Dear Friends,

The last few years have triggered a shift in perspective for all of us. Enduring the first global pandemic in a century has caused us to change how we approach so many aspects of our lives including how we work, how we stay in touch with family, and how we nurture community.

In some ways, we were fortunate that this pandemic arrived when it did. The foundation of technology that we’ve come to rely on over the last few years was already familiar to many. How would work from home have gone if video conferencing hadn’t already been around for over a decade? Remote schooling would have been even more challenging 25 years ago when households were lucky to have any internet, even a dial-up connection. As a global community, we were able to use existing solutions to address new problems and adapt to a world that shut down overnight.

Likewise, in 2021, we at CFGV were able to move forward from the emergency phase of the pandemic. We looked at how we could build upon our existing tools, knowledge, and relationships to cultivate a brighter future for our community. We developed a plan to adapt our approach to the increasingly complex challenges we face in the Gunnison Valley. And, we found that sometimes, zooming in to get a new perspective provides a different way of looking at something, whether it be a familiar object like the dandelion on the cover of this newsletter or a community challenge like the need to address behavioral health barriers and limitations for our community members.

We look forward to rising up to face new challenges together,

Lauren Kugler
Executive Director

Bill Burke
President

2021 Board of Directors
Bill Burke, President
Dave Clayton, Vice President
Jim MacAllister, Secretary
Colleen Hegeman, Treasurer
Kathy Barnhart
Steve Bolton
Mark Ewing
Rob Gentry
Anne Hausler
Aaron “Huck” Huckstep
Gary Keiser
LeeAnn Mick
Greg Salsbury
Doug Tredway
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Cynthia Wolff
Rose Zealand

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Maryo Ewell, Director of Community Impact
Scott Krieger, Community Impact Coordinator
Lauren Kugler, Executive Director
Erica Rasmussen, Communications & Development Director
Laurel Runcie, Communications Consultant
The Gunnison Valley is an Ecosystem

Traditionally, many people have viewed charitable giving as a one-to-one interaction. However, if there is one thing we’ve learned as a community over the past few years, it’s that we’re all connected. The best chance we have of tackling the challenges we face in the Gunnison Valley is to bring everyone involved together and develop innovative solutions to complicated problems.

In other words, we have to think of the Gunnison Valley as an ecosystem. The National Geographic Society defines an ecosystem as “a geographic area where plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as weather and landscape, work together to form a bubble of life.” In biology, the relationships that exist between the different parts of the ecosystem are complex. Changing one part of the ecosystem can have unexpected ripple effects on the ecosystem as a whole. However, biologists have shown us that unexpected effects are not necessarily unpredictable if you take the time to look at the web of interactions that make up an ecosystem.

The same is true in the Gunnison Valley. Changes to housing supply impact residents, local businesses, the school system, and more parts of the ecosystem. Zooming out from looking at an individual organization or relationship and looking one or two degrees beyond that point in the ecosystem allows us to make better, more strategic choices because we can predict chain reactions . . .
In November of 2021, after months of planning, we debuted a new strategic plan for CFGV based on the idea that the Gunnison Valley is an ecosystem. We also introduced a new vision: **The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley inspires and connects people so everyone can thrive.** We see our role in advancing that vision aligned around three main elements:

**Connections**

*We connect resources to community needs.* Donors trust us as a resource when they make philanthropic decisions. They also know that by contributing to CFGV funds, they are amplifying the impact of their financial support to address our community’s most complex challenges.

**Leadership**

*We are a community leader.* We provide resources to local nonprofits in the form of training, education, partnerships, and funding. We also have a bird’s-eye view of what nonprofit organizations are doing individually and how their missions fit into the overall ecosystem of the Gunnison Valley. We’re positioned well to predict those chain reactions and help steer decisions to provide the best outcomes for community members.

