2020 had such a nice ring to it when we welcomed the New Year. No one could have predicted that we would soon be in the throes of a global pandemic.

Our County acted quickly to try and keep the novel coronavirus at bay. The ski area ended their season weeks early. Businesses had to shutter. Bars and restaurants could no longer serve locals or visitors. Beloved annual community events were canceled. Schools moved to all online learning. Fear and uncertainty gripped our community. But, no matter how dark our days felt, there was a bright light that gave us hope: the nonprofits in the Valley rallied to meet community needs.

One role a community foundation can fill is quick financial response during a crisis. Up and running in mid-March, the Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund became a conduit for caring and generous donors to assist many of our community members struggling with pandemic-related stress and hardship.

From food security to mental health to safety, nonprofits joined forces and coordinated efforts to assist as many people as possible. They worked tirelessly, in some cases around the clock, to feed, house, and protect our neighbors.

And it wasn’t just organizations meeting basic needs. Countless local nonprofits found creative ways to deliver their programs to help our lives feel more “normal” and begin the process of recovery. Arts organizations delivered classes virtually. Theatre and music productions moved outside. Recreational groups made sure everyone had access to fresh air and exercise. By the fall of 2020, the entire nonprofit community had activated and contributed to our collective resilience.

And, through it all, the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley focused on providing support the nonprofit community relies on to deliver their services and programs.

We celebrate the 100+ nonprofits that continue to make recovery possible and the many community partners who are working every day to make the Gunnison Valley more resilient. We are blessed to live in such a wonderful place where people come together to support each other when our community needs it most.

Mission:
The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley strengthens and enriches the community through engaged philanthropy, thoughtful grantmaking, strategic education and collaborative leadership.
When the pandemic hit Gunnison County hard in early 2020, the Community Foundation immediately recognized the need to provide a funding mechanism to support the increased needs in the community. The Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund was established in March to aid in response and recovery efforts.

The Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund provides critical assistance through the Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund. This fund was created to support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing grants for essential services and needs. Here are some of the organizations that received grants:

- **Emergency Food Network** - $9,000
  - The Emergency Food Network was born! They worked with the Center for Mental Health and other local organizations to convene these groups and encourage collaboration.
  - They advertised details of food networks to keep residents informed on food security and created a plan to deliver services.

- **Mountain Roots Food Project** - $11,960
  - This organization focuses on food security and rural areas. They have protected the needs of low-income communities with a focus on food security.
  - They have been able to provide food to those in need through pop-up markets and increased community access to the food network.

- **Nutters Food Project** - $15,976
  - This program helps low-income families meet their basic needs.
  - They have been able to provide food to those in need through pop-up markets and increased community access to the food network.

- **Six Points** - $1,000
  - This program helps victims of domestic violence.
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**Recovery in Action**

**2020 Funds**

Anyone can be a philanthropist! Creating any kind of fund is easy. A Donor Advised Fund at your community foundation is like beginning your own private foundation without all the paperwork. There’s no gift too small to get started. Call the office at 970-641-8837 for more information.

**CfGv’s Gunnison Valley Covid-19 Recovery Fund Provides Critical Assistance**

When the pandemic hit Gunnison County hard in early 2020, the Community Foundation immediately recognized the need to provide a funding mechanism to support the increased needs in the community. The Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund was established in March to aid in response and recovery efforts.

Special thanks to the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation, the Gunnison Valley Regional Housing Authority, and the City of Gunnison for their partnership with the Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund.
Making dreams come true
Scholarships enable local youth to take education to the next level

Honoring educators who make a difference
20th Annual Dan Tredway Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award

The Dan Tredway Memorial Excellence in Teaching award calls for a teacher who is “dedicated to students, committed to the community, and who creates a classroom atmosphere which promotes an excitement about learning.”

CFGV had the honor of awarding Gunnison Elementary School third grade teacher Kathy Garcia the 2020 Dan Tredway Excellence in Teaching Award. Kathy, who has been teaching in Gunnison since 1982, believes the key to teaching is creating a positive, nurturing and supportive classroom.

