

THE BROWNSON MEMORIAL FUND
A DONOR ADVISED FIELD OF INTEREST FUND
OF THE
WESTERN COLORADO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, INC
P.O. BOX 4334, GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502

2019 NEWSLETTER

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

DEATHS STILL AN ISSUE AS PROVIDERS LOOK FOR ANSWERS

AUGUST 25, 2019 HEADLINE IN THE DAILY SENTINEL

The battle with substance abuse continues to escalate and your help is needed in the fight. The article in the Daily Sentinel indicates that deaths are up for 2019 and that the number of overdoses seen by the emergency room at St. Mary's Medical Center has increased a great deal. We continue to work on building the Endowment of the Brownson Memorial Fund so we can increase funding to our local non-profit groups that work in many areas in the fight against substance abuse. To our knowledge, we are the only fund in Mesa County whose sole mission is to fund Non-Profit Organizations in the county that address the problems of Drug Addiction, Alcoholism, Other Substance Abuse and/or their related problems.

Since 1985, we have given over \$370,000.00 to local organizations and this year with the generosity of an anonymous donor, we were able to increase our giving to \$27,200.00 to eight different organizations.

The following are the Grant Recipients for 2019

1. Care & Share – Counseling and support for families of substance abusers (drugs).
2. Girls on the Run of the Grand Valley -- Heart & Soul Program to build life skills for Middle School Girls.
3. Girl Scouts of Colorado -- Girls are Great Program for fifth grade girls to help prevent drug/alcohol use.
4. Grand Valley Catholic Outreach -- La Mariposa, a weekly support group for women who have been or are currently chronically homeless and have been alcohol and/or drug users.
5. Mesa County Partners -- Minors in Possession Classes - Substance Abuse Prevention Ed.
6. Western Colo. Area Health Education Center -- Project Opioid Response by AmeriCorps/Vista members.

Two new Grant Recipients for 2019 that have us excited about new projects.

7. HomewardBound of the Grand Valley -- Sober Living Support for Homeless Adults. A pilot program to provide sober living support to one or more homeless adults. They are launching this pilot project as a model that could be used at Pathways Family Shelter. That facility which is under construction and slated for occupancy in early 2020, will have a floor dedicated to supportive services for adults recovering from alcoholism and/or substance abuse.

8. Mesa County Opioid Response Group -- This funding is to support The Community Opioid Education Event in April 2020. The event is an opportunity for the public to educate themselves and others about opioids, addiction resources and community efforts to combat the opioid crisis. Twenty organizations staffed booths at this event to help the community understand the growing epidemic and the available resources in the community. The resource tables will be accompanied by a hot dinner and followed by an audience conversation with a panel of experts, survivors and community members. The 2019 event had 200 people in attendance. The Mesa County Opioid/Substance Use Response Group (Opioid Response Group) will identify strategies to address substance use in our community and secure and implement the supporting resources required to meet those needs. (The 2019 Event was not funded by the Brownson Memorial Fund).



Over 200 people attended the 2019 Community Opioid Education Event to learn about the growing opioid epidemic and resources available in the community to prevent and treat substance abuse.

WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND DONATIONS IN ANY AMOUNT ARE WELCOME: Make checks payable to WCCF/Brownson Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 4334, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

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