**Stability**

*We provide stability to meet long-term community needs.* We have nurtured relationships across the community for many years. Our board, advisory council, and staff members are committed to addressing the needs of the community for the long term and we manage the financial resources with which we’ve been entrusted to support the community today, tomorrow, and into the future.

We are here for the good of the Gunnison Valley in all of its complexity, and our new strategic plan provides us with a tool to support our ecosystem in new and exciting ways.

**Here for Good!**

Our understanding of our Gunnison Valley ecosystem continues to grow.

Want to add your ideas to our ecosystem map? Contact CFGV at 970.641.8837.
Changing one part of the ecosystem can have unexpected ripple effects on the ecosystem as a whole.
Fund Highlight: An Endowment to End Hunger

Gunnison Country Food Pantry was founded on a basic idea: “No one should go hungry in Gunnison County!” Over the last decade, current Food Pantry Vice President Katie Dix has made a personal commitment that anyone who needs food, for whatever reason, gets fed. A dedicated core of volunteers have built the infrastructure and public will to take on hunger now and ensure that the Pantry has the resources and leadership needed to feed our community for years to come.

A big part of this vision came to fruition when the Pantry partnered with us to establish an Agency Endowment in late 2021. Tracy Leonard, Pantry Board President, Katie, and the Board members knew they wanted to set the next generation of leadership up for success financially, and so they started exploring the process to establish an endowment in January of 2021. After meeting with CFGV Executive Director Lauren Kugler and STEP Advisor Hap Channel several times, they felt comfortable to move forward on their Endowment. In talking with Katie, it’s clear that the relationship between our organizations didn’t arise over the course of 2021. We’ve been partners for a long time.

From Community Grants to the Nonprofit Network and our Sustainable, Tough, Efficient, and Purposeful (STEP) Program, there are few organizations as plugged in to the resources we provide nonprofits as the Food Pantry. As soon as Katie started volunteering with the Pantry in 2013, she started attending our Nonprofit Network events. People she met at those workshops years ago are people she has tapped either as board members or to provide advice as she and the rest of the board have transformed the Food Pantry. They have used the STEP Program seven times since 2013 for everything from financial planning to website development and HR. Katie is a STEP Advisor herself, providing guidance to other nonprofit organizations going through transformative or tough times.

The Food Pantry has received numerous CFGV grants over the years via both Community Grants and our COVID-19 Recovery Fund. Katie admits that she did fuss a bit about the complexity of the first Community Grants application she submitted to CFGV, but now readily testifies that the standard set by the process helps teach Gunnison Valley nonprofits to write exceptional grants. Over the years, grants from CFGV have helped the Pantry secure Spanish speakers to be on duty on all shifts and a Cora speaker for Wednesday nights, helped the Pantry provide more healthy food, and allowed the Pantry to transition to a Preferred Choice Model. During the pandemic, when Pantry client numbers doubled, CFGV grants helped fund a distribution site in Somerset, food for children who were out of school, and the Emergency Food Network.

Years of working together led us, the Pantry and CFGV, to where we are today: partners in a new endeavor. The Pantry’s new Agency Endowment will provide a permanent source of ongoing revenue to improve food security. Since establishing the Endowment, the Pantry has also purchased a building to better serve the community. Part of the reason they were comfortable taking on that risk, including the cost of the renovations the building will require, was the security of knowing that they had an endowment to lean on. We’re proud to stand side-by-side with the team at the Pantry to provide food assistance for our neighbors-in-need in Gunnison County.
Fund Highlight: **Rosalind Cook Artistic Encouragement Award**

Center for the Arts Crested Butte. The Vatican. Cleveland Heart Clinic in Cleveland, OH. Kilohana Farms Plantation, Kauai, HI. Sculpture Park of Louisville, Colorado. The Mt. Crested Butte Wedding Garden. Elk Avenue. What do all of these places have in common? They all feature the bronze sculptures of Crested Butte resident Rosalind Cook.

