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CFGV

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
of the GUNNISON VALLEY

here for good

Fall 2022 Update

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Community Grants

Community Grants are a small yet mighty piece of our total annual dollars granted in the Gunnison Valley. The competitive grant application process funds in eight program areas as well as "collaborations," a new category added in 2021. As always, the needs being met by local nonprofits, both individually and together, is inspiring!



2022

COMMUNITY GRANTS

\$162,300 awarded to
34 organizations

Animal Welfare
\$5,000



Arts & Culture
\$6,000



Athletics & Recreation
\$25,600



Community Development
\$11,500



Education
\$23,200



Environment
\$25,800



Health & Human Services
\$59,600



Historical Tradition & Preservation
\$5,600



Innovation Through Collaboration

Over the last several years, it has been exciting to see innovative collaborations emerging from the nonprofit sector in the Gunnison Valley. Rather than competing for grant dollars locally and at the state level, many organizations are collaborating with each other, strengthening services offered to our community. Taking our cue from these community organizations, CFGV now offers collaborative grants. It has been exciting to see unexpected partnerships develop.

This year, Mountain Roots Food Project and Gunnison County Veterans Services submitted a grant application to introduce a work-based education collaboration to assist a local veteran in cultivating the knowledge base and skills to manage an organic hydroponic container farming operation, from seed to sale. Mountain Roots staff will provide on-the-job training and mentoring. Gunnison County Veterans Services will provide off-the-job support including mental, physical, and spiritual health support. This seemingly unlikely pairing is an inspiration for further collaborations in the Gunnison Valley!

Crested Butte Avalanche Center's Growing Reach

The Crested Butte Avalanche Center's primary goal is to prevent the loss of life due to avalanches in the Upper Gunnison Valley. By that marker, the 2021-2022 was a successful season for their organization as we tallied zero fatalities locally.

Hitting their goal of zero fatalities was, in part, due to their effort to expand outreach. In recent years, CBAC has added a beacon park, trailhead days, signage, and clinics for local youth and seniors. This grassroots effort has been successful, with their website traffic showing an increase of 67% during the 2021-2022 winter season over the previous year.

Not only are they seeing more traffic, but they're also seeing website users return more frequently. The CBAC's partnerships with organizations like Western Colorado University, the school district, the Gunnison Senior Center, CB Nordic, and more mean that new members of our community are gaining access to lifesaving knowledge and skills.



Grantees and all local nonprofits were center-stage at our *Here for Good Community Celebration* in July.

inspiring and connecting people so everyone can thrive

cfgv.org

Supporting Nonprofit Resiliency

Cultivating strong, capable local nonprofit organizations is a key part of our mission at the Community Foundation. Your support enabled an investment in additional program staff in 2022, allowing us to expand our offerings.

STEP Program

Our STEP Program has long been a flagship program, offering tailored advising and professional development for local nonprofits. STEP stands for “Sustainable, Tough, Efficient, and Purposeful.”

Each year, STEP advisors with expertise in a variety of topics ranging from board development to volunteer management and everything in between donate hours to an advising “bank” managed by our program staff. Local nonprofits are each eligible for up to 12 free hours of consultation per year through the STEP Program. Our staff members work with nonprofits to define their needs, match them with the appropriate advisor, and lay the foundation for a successful pairing.

“Brett Henderson of HCCA was our advisor, helping us re-build a dormant organization. He has been incredibly helpful in determining best practices, needs and how best to address those needs. We now have foundations in place so that we can move on!”

WILL SHOEMAKER, Gunnison Wildlife Association Board

Enriching Local Nonprofit Leaders

When CFGV’s former executive director, Pam Montgomery, retired in 2020, CFGV supporters came together to establish the Pamela G. Montgomery Nonprofit Leadership Fund to provide grant funding to nonprofit leaders at various stages in their development who want to take their organizations to the next level.

In June of 2022, leadership grants from the Pam Montgomery Fund allowed leaders from two relatively young nonprofits, Sustainable Crested Butte and Save the Majestic, to attend the San Juan Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) conference. RPD provided the opportunity to gain nonprofit management skills and network with peers from organizations based across the rural San Juan Region as well as funding organizations based on the

Front Range. Amy Newfield, Vice President of the board of Sustainable CB, said that the “breakout sessions [at RPD] were amazing... I was happy to attend and RPD is a wonderful workshop for Colorado’s rural nonprofits.”

This fall, one of our seasoned nonprofit leaders, Stacy McPhail from Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy (GRCL) will visit the MacArthur Agroecology Research Station at Buck Island Ranch in central Florida to meet with Executive Director Hillary Swain and her team. Greg Peterson, Board President at GRCL, shared that Stacy will have the opportunity to learn strategies for integrating field research with commercial agricultural production on conserved lands. We can’t wait to see what programs GRCL and Stacy develop on conserved ranchland in the Gunnison Valley over the next few years.

Grants from the Pamela G. Montgomery Nonprofit Leadership Fund provide an opportunity for local nonprofit leaders to take advantage of unique experiences to develop their skill sets. To contribute to the fund or learn more about opportunities for your organization’s leadership, reach out to CFGV staff at 970-641-8837.