I learn as much from students as they learn from me. I love their energy! -Kathy Garcia

Fostering an early love of reading
Over 1,000 kids served by Imagination Library

Countless studies show that reading in early childhood has a lasting impact on a child’s life. Reading helps with increased vocabulary, curiosity and memory – and provides healthy together time for children and parents. The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley is a proud partner of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

Over 138 MILLION books to kids in four countries! The requirements for local enrollment? Kids must be under age 5 and live in Gunnison or Hinsdale Counties. Nearly 300 local youth are currently receiving books through the Imagination Library (at no cost to their families). You can help spread the word to get more young kids involved! Many thanks to the generous donors who make early childhood literacy for our local kids possible.

Honoring Nadine Henry’s Legacy
New fund continues to support 4-H

Honoring Nadine Henry’s quiet dedication to and love of the local 4-H program, the longstanding 4-H Forever Endowment will now be the Nadine Henry 4-H Forever Fund. This new fund continues to provide a reliable revenue stream for local 4-H programs for generations to come.

Where the rubber meets the road
Defensive Driving Scholarship provides young drivers with valuable skills

The 2020 Defensive Driving Scholarship award allowed Havalin Haskell the chance to attend a full day driving camp with MasterDrive in Colorado Springs. After learning important skills like crash avoidance, dynamic awareness, crisis braking techniques and skid control, the roads will be safer…for everyone!

I learn as much from students as they learn from me. I love their energy! -Kathy Garcia

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

In 2020, CFGV awarded $10,100 in scholarships to high school seniors through the Gunnison Kiwanis Club, Gunnison Memorial and Maxwell MacAllister scholarship funds.

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. The 2020 recipient is Tristen Marie 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, 178 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.
Here for Good – Inclusivity

2020 Community Grants

General Operating Grants
- 7th Judicial District Child Advocacy Center/The Dolphin House
- Adaptive Sports Center of Crested Butte
- CASA of the Seventh Judicial District
- Crested Butte Avalanche Center
- Celebrate the Beat
- Center for the Arts Coldharbour Institute
- Crested Butte State of Mind, a fiscal sponsorship of CFGV
- Crested Butte Film Festival
- Crested Butte Land Trust
- Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association
- Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum
- Crested Butte Mountain Theatre
- Crested Butte Music Festival
- Crested Butte Nordic
- Crested Butte School of Dance
- Crested Butte Arts Festival
- Crested Butte Wildflower Festival
- Gunnison Arts Center
- Gunnison Country Food Pantry
- Gunnison Valley Mentors
- Gunnison Nordic Club
- Gunnison Trails
- Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League
- Habitat for Humanity Gunnison Valley
- High Country Conservation Advocates
- Hispanic Affairs Project
- Living Journeys
- Mountain Roots Food Project
- Paradise Place
- Project Hope of Gunnison Valley
- Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory
- Seasons Schoolhouse
- Stepping Stones Children's Center
- West Elk Hockey Association
- West Elk Soccer Association

Project Grants
- Cattlemen's Days/Tough Enough to Wear Pink Transportation Program
- Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project
- Choice Pass Parent Education
- Gunnison-Hinsdale Early Childhood Council Nurturing the Young Child Conference
- Gunnison Watershed School District RE1J Crested Butte Community School Enrichment Program
- Gunnison Watershed School District RE1J Rockin Reading Route Book Bus
- Western Colorado University - Savage Library
- Gunnison Historic Newspaper Digitization

Stories from 2020 Community Grants Recipients

From Gunnison Country Food Pantry:

Joy is 73 years old and receives benefits from the State of Colorado to buy food he needs but has given up his driver’s license due to diminished mobility. Emily tested positive for COVID-19 and was told to go straight home and isolate at least two weeks. Carmen has five children; her husband Jaime uses their car to work two jobs. What do these people have in common? They live on low incomes yet cannot get to the Pantry to ask for food assistance. Hardworking Pantry volunteers partnered with the Gunnison County Pandemic Response Team and Gunnison Valley Hospital Senior Transportation Services to deliver free food from the Pantry to households that need it.