Roz and her husband Hal raised their three children in Tulsa, OK. Roz took up sculpture as a hobby while pregnant with her first child, but she didn’t view it as a profession at that time. As her children grew older, she found that she was able to dive deeper into her hobby. She studied anatomy and sculpture, practicing her art and nurturing her talent.

In the 1980s, she began casting works in bronze and her career took off when she made her name producing remarkably expressive bronze sculptures that look like they’re in motion. Giving back has been important to Roz her whole life, and her success in her art gave her the opportunity to do more of that. In Tulsa, Roz established the Rosalind Cook Artistic Encouragement Award Fund with the Tulsa Community Foundation after learning that many public school art teachers were spending their own money on supplies. She launched the Award to fund supplies, materials, and equipment for public school art teachers pursuing innovative programs with their students in the arts.

After visiting for many years, and owning a condo here since 2002, Roz and Hal took advantage of their respective retirements to make the full-time leap to Crested Butte in 2014. The Gunnison Valley is lucky they did, as their first order of business was immersing themselves in community service. Roz summed it up simply, “If you look up the definition of the word ‘significant,’ it simply means making a difference.” Roz said she intends to “finish strong in life” by giving of her time, talent, and money to make the world better.

Serving on the board of the Center for the Arts in Crested Butte since 2019, she has been a champion for art exhibitors in the Kinder-Padon Gallery to extend their talents to the community through demonstrations, lectures, or offering enrichment programs at the Crested Butte Community School.

Prior to COVID, Roz had been volunteering with the art programs at Crested Butte Community School and raves about the programming led by the local art teachers. When COVID put her volunteering at the school on hold, she wanted to find a new way to help. So, in 2021, Roz made the decision to relocate the Rosalind Cook Artistic Encouragement Award Fund from the Tulsa Community Foundation to the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley. When we asked her why, her response was simple: “This is my home now.” Every year, a grant from her charitable fund at CFGV supports the arts program at Crested Butte Community School. We’re grateful to be a partner with Roz as she continues to inspire young artists at the school.

If you have recently (or not so recently) decided to make the Gunnison Valley your full- or part-time home, we invite you to reach out and learn more about establishing a fund to help support your philanthropic efforts here.
Financial Activity Snapshot

Total Assets - January 1  $12,441,125
Contributions                          $2,203,882
Other Revenue                         $1,863,292
TOTAL REVENUE                         $4,067,174
Grants & Scholarships                 $1,248,740
Operating & Misc Expenses             $467,264
TOTAL EXPENSES                        $1,716,004
Total Assets - December 31           $14,792,295

Our Donors are Here for Good:
In 2021, Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley invested over $1.23 Million in nonprofits via grantmaking.

Animal Welfare
$8,748
Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League
Paradise Animal Welfare Society

Arts & Culture
$143,090
Celebrate the Beat Center for the Arts
Crested Butte Arts Festival
Crested Butte Book Festival
Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum
Crested Butte Music Festival
Crested Butte School of Dance
Gunnison Arts Center
Gunnison Watershed School District RE-1J
Lighthouse Writers Workshop
Managing Results, LLC

Athletics & Recreation
$62,654
Adaptive Sports Center
Cattlemen’s Days, Inc.
Crested Butte Avalanche Center
Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association
Crested Butte Nordic
Crested Butte Search and Rescue, Inc.
Gunnison County Community Development Department
Gunnison Nordic Club
Gunnison Trails
Gunnison Watershed School District RE-1J
Town of Mt. Crested Butte
Trinity Baptist Church
West Elk Hockey Association
West Elk Soccer Association
Western Colorado University
Western Colorado University Foundation

Community Development
$578,790
Coldharbour Institute
The Equity Project LLC
Habitat for Humanity Gunnison Valley
Hispanic Affairs Project
KBUT - FM
Mountain Roots Food Project
NAACP Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.
Rocky Mountain Public Media, Inc.
San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation
Taylor Canyon Fire Station, Inc.
Town of Mt. Crested Butte
Union Congregational Church
You Can Vote

Fund Balances as of December 31, 2021

For more detailed financial statements, please visit cfgv.org/about-the-cfgv/financials/.

