Our Mission

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley strengthens and enriches the community through engaged philanthropy, thoughtful grantmaking, strategic education and collaborative leadership.

Fall 2011

Imagination Library Growing with Kids

We’re up 50 youngsters this year in our Imagination Library program. We can happily say we serve half of the County’s youngest residents — those under 5. Each child receives an age-appropriate book in the mail every month and parents are encouraged to read with their kids. Research tells us that little ones whose parents read with them do better in school and in life. We’d be happy to have you invest in the future of our youngsters — it’s investing in your future, too. The $30 per child per year is a small price for giving our kids a great start in life. Registration forms are available at our libraries and doctors’ offices or by calling the office at 970/641-8837. To invest in the kids, you can donate to the Foundation’s Early Childhood Literacy Fund online at CFGV.org or call the office or even use the US mail to send a check!

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world.
Love of books is the best of all.”

Jacqueline Kennedy

MacKenzie is three and in preschool! Time does fly. This from her mom:
“Thanks again for such a great program. It has been a huge boost for Mackenzie’s literacy and love of books and reading. She is so excited when she recognizes letters, shapes, colors, numbers, and concepts in her books that she is learning in preschool. The books are an important building block in her early education. It’s interesting, her very favorite books are ones that have been mailed to her as part of the program. We still read some of the “baby” books over and over.”

The Foundation took more than five . . .

We took some of our own advice . . . and completed the Foundation’s newest Strategic Plan through a wonderfully thorough process facilitated by Leadership Learning System’s Gail Digate. Beginning with a Board retreat and with half the board serving on follow-up ad hoc committees, the plan is complete! With the three main goals of Service, Support and Sustainability, the Board has committed to live this plan for the next five years with annual updates and yearly action plans. The plan is available online at CFGV.org/about.php.
CFGV facilitates a community conversation resulting in recommendations for alternative learning in the RE1J School District

Speak Your Peace – the CFGV’s main community initiative – came of age this year when the RE1J School District asked for our assistance facilitating a community conversation around alternative education. Gail Digate of Leadership Learning Systems and Pam Montgomery, CFGV Executive Director, worked with the Schools and the Community to form an Ad Hoc committee for the purpose of discovering facts, testing assumptions and formulating a comprehensive recommendation. The widely diverse positions held by the members of the committee were set aside for the common interest they all held – the education of alternative learners. We used a research-based process to find that common interest and focus on positive approaches which were presented to the Board of Education in June. The plan is now being implemented in the schools and Andy Hanks, Principal of Gunnison High School, says, “The Community Foundation provided much needed assistance that allowed stakeholders to work through tough conversations and decisions . . .[and] everyone’s hard work and diligence in keeping the best interests of the students in the forefront resulted in a successful outcome for all.”

Gifts with a future
Please meet our latest legacy donors at CFGV. They’ve joined us with two new perspectives.

Stephanie Juneau believes that the Foundation is here for all time. Wherever she goes, the Foundation can be seen – in the schools, though the Valley’s art programs – everywhere you look. Daughter Ani was an Imagination Library youngster, attended Stepping Stones and is now in kindergarten. In her work with the RE1J School District, Stephanie sees firsthand the many ways support filters in. “What better way to give back than to put the Foundation in my will,” she said. Thank you, Stephanie, for your vision!

Nancy Ruehle has the wonderful voice you hear when you call the Foundation – well-known and loved in the Valley for her caring nature. She has been on the CFGV staff for seven years, which has solidified her deep belief in the Foundation’s vital role in the Valley. She says, “This community has been indescribably good to us – we want to ‘pay forward’ some of that love and support.” We’re grateful, Nancy.

More than Money ~ We’re here for good.

Since 1997 we’ve been spreading the word that we are one valley, many voices. It is true that last year we made grants in excess of half a million dollars to the community (surprising, isn’t it?) And our assets hover right around $6,000,000 – astonishing in a community of 15,000.

The Foundation is much more than our grants and monetary assets, though. And it is more in ways that don’t necessarily attract the media – so not as many folks know about these programs as might know about the money.

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley is on a mission . . . join us! Here’s a snapshot of how we operate:

For the Good of the Donor. The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley (CFGV) builds respectful relationships with those who allow us the privilege of stewarding their funds. We strive to make philanthropy easy. Through ethical, transparent fund management, our donors grow their funds. Through flexible policies and responsive staff, we help our donors have the greatest impact on the community with their grants. Our new program, Business Gives 365, will reach out to small businesses with a fun, social-media, hands-on program. Watch for it in January.

For the Good of the Nonprofit. The Community Foundation offers guidance and support to show our trust and belief in Valley nonprofit programs. The CFGV makes grants, stewards agency endowments, offers fiscal sponsorship for fledgling agencies (like Mountain Roots Food Project and the Crested Butte Film Festival), coordinates the Gunnison Valley Nonprofit Association, offers a Board Leadership Development education series, sponsors seminars, and counsels with agency staff and board members as requested.

For the Good of the Community. The Community Foundation offers its Civility Initiative (Speak Your Peace) to help those with differing viewpoints explore common interests rather than opposing positions. The Imagination Library program is offered by the Foundation, as is the Defensive Driving Scholarship and the Dan Tredway Excellence in Teaching Award. And CFGV is one of the sponsors of the Gunnison Valley Leadership Program.

Here for Good! Find us on the web at www.cfgv.org. Or call – we’re very friendly! 970/349-5966 or 970/641-8837.

