



FALL 2020 UPDATE



Dancing with Spina Bifida

Emma Never Danced, Now She Loves Dancing

Celebrate the Beat's inclusive dance program, made possible because of your gifts, transforms the lives of fourth and fifth grade students at Crested Butte Community School. Emma was born with spina bifida and used a wheelchair. At first, she was unsure about participating. How could she dance?

Emma's Celebrate the Beat instructor loved her vibrant energy and leadership ability in class. Inspired, she created a special piece that highlighted Emma's skills.

At the final performance, there wasn't a dry eye in the audience. Emma danced beautifully, exuding tremendous confidence. After the performance, her parents expressed gratitude that Emma was given the opportunity to shine in a way she never thought possible. School Principal Sally Hensley said, "Celebrate the Beat made magic happen for Emma."

Your generosity makes Community Grants possible! Celebrate the Beat was one of 42 local organizations receiving Community Grants funding in 2020 totaling \$125,000.



Therapy Scholarships **Tackling Mental Health Obstacles**

The need for immediate mental health services for the Gunnison Valley is at a critical point. While Colorado averages 1 mental health provider for every 350 people, Gunnison County has 1 for every 600 people. With suicide as the seventh leading cause of death locally and known community concerns of drug and alcohol abuse, the stress of a pandemic caused a heightened need for therapy for many in the community.

CB State of Mind (CBSOM), under fiscal sponsorship from CFGV and also a Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund grant recipient, has been successfully working to address this growing mental health crisis and prevent suicide. In April, CBSOM launched a scholarship program to provide access to short-term, affordable, and quality mental health care in the Gunnison Valley. These scholarships help those who are uninsured or underinsured connect to a local licensed therapist for up to 10 sessions for free. To date, CBSOM has given 34 scholarships enabling over 340 therapy sessions to those most in need.



“ Thank you for giving me the opportunity to improve my mental health and get the help I’ve needed for a very long time. ” SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

YOU make
stories possible
through
Community Grants!

Story Spotlight!

HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT

Celebrating Immigrant Inclusivity



Did you know the Gunnison Valley is home to the largest population of Cora-speaking people outside of Mexico? Hispanic Affairs Project (HAP), a Community Grants recipient, does an abundance of work to advance social and economic stability for immigrant families living and working in the Gunnison Valley. In the last year, HAP served 140 families by providing 17 individuals with immigration legal assistance, helping 16 people get first-time driver's licenses, and serving as an advocate for appropriate resources based on need.

HAP envisions Western Colorado communities where cultural diversity is recognized and immigrants have opportunities to contribute as integral members through active civic participation. You make it possible for CFGV to partner in that work – thank you!

Embarking on Educational Pursuits

The Gunnison Kiwanis Club Scholarship is awarded to a local graduating senior who demonstrates scholastic commitment, academic promise, a commitment to serving their community, and financial need. This year's recipient is Tristen Haus.

The Gunnison Memorial Scholarship, awarded to Faith Brock and Jennifer Mortensen in 2020, honors local students who were lost in a 1967 car accident. To date, 176 graduating seniors have received assistance in their pursuit of higher education.

Jennifer Mortensen also received the Maxwell MacAllister Memorial Scholarship, a four-year financial award to a local first-generation college attendee.



TRISTEN HAUS

JENNIFER MORTENSEN

“I truly enjoyed the interview process and am so excited to give back. Thank you for investing in my future.”

TRISTEN HAUS, 2020 Kiwanis Club Scholarship Recipient

Teens on Road Supporting Safer Drivers

The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among teens aged 16-19 than among any other age group, according to the Center for Disease Control. Furthermore, the CDC Reports “per mile driven, teen drivers in this age group are nearly three times more likely than drivers aged 20 and older to be in a fatal crash.” Your support sends local teens to a hands-on driving course with MasterDrive.



HAVALIN HASKELL

“I definitely learned a ton, from skid correction to car handling, to braking techniques. Overall, the experience was very enriching and I am so grateful to have better driving skills. Before this, I never had any formal driving instruction, so my driving, as well as my confidence behind the wheel, has been elevated significantly.”

HAVALIN HASKELL

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” CORETTA SCOTT KING



Welcome One Valley Many Voices

No matter how you say it, a simple welcome goes a long way! Did you know that there are over 30 languages spoken in the Gunnison Valley? Studies show that places with diverse populations are more resilient. When people truly feel welcome in their community they are happier, healthier, and more involved.

CFGV, in collaboration with the One Valley Prosperity Project, sought to acknowledge and celebrate our local diversity with both yard signs and stickers saying “Welcome” in the multitude of languages spoken in our community. Yard signs were distributed this summer and can be purchased at the Gunnison Arts Center, Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum, or the CFGV office.