Special grant supported pandemic response planning for arts organizations

inspiring and connecting people so everyone can thrive
2021 Community Grants Recipients gathered at the I Bar Ranch to celebrate their achievements

**Education**  
$163,519  
Alfred University  
American Whitewater  
Center for the Arts  
Colorado State University - Civil Engineering Department  
Dollywood Foundation  
Gunnison County 4-H  
Gunnison County Juvenile Services  
Gunnison County Libraries  
Gunnison Friends of the Library  
Gunnison Hinsdale Early Childhood Council  
Gunnison Watershed School District RE-1J  
Mountain Roots Food Project  
Paradise Place  
Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers  
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory  
The Steamboat Institute  
Stepping Stones Children’s Center  
The Trailhead Children’s Museum United States Naval Academy Foundation, Inc.  
Wake Forest University  
West Elk Soccer Association  
Western Colorado University - Extended Studies  
Western Colorado University Foundation  
Wonderland Nature School

**Environment**  
$41,265  
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition  
Crested Butte Land Trust  
Crested Butte Wildflower Festival  
EarthJustice  
Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center

**High Country Conservation Advocates**  
Mountain Roots Food Project  
Natural Building Alliance  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
The Nature Conservancy  
Rocky Mountain Institute  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Sustainable Crested Butte, Inc.

**Health & Human Service**  
$228,379  
CASA of the 7th Judicial District Incorporated  
Crested Butte Fire & EMS Volunteer Association  
Crested Butte State of Mind  
Gunnison Country Food Pantry  
Gunnison County Health & Human Services  
Gunnison County Juvenile Services  
Gunnison Hinsdale Early Childhood Council  
Gunnison Valley Health Foundation  
Gunnison Valley Mentors  
Homes for Our Troops  
The Last Resort, Inc.  
The Light House, Inc.  
The Lighthouse Pregnancy Center  
Living Journeys  
The Matthews House  
Mountain Roots Food Project  
Project Hope of Gunnison Valley  
Six Points Evaluation & Training  
Tough Enough to Wear Pink

**Historical Tradition & Preservation**  
$6,000  
Crested Butte Mountain Heritage Museum

Thirty-six Community Grants were awarded in 2021. Sign up for our monthly email newsletter to hear their stories of impact over the coming months.

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**2021 Grants by Source**

- Donor Advised Funds: $249,790  
- Community Grants: $161,055  
- All Other Sources: $821,599

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**2021 Grants by Type**

- Animal Welfare: $8,748  
- Arts & Culture: $143,090  
- Athletics & Recreation: $62,654  
- Community Development: $578,790  
- Education: $163,519  
- Environment: $41,265  
- Health & Human Service: $228,379  
- Historical Tradition & Preservation: $6,000

inspiring and connecting people so everyone can thrive
Grant Spotlight: **Spanish Language Classes for Front-Line Staff**

According to the recent 2020 US Census, 7% of Gunnison County residents speak Spanish as their primary language; that translates to about 1,200 community members. For years now, Gunnison County organizations serving the public from the Gunnison Watershed School District to key County departments like Public Health and Juvenile Services have struggled to find bilingual staff to fill front-line roles in their organizations. A common language is essential to serving all members of our community, especially to meeting basic needs like safety and health.

In spring 2021, a coalition of organizations led by Gunnison County Juvenile Services decided to invest in current staff members. They applied for and received funding to offer organization-specific language instruction grounded in the context of the Gunnison Valley through our Advancing Equity grant program funded by the United Philanthropy Forum’s Momentum Fund and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Speaking to the importance of this grant proposal, one reviewer said, “The fundamental idea behind ‘integrating’ in a community is that everyone gives a little to gain a lot. So, just as we hope that newcomers learn English, we also know that if more of us learn Spanish—starting with the simple, respectful act of pronouncing one another’s names correctly—we can more quickly build a community in which everyone can thrive.”