Live Forever!
You’ll create a legacy in the Valley when you remember CFGV in your will, trust, life insurance policy or retirement plan. Ask your attorney or financial advisor what’s best for you or visit our website for easy bequest language to start a conversation with your family or advisor. www.cfgv.org/legacy
Donor Advised Funds
Your priority is our priority.
A personalized fund at the Community Foundation is the perfect way to give up the hassle of philanthropy and stay actively involved in giving, supporting the organizations and issues that matter most to you. You name the fund and make grant recommendations in the name of the fund or anonymously. We’ll even work with you to find the organization doing the work you love.

Our staff is your staff.
Donor Advised Funds (DAF) offer more flexibility than private foundations. We’ll even help turn your private foundation into a DAF – and you’ll find you have even more leeway about when you decide to grant. Our staff becomes your staff and all your back office work is done by us. No more 990 returns! For new gifts, you have an immediate tax advantage and grants are made at your convenience.

Molly Foster
Defensive Driving Scholarship
Molly Foster, a Gunnison High School student, received the Foundation’s 10th Annual Defensive Driving Scholarship. Molly’s application told us she would develop confidence which would lead to wiser driving choices. “You may only get one chance to make a right choice,” she said. Molly participated in a 2-day driving skills course with MasterDrive in Colorado Springs thanks to designated gifts from anonymous donors to the Foundation. Through MasterDrive of Colorado Springs, Molly experienced lifesaving skills training in her own vehicle with a professional instructor, learning crash avoidance and precision maneuvering, controlling the vehicle’s changing weight dynamics, braking, backing, and skid control and recovery. Molly says “I want to go back!” You can read more about MasterDrive at www.masterdrive.com.

Emily Kowal
Excellence in Teaching Award
The prestigious Dan Tredway Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award is presented during Gunnison High School Commencement to a full-time teacher selected by an anonymous committee of teachers and administrators using specific criteria set by the Tredway Family, founders of the fund. Emily Kowal, who has taught for 12 years in Gunnison, received the award for being “an innovator involved in classroom, school and district activities that challenge students to stretch.” She is flexible, takes on challenges...and stays positive and upbeat while doing so.

“In the greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.”

WILLIAM JAMES

Investment talk with Bob Tesch
Responding with conversation, consideration and caution.
We think that the stock market is modeling itself on the wild swings of fall temperatures in the mountains. Up one day and down the next. We don’t “react,” we “respond” with conversation, consideration and caution. Our investment manager, Bob Tesch, says, “The Foundation has weathered worse storms than this, and it is our disciplined diversification and rebalancing, and long-term focus that will bring the Foundation accounts through this period successfully.” Our strategy is consistent and we are committed to careful observance of our plan. (You can read Bob’s bio at: www.dfgv.org/btesch.phb)
Grants in Action

In its Competitive Grants Cycle, The Community Foundation funds projects that work for the greater good of the County in the areas of arts and culture, community development, environment, education, human services, athletics, recreation, historical tradition and preservation and domestic animal welfare protection.

Enjoy these shots of “grants in action,” and visit our website for a complete listing of the 2011 grants. www.cfgv.org/rgrantees.php

— Anne Frank

“Before starting to improve the world, that nobody need wait a single moment... How wonderful it is...”
Anonymous Donor (4)
Aerie Donor Advised Fund - CFGV
American Family Insurance Agency
Fred and Sue Berry Donor Advised Fund - CFGV
R.C. and Joyce Benson
James E. Bertelsmeyer
Thomas and Linda Biery
Roy and Toni Bliss Donor Advised Fund - CFGV
Taylor and Alison Boone
Christopher and Andrea Cappy
Hap and Narcissa Channell
Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Community Fund - CFGV
Melissa Cunningham
Sandra and Roger Dorf Donor Advised Fund - CFGV
Sterling and Melinda Doster
William B. Endner Endowment Fund - CFGV
Maryo G. Ewell
Ray and Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Go To Guides of Colorado
Richard and Noelle Hagan
Crosby Hard and Deborah Alsofrom
Martin and Maxine Hatcher
Don Haver Donor Advised Fund - CFGV
Maurice K. Heartfield Jr
Hemminghaus Family Fund - CFGV
Jeff Hermanson
Jeanne A. Hull
Marty and Steffanie Jacobson
Anne Lamkin Kinder Donor Advised Fund - CFGV
Dolores (Sissy) LaVigne
The Jack H. and William N. Light Charitable Fund
Robert and Judy McNamara
Withrow W. Meeker
Pat and Pam Montgomery
Kirk and Sandy Mueller
MVB Donor Advised Fund - CFGV
Steve Ogden
Jim and Carol Olander
Boyd and Sharalee Pederson
Binks Radcliffe
Barbara & Randall Rosenblatt Fund - Dallas Jewish Community Foundation
Ray and Nancy Ruehle
Mike and Stacey Shafer
Bob and Ann Simmons Fund - The Dallas Foundation
Wolfgang and Cindy Spohr
Robert and Chris Tesch
Frank and Nancy Tropiano
Colin and Sue Uerling
Don and Joy Wills
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**Education, Athletics & Recreation & Domestic Animal Welfare**

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<tr>
<td>Tenderfoot Child and Family Development Center</td>
<td>Expand Experiential Learning Adventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crested Butte Community School</td>
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<td>Trailhead Discovery Museum &amp; Arts Center</td>
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<td>Literacy Action Program</td>
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<td>Paradise Place Preschool</td>
<td>Scholarship Program &amp; New Playground Equipment</td>
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<td>Adaptive Sports Center</td>
<td>Community Kids Camp/Outdoor Adventure</td>
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**Human Services and Community Development**

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<td>Western’s Responsible Alcohol Partnership</td>
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**Arts and Culture, Historic Preservation and Environment**

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**Coal Creek Watershed Coalition**

- Installation of Best Management Practices