Kids and Books The Need to Read!

Did you know 37% of children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning? And, less than half of children under five years old are read to every day by their caregiver. Sadly, this results in one student dropping out of high school every 26 seconds in America. (Source: *Bookspring.org*)



Thanks to you, over 1,000 local youth have benefitted from receiving free, age-appropriate books in their mailboxes each month through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Every child under age 5 in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties is eligible for this program. Register a child you know or donate today at CFGV.org.

Emergency Food Network Community Collaboration Amid

Before the coronavirus pandemic, over 14% of households in Gunnison County lived at or below the poverty level. That’s a family of four living on less than \$25,926 per year. Yet, according to the Colorado Center on Law & Policy, a family of four needs an annual income of at least \$63,000 just to be self-sufficient in our state. Of course, self-sufficiency is even more difficult to achieve with the onset of COVID-19. With business closures, job furloughs, unexpected medical costs and more, COVID-19 has left many in our community in a precarious place.

CFGV’s task was simple. Maryo Gard Ewell, CFGV’s Director of Community Impact, set up a Zoom meeting in coordination with Mountain Roots and the Food Pantry. Those two organizations set about getting others to the initial meeting, and the Gunnison Valley Emergency Food Network (EFN) was born. So far, ten organizations are participating.

After sharing information, identifying resources and pointing out challenges, the group outlined the collective food needs for the Gunnison Valley community through the end of 2020. The result? Securing over \$163,000 in funding to get food to the people who need it - \$75,000 from CFGV’s COVID-19 Recovery Fund and \$88,967 in matching funds. To learn more about the EFN and impact from the COVID-19 Recovery Fund, visit cfgv.org/covid-19.

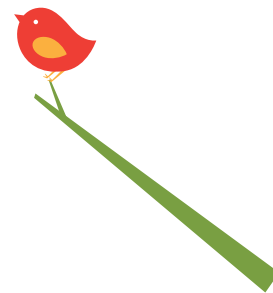
“Your support makes it possible for CFGV to serve as a community convener. When we see potential for synergy, collaboration, shared resources, or simple brainstorming, CFGV is happy to facilitate coordinated efforts. This is exactly what happened with local food providers proactively unifying to address COVID-19.”

LAUREN KUGLER, CFGV Executive Director

Legacy Heroes Ensuring a Brighter Tomorrow!

Through one's will or estate plan, anyone can be a CFGV Legacy Hero! Legacy Heroes are "Here for Good," today, tomorrow and forever. If you are interested in learning more about how to leave a legacy in the Gunnison Valley, please contact us. Current Legacy Heroes include:

Anonymous (3)	Maryo Ewell	Stephanie Juneau
Sue & Fred Berry	Christe & Tim Fretthold	Cora & Bill LaGrange
Tina Brudzinski	Noelle & Richard Hagan	Pam & Pat Montgomery
Bill & Lenni Burke	Gary Hausler	Nancy Ruehle
Sandy & Roger Dorf	Dot & Roger Hemminghaus	Rose Tocke



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“A hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for all people.”

MAYA ANGELOU

A True Community Leader What Makes CFGV Unique?

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley envisions a dynamic culture of giving in which the full range of human needs is addressed by the community it serves. With values of integrity, stewardship, transparency and inclusivity, CFGV is a critical asset to the Gunnison Valley community. None of this would be possible without your generosity.

You can count on the Community Foundation for:

- **Connectedness:** We work with a multitude of community constituents and are very aware of community needs. Your dollar goes further because finding the greatest community impact is always the goal.
- **Approachability:** When you call our office, you get a real person, in real time. Our team is ready to provide input to or answer questions for local nonprofits and donors. Thank you for trusting in our partnership!
- **Forward-Thinking:** Because of you, CFGV is "Here for Good," acknowledging and addressing the needs of today while planning for the needs of the future. A community foundation's unique ability to juggle present and future opportunities plants the seeds for tomorrow. While we can't predict the future, we can prepare for it thanks to you!

A New Chapter CFGV Team Evolves

Gunnison Valley native and CFGV veteran Lauren Kugler has been promoted to Executive Director. Kugler follows Pam Montgomery who was at the helm for 17 years before retirement. Kugler's promotion resulted in CFGV hiring Erica Rasmussen as Communications and Development Director. Rasmussen, a resident of the community for over a decade, brings an abundance of marketing and communications experience, as well as valley-wide knowledge. Alicia Corliss, formerly CFGV's Administrative Assistant, now serves as Operations Manager. And, Maryo Ewell continues to serve as Director of Community Impact. The team is working hard to continue CFGV's successful initiatives implementing additional strategies to improve and propel the organization forward. This work would not be possible without your support!