Since receiving funding, the coalition has worked to develop a framework specific to the Gunnison Valley that will be sustainable and ongoing. In partnership with Gunnison County Library District’s Center for Adult & Family Education (CAFE), they brainstormed organizations and populations that might desire classes. Then, Juvenile Services took on the project within their department. Staff members conducted focus groups to generate lists of common phrases required by the staff members of participating organizations. Using the information learned from the focus groups, they created the courses specific for each group to learn how to pronounce names and basic phrases in addition to organization-specific phrases. Bilingual community members who speak Spanish as their first language are signed up to be “language mentors” to the students in the courses to build relationship and increase cultural understanding.

Courses launched in May 2022. The first two rounds of courses are for counselors and clinicians that work with and in the Gunnison Watershed School District and Gunnison County staff including public health nurses and juvenile services staff. One Project Manager said, “I’m excited to be able to communicate with parents and youth and meet them where they are at. It helps build trust across the community.”

In addition to offering courses, the coalition also used grant funds to purchase a set of dual translation earbuds that allow for two people to speak different languages and understand each other. Organizations like the School District, Gunnison Valley Health, and Tenderfoot Family and Child Development Center are now testing them out to see if they help build stronger relationships.

We look forward to seeing how this program develops over the next few years and hope to see stronger relationships form on the foundation of a common language.
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inspiring and connecting people so everyone can thrive
Christy and John Murchison
Kelly and Steve Myers
Laura Headlee Nunez
Paradise on the Taylor LLC
Paul and Kathleen Edstrom Charitable Fund - Schwab Charitable
Dean Pisciotta
Margaret and William Puckett
Sandra and John Rea
Diana and Charles Reiber
Holly and Benjamin Riedel
Belinda and Edward Robbs
Corbin J. Robertson III
Julia and Steven Robinson
Janet and Lewis Shaw
Shondeck Financial Services & Insurance
Karen and Gary Shondeck
Signature Properties Ebner & Associates
Nelson Spencer
G. Irvin Terrell
Annette and Doug Van Brunt
Barry Vernon
John Vernon
Cindy and Greg Webb
Marsha and Henri Wedell
Wesley Family Trust
Marilyn and Don Wesley
Michele and Jeff Wheeler
Angel and Harry Womack
C. Steven Woodley
Cindy and Bobby Wright
Barbara B. Zabel
Lisa Headlee Zuerker

**SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS**

**Crested Butte Rotary Scholarship Fund**
Steve Bolton and Bob Valentine

**Defensive Driving Scholarship**
Shella Barclay
Judith and Joel Dobbs
Shondeck Financial Services & Insurance
Karen and Gary Shondeck

**Elena Pedersen Scholarship Fund**
Jim Barron
Tom Barron
Kim and Ted Bemis
Luke Danielson
Nancy and Peter Gauss
Rory Magee
Julie and Ed Melton
Mildred D. Oppenheimer

**Gunnison Memorial Scholarship Fund**
Margery Hanfelt

**Maxwell MacAllister Scholarship Fund**
Kathy and Jim MacAllister

**One Goal, One Passion Scholarship**
Alicia and Greg Corliss

+ Denotes donations made on Colorado Gives Day
* Denotes donors who passed away in 2021

Lauren celebrating community with Mary Nell and Mike at our 2021 Benefit Concert

Enjoying Hartman Rocks at magic hour

Aspen groves displaying their hidden underground connections at peak color

You’re Here for Good!
2021 Scholarships and Teaching Award

In 2021, we awarded a record $16,295 through five scholarship funds to local graduates in addition to awarding our annual Defensive Driving Scholarships and Excellence in Teaching Award. Five students will benefit from the generosity of donors who recognize the importance of supporting the next generation of leaders by investing in their success.

