike club for

successful careers in science, engineering, and medicine.

[COVID-19 Response Updates](#)
Caring for Our Home Community



Seniors at Grand Junction Housing Authority properties were delivered a hot lunch from a local restaurant.

The ***Caring for Our Home Community Fund*** has raised \$45,135 as of June 25th. This funding provided over 2,600 meals to some of our most vulnerable neighbors including seniors, homeless individuals, families, and at-risk and homeless youth.

Our ***Virtual Canned Food Drive*** has raised nearly \$50,000 thanks to the generosity of over 200 donors. Funding has been distributed to 19 food pantries across our seven counties to purchase food items in low supply.

Nearly \$110,000 has been raised for our ***COVID-19 Response Fund*** including \$48,000 through our West Slope Cares initiative.

youth and mentors

- Partners of Delta/Montrose/Ouray counties - summer outdoor adventures
 - Stepping Stones of the Roaring Fork Valley - outdoor experiential learning
 - Summit 54 - outdoor learning and activities
 - The Buddy Program - Leadership through Exploration, Action and Discovery (LEAD)
 - The Cycle Effect - mountain bike skills training and mentoring
 - The Nature Connection - river recreation for Delta County 9th graders
 - Voyager Youth Program - Adventure Wednesdays
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**Reflections
from the President**

I don't know many centenarians (that's a word you don't hear too often!), let alone a centenarian who is vital and "going strong" after ten decades on Planet Earth. But Bob Shales was that. A life-long Catholic of deep faith. A man of merriment, frequently with a twinkle in his eye as he told jokes. A servant and volunteer. A generous heart.

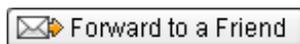
Bob did not pass away from the COVID virus but his final months were very much impacted by it. A gregarious man, he had to limit the number of people who came inside his comfortable home to sit and visit with him. He worried a lot about people about getting sick or losing their jobs in the economic fall-out. He

These funds are being distributed to support basic needs, family support and mental health programs remainder of the year.



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

Visit our Website



made a generous donation to our Community Foundation right before he died, with a note to use it to respond to basic needs because of the COVID pandemic. We will be making a grant in his name and his memory to Grand Valley Catholic Outreach - an organization he supported for three decades that is doing so much right now to keep people in the growing soup line fed, provide rental assistance to those worried about losing their homes, and ensure children have shoes and clothes and books to read. Catholic Outreach is very much at ground zero of increased needs right now but they continue to look forward and plan new permanent housing projects for people who find themselves on the street.

These were Bob's interests, as well as those of so many of our donors: meet basic needs and keep moving forward with efforts to lift people out of poverty and difficult circumstances through education and supportive housing. His final charitable gifts and long-term legacy will indeed do that.

-- Anne Wenzel
