



WHAT'S INSIDE:
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and more . . .

Mental Health Affects All of Us

\$80,000 helps launch mobile crisis response team

The pressures of low income, homelessness, unemployment, food insecurity, and daily life stresses have taken a

toll on the Gunnison Valley community. The COVID-19 pandemic only increased these pressures and made the need for mental health services even more widespread and urgent.

In response, Gunnison Valley Health (GVH) dedicated resources to create new community outreach and education initiatives. GVH set out to develop immediate assessment and intervention services in order to address the increasing number of patients calling 911 or going to the emergency room with a mental health crisis. With this in mind, the idea of establishing the Gunnison Valley Mobile Crisis Team began to take shape.



In partnership with 16 local agencies and with the guidance of the Aspen Hope Center, GVH worked to identify exact community needs, and to implement and monitor a work plan. In March, GVH applied for a Gunnison Valley COVID-19 Recovery Fund Grant aimed at getting the Mobile Crisis Response Team, consisting of three clinicians who rotate being

on-call 24 hours a day, up and running by the summer of 2021. The result was CFGV's largest single grant to-date: \$80,000 to assist in the startup of the new team.

Early anecdotes showing the success of this program are promising. Community members in crisis have noted feeling more comfortable in being evaluated in the least restricted environment possible – usually at home – and not being admitted to the Emergency Room in order to receive help. In the first three months the Mobile Crisis Response Team has been operating, response time to mental health emergencies has been reduced to six minutes in Gunnison and 30 minutes in Crested Butte. When you're in crisis, every minute counts.

Thanks to generous COVID-19 Recovery Fund donors, CFGV is proud to be a funding partner with GVH on their innovative and holistic approach to provide mental health support.

CFGV Snapshot

As of September 30, 2021

Total Current Funds Managed:	87
Total Assets:	\$13,353,092
Total Dollars Granted (since 2005):	\$10,497,779
Total Scholarships Awarded:	239
People impacted by CFGV grants in 2020:	50,000+

Growing the Nonprofit Leaders of Tomorrow



When Pam Montgomery retired from CFGV after 17 years as executive director in 2020, the Board and staff wanted to honor her service in a special way. They chose to establish the Pamela G. Montgomery Nonprofit Leadership Fund, an endowment designed to assist local nonprofit leaders in honing their leadership skills.

First grants from new fund help local organizations

Past and present community members celebrated Pam's retirement at the Gunnison Arts Center in August 2021!

Above from left to right: Dick Bratton, founding Board member; Tom Havens, founding Board member; Lauren Kugler, current Executive Director; Pam Montgomery; Bill Burke, current Board President; Nancy Ruehle, former staff member; Doug Tredway, current Board member; and Allen Cox, former Board member.

Photo credit: Sam Liebl, courtesy of the Gunnison Country Times

In the summer of 2021, the new fund honoring Pam made its first grants to two local leaders who attended an "executive director boot camp," and the grants enabled them to take advantage of a

mentorship program offered in conjunction with the boot camp. Jillian Liebl, Associate Director of Development and Events at the Center for the Arts, told us, "I can't tell you how helpful the sessions have been as I step into new executive director responsibilities in this interim period at The Center."

CFGV looks forward to continuing Pam's legacy for years to come by supporting the emerging leaders of tomorrow on their path to leadership through the Pamela G. Montgomery Nonprofit Leadership Fund!

Building a Resilient Community

One of the hallmarks of a resilient community is strong social ties between neighbors. During the height of the pandemic, a small but mighty group of community members came together to organize a few events and kind deeds that would bring joy and build the social ties that the community needed more than ever. The Resiliency Project was born! CFGV's Maryo joined Ginny and Faith with Gunnison Parks & Recreation, Celeste with the Gunnison Country Chamber, Joellen with Sage Production, and Brooke with the Center for the Arts and got to work brainstorming and designing events to bring our community together (safely!). And what this group of gals came up with was amazing.

The "Hero Next Door" series in the newspapers recognized the selfless acts our neighbors were undertaking. "Howls of Hope" got us out on our front stoops, howling in solidarity with health care workers every night at 8:00 pm. "Be Well" signs popped up in yards across the Gunnison Valley with messages of hope and

Resiliency Project brings people together during pandemic and beyond

encouragement written on them. The "Music Cruise" squeezed local bands onto a trailer that was slowly towed around town to bring music to the masses during lockdown. The "Give Light" campaign distributed 8,000 luminarias to businesses and homes, illuminating the community over the holidays. Their creativity showed no bounds.