Scholarships Awarded

**Elena Pedersen Scholarship**
The Elena Pedersen Scholarship Fund was created in late 2020 to remember and honor Ellen Pedersen, a long-time Gunnison Valley resident and advocate for the immigrant community in the Valley.

**Gunnison Memorial Scholarship**
First established in 1967 to provide financial assistance with higher education costs to Gunnison Watershed Students with financial need, so far 180 graduating seniors have been recognized with the Gunnison Memorial Scholarship.

**GHS Teacher of Tomorrow Scholarship**
This new scholarship fund was established in late 2020 by two retired Gunnison Watershed School District teachers. They established the fund to support graduating seniors who are interested in pursuing a degree in education and becoming a primary or secondary school teacher.

**Gunnison Kiwanis Club Scholarship**
The Gunnison Kiwanis Club Scholarship is awarded to a student based on need, community commitment, and scholastic achievement with particular attention paid to community service outside of school projects.

**Maxwell MacAllister Scholarship**
The purpose of the Maxwell MacAllister Scholarship fund is to provide tuition assistance for any post-secondary educational endeavor to students who are first-generation college or vocation school bound.

**Defensive Driving Scholarship**
Grandparents Lee and Polly Spann saw astonishing improvement in their grandchildrens’ driving skills after sending them to MasterDrive, in Colorado Springs. Partnering with the Community Foundation, they created the Defensive Driving Award. Over 43 young drivers have benefited from the award.

**Excellence in Teaching Award**
The Dan Tredway Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award honors teachers who are dedicated to students, committed to the community, and who create a classroom atmosphere which promotes an excitement about learning.

2021 Scholarship Grantees

**Name: Anna Gallowich**
Scholarship: GHS Teacher of Tomorrow Scholarship
School: Western Colorado University
Major/Concentration: Education/Biology

**Name: Ivy Pelletier**
Scholarship: Gunnison Memorial Scholarship
School: Colorado State University
Major/Concentration: Kinesiology

**Name: Juan Sabas Aguila**
Scholarship: Elena Pedersen Scholarship
School: Colorado Mesa University
Major/Concentration: Nursing/Sports

**Name: Madison Hadley**
Scholarship: Gunnison Kiwanis Club Scholarship
School: University of Nebraska
Major/Concentration: Bochemistry/Molecular Biology

**Name: Nelvi Lobatos**
Scholarships: Gunnison Memorial, Elena Pedersen, and Maxwell MacAllister Scholarships
School: Colorado Mesa University
Major/Concentration: Nursing

2021 Defensive Driving Recipients:
Katie O’Neill, Nicholas Ferraro, Piper O’Neill, and Zoe Hanna

Dan Tredway Memorial Excellence in Teaching Award

In 2021, we honored Lisa Danos, long-time Gunnison High School teacher who has worn many hats: English teacher, librarian, testing coordinator, mentor, and more. She started as a substitute teacher in 1991 and has taught English for 24 years, impacting thousands of Gunnison High School students and earning the respect of her colleagues.

Lisa Danos
Every year, community members and businesses contribute invaluable in-kind support to our work at the Community Foundation. Thank you to all of our community partners from 2021 who joined with us to provide important resources for our community.

**Gifts in Tribute**  Supporters of our work often make their gifts in honor of or in tribute to community members and loved ones who have inspired them. Please join us in celebrating these special individuals who have helped make the Gunnison Valley such an exceptional place.

If you wish to make a gift in honor of or in tribute to a loved one or community member, please call us at 970-641-8837.

**You’re Here for Good**  We envision a dynamic culture of giving in which all members of our community have the opportunity to thrive. 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 ensuring a vibrant future for the Gunnison Valley. You’re Here for Good with CFGV.

To support Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley’s work, please visit **cfgv.org**.