From Living Journeys:

In April 2020, we learned that my husband, Charlie, had stage IV cancer. I was nervous, scared, and guarded when I reached out to Living Journeys. I have never been in such a hard place in life and felt so welcomed by an absolute stranger. Julie instantly made me feel like we weren’t alone and told me all the ways that Living Journeys could assist; she gave me hope. From meals to travel reimbursement to grants for therapy, Living Journeys has become a constant in our lives.
From Crested Butte Mountain Theatre:

The shuttering of businesses and enforced social restrictions seemed deeply personal to theatre groups around the world. Gathering people in close proximity is exactly what we do, after all. We uplift our community as individuals share their grief and joy and find love and fellowship. Though our stage was dark in 2020, our future shone bright. Our inboxes overflowed with “love notes” from our audience, encouraging us to not give up, because they weren’t giving up. We learned that we are essential to each other’s livelihood - a generous reciprocity.

From Wonderland Nature School:

One of our scholarship recipients was the child of a struggling mom who couldn’t work during COVID shutdowns and was experiencing a very difficult pregnancy. Her preschooler was able to stay in school where learning and routines remained stable and secure. This continuum of care and education is assisting mom with preparing her child for success in Kindergarten.

From Project Hope:

In the fall of 2019, Kay arrived in Gunnison with no support system and few material possessions. As a result of lifelong abuse, she suffered from a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a combination which made it difficult for her to be self-sufficient. Project Hope placed her in emergency shelter when she first arrived, and then moved her into a transitional housing unit. After a long search and a lot of leg work, Kay finally secured a safe, affordable place to live and is living on her own for the first time in many years.
Leading the charge

CFGV’s Board of Directors and Advisory Council provide philanthropic leadership

Our dedicated Board of Directors and Advisory Council demonstrate how to be a philanthropist every day. Each member is committed to supporting the Foundation through their gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

D espite the chaos caused by the pandemic, CFGV celebrated many successes. Thanks to our incredible staff, our fundraising and grant-making hit record levels, our reputation and visibility in the community increased, and our impact reached further into the Gunnison Valley than ever before.

After 17 years, we said goodbye to our longtime executive director, Pam Montgomery, when she retired in July. The work that Pam did to position CFGV to have such a banner year cannot be understated! She took a tiny community foundation CFGV to have such a banner year cannot be understated! She took a tiny community foundation to a friend or neighbor . . . there are so many ways to take part in our thriving future. You’re Here for Good with CFGV.

Our Operations Manager, Alicia Corliss, celebrated one year of service to CFGV in April 2020, and her 17 years of experience in the nonprofit industry has helped to refine and elevate CFGV’s operations in preparation for the next chapter of growth. Maryo Ewell also continued as Director of Community Impact and was instrumental in reconfiguring CFGV’s grantmaking in 2020, which resulted in a record amount of grants made into the community.

CFGV also brought Erica Rasmussen on board as our new Communications and Development Director in July. Erica originally hails from Connecticut and has a degree in Recreation Resource & Ski Resort Management from Lyndon State College. Erica fell in love with the Valley in 2008, and finally made Crested Butte her home in 2010. She’s held various positions in tourism and resort management in Gunnison County, and provides a plethora of marketing and communications skills in addition to an enthusiasm and smile that is contagious!

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A bove all, the Foundation honors donor intent. In carrying out that intent, four essential values guide our actions and services to our community: Integrity, Inclusivity, Stewardship and Transparency. CFGV envisions a dynamic culture of giving in which the full range of human needs is met by the community it serves. You can volunteer in the community, donate to the Foundation and other favorite causes, offer a helping hand to a friend or neighbor . . . there are so many ways to take part in our thriving future. You’re Here for Good with CFGV.

To support CFGV’s work, visit https://cfgv.org