And they're not done yet! Look for more "pop-up" ideas to recognize and thank our friends and neighbors and remind us that together we are resilient. 🐦



Creating Stability in Times of Uncertainty

The COVID-19 pandemic created a lot of uncertainty for local nonprofit organizations. Many had to furlough or lay off employees, and some had to shut their doors entirely in order to stave off a more permanent closure. Local arts and culture organizations were hit particularly hard. One CFGV donor recognized the unique struggles these organizations faced and decided to provide them with a little extra support.

Through a generous donation, this caring community member's gift enabled CFGV to call on the strategic planning expertise of Marv Weidner and Darcie Perkins of Managing Results. All of the arts and culture organizations in the Gunnison Valley were invited to participate in a training with Marv and Darcie that was designed to teach them the skills to develop contingency and strategic plans in the face of uncertainty.

Sixteen participants from nine local arts and culture organizations participated, and they tell us that the knowledge they gained during these two training sessions will be invaluable as they continue to navigate the uncertainties of a post-pandemic landscape. A great example of amplifying impact through CFGV! 🐦



Generous donor helps local arts groups thrive

The Gifts That Keep On Giving

Forever Fund fulfilling its promise

In order for CFGV to be truly "Here for Good," early CFGV boards and staff realized the need to establish an operating endowment that could generate a consistent and reliable revenue stream in the distant future. Originally dubbed the Cornerstone Endowment, the Forever Fund was established when the Gunnison Area Community Foundation and the Crested Butte Community Foundation merged in 2007. An investment of \$100,000, and the generosity of many individuals, began the long road to realizing this lofty goal.

The long-term vision of the Board and staff, coupled with the gradual development of the fund through generous donations and growth over time, brought the original goal to fruition. In 2020, the Forever Fund made its first distribution. Nearly \$40,000 went to support CFGV's operations, enabling staff to spend less time fundraising and more time supporting our local nonprofits. As this important fund continues to grow, the distributions will allow staff to focus on

developing and improving the programming local organizations rely on to thrive.

Thank you to the Board, staff and donors who helped CFGV realize this amazing vision of providing a permanent resource for the community!

“ I know I won't be coming to the mountains forever but a part of me can continue supporting the work of CFGV by contributing to the Forever Fund. Through this contribution, a legacy from me will continue the work I helped begin.”


ANNE LAMKIN KINDER, founding Board member

**You can support
CFGV's long-term
vision by investing in
the Forever
Fund today!
cgv.org/forever**



Record Amount of Scholarships Awarded

Five scholarship funds help students realize their goals

In 2021, a record \$16,295 was awarded through five scholarship funds to local students attending a college or university. Five students will benefit from the generosity of donors who recognize the importance of investing in the future of the next generation by aiding in their academic success. CFGV wishes all of this year's scholarship recipients the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives. 



NELVI LOBATOS LOPEZ



MADISON HADLEY



JUAN SABAS AGUILAR



IVY PELLETIER



ANNA GALLOWICH

“ Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity! ”

NELVI LOBATOS LOPEZ,
2021 Scholarship Recipient

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STAFF

Lauren Kugler,
Executive Director
Maryo Ewell,
Director of Community Impact
Alicia Corliss,
Operations Manager



Excellence. Accountability. Impact



Colorado Gives Day is December 7

Support CFGV and all the other Gunnison Valley nonprofits you love on Colorado's very own giving day! Schedule your donations starting November 1. Scan the QR code for more info.



Volunteerism Website Launched

Here in the Gunnison Valley, we step up when our community needs it most. In the summer of 2021, CFGV was proud to launch GunnisonValleyVolunteers.com, a one-stop shop for all things volunteer in the Valley, to connect volunteers to the causes and organizations they care about. Over 500 volunteers have signed up to assist the 43 organizations asking for help on the website! It's the spirit of helping and giving that makes our community so special, and the Gunnison Valley Volunteers website enables residents and visitors to give back to the place they love.

GunnisonValleyVolunteers.com connects the community



“ CFGV is committed to helping people in our community discover the vital role they play in each other's lives. ”

SANDY, CFGV DONOR