STEP Advisors come together each year to learn and strengthen their facilitation skills

Investing in Education

Education is the key to a successful future. The Community Foundation invests in education at all ages and levels, and we honor the educators who make a difference in the lives of local youth.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation initially launched the Imagination Library in 1995 in Dolly's home of Sevier



County, Tennessee. This monthly book gifting program for children under five focused on inspiring a love of books for all preschool children in the county. Since then, the program has expanded across the planet. As the community partner for Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties since 2008, we've sent over 1100 registered children free, fun, age-appropriate books every month from birth to age five.

Last December, Governor Polis and Katy Anthes, Education Commissioner for Colorado, announced the expansion of the program across the state of Colorado. With this added investment, we are happy to be able to do more outreach and get all eligible children in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties registered to receive their free books.

If you or someone you know is a caregiver to a child under the age of 5 who lives in Gunnison or Hinsdale Counties, head to cfgv.org/imagination-library-signup to enroll in the Imagination Library today.



Dan Tredway Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award

With a career spanning 50 years, Dan Tredway was a pioneer in rural education, longtime Gunnison resident, and an inspiration for educators in the Gunnison Valley and across Colorado. He started as a public-school teacher in Kansas prior to being drafted to serve in the Korean War. After the war, Dan earned his graduate certification in teaching at Colorado State College in Greeley before returning to Kansas

to teach public school, and reconnect with a fellow Southwestern College student, then Nancy Livingston. Dan and Nancy were married at the end of his first full year of teaching in El Dorado, KS.

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Dan, Nancy, and their young family spent the next several years moving to accommodate Dan's graduate degree program at University of Wyoming and his budding career teaching future educators. They eventually settled their family in Gunnison and Dan started teaching in the education department at Western Colorado University, including developing a master's program for Western in 1981 that shaped teachers at schools across the entire Western Slope. Also a teacher, Nancy taught for 20 years in the Gunnison Valley. Through their work, Dan and Nancy shaped thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of students, or more.

With great respect for the role teachers play in the lives of their students, Dan and Nancy came up with the idea to anonymously celebrate great teachers in the Gunnison Valley. Over time, that award evolved.

Now, every spring, a local Gunnison Valley teacher who exemplifies the values of being dedicated to students, committed to the

community, and creating a classroom culture that promotes excitement about learning is honored with the Dan Tredway Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award. Congratulations to Katy Dye, our 2022 honoree.



Katy Dye, teacher extraordinaire!

Bringing Community Together

Communities that actively build relationships and connections are healthier and more resilient. Bringing people together to build strong community ties is central to CFGV's work.

Sandbox Sessions

The Gunnison Valley is full of creative people with smart ideas working on making our lives better. Sometimes those folks work in the nonprofit sector. Other times, government agencies or local businesses fill in the gaps. To make their lives easier, we launched a new series of informal meetings this summer for folks working towards common goals across the nonprofit, private, and public sectors: Sandbox Sessions.

We kicked it off with an Environment & Sustainability Sandbox Session in June and followed up with Athletics & Recreation in July. Each session offered an informal happy hour with a moderator to help guide the discussion. Without formal agendas, these sessions offered time for leaders working towards similar missions and goals to come together and see how their work overlaps.

In some ways, Crested Butte Nordic sits at the intersection of Environment and Recreation. Their Development Director, Laura Puckett Daniels, attended both Sandbox Sessions we hosted this summer. Of the sessions, Laura said "Each Sandbox brought together a very different group of people. In both conversations, the most valuable part for me was meeting new folks in the Gunnison Valley and learning about initiatives that are taking place. I was inspired by how passionate everyone is and by how much good work is being done."

This fall, we'll gather the people and organizations active in the Arts here in the Gunnison Valley for another Sandbox Session. We look forward to hosting more in the future and hope you'll attend the ones that align with your work, whether you're in the nonprofit sector or not!



Individuals from nonprofits, government agencies, and other organizations working in the environment and sustainability space gathered together to connect and share ideas.

Our Community's Biggest Challenges:

housing affordability, food insecurity, poverty, substance use and abuse, poor mental health, the early childhood education crisis and more...

What is behavioral health?

Environmental factors (e.g. housing and food security, jobs, childcare, access to and coordination of health services, home life, social isolation) contribute to mental and physical health outcomes. Building a community that supports and promotes healthy behaviors while providing opportunities for individuals, families, and the community to access necessary services that perpetuate wellness is critical.

While these challenges are daunting and require commitment and urgency to address them as a community, we do take some comfort from having the baseline data outlined in this report. The underlying causes and symptoms of our community's poor behavioral health are complex and interconnected and the *State of the Community Report* provides key context and data to support strategic decision-making across our community.

Since the debut of the *State of the Community Report*, we have used our monthly email newsletter to dive deeper into some of the biggest issues covered by the report. We have also highlighted how different organizations in the community are working to address these issues. To stay up to date on how these efforts, and others, are connected, subscribe to our monthly email newsletter.

State of the Community Report

As members of the Gunnison Valley Community Health Coalition, CFGV embraced the responsibility to raise awareness around the *State of the Community 2022 Report* presented by local researchers to groups across the community starting in March. Using a behavioral health lens, this report focused on many of our community's biggest challenges including housing affordability, food insecurity, poverty, substance use and abuse, poor mental health, the early childhood education crisis, and more.

Subscribe today!

