Common Sense Discipline in Southwest Denver

Denver Social Impact Bond for Supportive Housing

A Call to Action by Professor Robert Putnam
The Denver Foundation has worked to make a better future for Denver since 1925! We could not provide opportunities and improve the quality of life of so many without the partnership of thousands of generous community members. To celebrate 90 years of strengthening the community we present the OUR FUTURE IN THE MAKING CONTEST. For eight weeks leading up to our birthday, we invite you to share your short stories about how you are improving (or how you have plans to improve) the quality of life for residents in Metro Denver. To help spark your thoughts, we have organized themes for each week of the contest. Visit www.denverfoundation.org for a complete summary and rules for our contest.

**Contest Timeframe:**
Through November 30, 2015

**Prizes:**
Prizes will be awarded each week of the contest to the winning entry on each of three platforms (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram). Each week we will offer a different theme to help spark your thoughts. You can enter as many times as you want, but can win only one prize per week. Prizes: $90 gift certificates to Women’s Bean Project for jewelry, food products, and gifts at www.womensbeanproject.com.

**How to enter:**
There are three ways to enter your ideas: on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram.

**Tweet** your story in 90 characters or less to @TDFCommunity with the hashtag #DenverNext90.

**Post** your story in 90 words or less or in a video of 90 seconds or less, to The Denver Foundation Facebook page with the hashtag #DenverNext90.

**Gram** a picture, video, or story to Instagram. Post as many entries as you want, and make sure to include the hashtag #DenverNext90.

Please note, you must use the hashtag (#DenverNext90) for the entry to be officially entered into the contest.
Welcome to our Fall 2015 issue of Give Magazine, which appears just as The Denver Foundation celebrates its 90th birthday. This may sound like an advanced age—but it’s just the beginning in the life of a community foundation, an entity that is designed “For Good. Forever.”

While The Denver Foundation continues on to serve future generations, each one of us who is privileged to serve as staff will only be part of its history for a proscribed period. After nearly 20 years, it is time for me to leave this remarkable organization to move on to a new opportunity: creating the Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise at the University of Denver.

As I depart, I find myself reflecting on what I’ve seen during my time with the Foundation. Certainly we’ve grown—our charitable assets under management in 1996 were $58 million and now exceed $730 million. But the stories of the growth of philanthropy behind those numbers are what excite me, and our growth has been matched by an expansion in giving throughout our community. More generous people are getting involved in more causes—in ways that are both cutting edge and tried and true.

I will always remember spending time with Frances Charsky, who lived a remarkable life traveling the world with her husband. I got to know Mrs. Charsky when she was in her eighties and nineties, and she still actively followed politics and the financial world. She left an extraordinary gift in her estate to our community in the form of an unrestricted endowment fund for The Denver Foundation. Today, in her name, we help students graduate from high school, families find homes, and grassroots entrepreneurs build businesses. Her support for the Metro Denver will continue on for generations to come.

I am confident that Metro Denver has many more untapped reservoirs of philanthropy. People like Carrie Morgridge, Chrissy Deal and Shawn King, and Bruce and Lorrie Schroppel, whose stories are shared in Why I Give (pages 13-15), demonstrate that people find community involvement deeply satisfying and are always looking for ways to make an impact.

Continued on page 7
COMMON SENSE in SOUTHWEST
Lola Salazar remembers when she came to Kepner Junior High as an outgoing, determined eleven-year-old. “I was the reduced-lunch kid,” she says. “I guess that made me different, and some kids treated me that way. But I never let it stop me.” As she stands on the playground of Kepner’s campus in 2015 surrounded by students, she smiles. “I was one of these girls.” Now a successful business owner and young grandmother, Lola and her family are generously supporting the newest crop of students in her old neighborhood.

The Kepner campus is now home to a trio of schools, all part of the efforts in Denver Public Schools to build avenues for student achievement. One of these is Compass Academy, a new and innovative charter school that launched this fall with its first class of sixth graders. These students will be the leaders in the school, which will grow by a grade each year until it becomes a combined middle and high school.

Compass Academy currently occupies a wing on the second floor of the Kepner building. The school is created in partnership with two national organizations—City Year and the Center for Social Innovation at Johns Hopkins University. City Year places nearly a dozen recent college graduates into the classroom as “near-peer” mentors and educational assistants. Johns Hopkins offers the best available research on what
works with students in the classroom. Together with a dedicated board, a visionary executive director, hard-working staff, and outstanding teachers, the goal is to help the 112 sixth graders who make up the inaugural class, and the students who follow them, to achieve success in school and in life.

The school is driven by values such as Academic Excellence, Leading to Learn, and Ubuntu, which translates from Zulu to mean “I am a person through other people; my humanity is tied to yours.” As part of their willingness to learn, Compass aspires to “follow the evidence.” The school is driven to continuous improvement by data about student achievement—but rather than the data being solely held and examined by administrators, it’s in the hands of the students themselves. In a math class, the students were graphing test results. The teacher asked, “So what does this mean?” “That we’re only at fourth grade level right now,” a student answered, and then, without missing a beat, he added, “We can do better than that.” His fellow students nodded. A few said, “Yeah.” And the teacher smiled.

**Key Ingredient for Success**
In a low-income community where students arrive in middle school already a couple of grades behind, how do you build a culture of support and shared success? Executive Director Marcia Fulton knew of a key ingredient that would create the kind of trusting relationships between students and teachers where a student would both admit weakness and work together toward strength. Marcia came to Compass Academy from the Odyssey School in Northeast Park Hill. At Odyssey, she discovered the power of “restorative practices and restorative justice,” also called Common Sense Discipline. This approach keeps kids in school and learning, by investing in the ability of teachers, administrators, parents, and students to work out problems together.

“If teachers and school leaders can effectively handle challenges in the classrooms, and students can learn how to make better choices, make amends when they make mistakes, and understand the power of positive engagement in their school and larger community, then everyone succeeds,” says Sarah Park, The Denver Foundation’s Director of Education. While Sarah was the Principal at Mapleton Early College, she became an expert in restorative practices and came with a group of students and teachers to share what she knew with Marcia and the Odyssey Team. Now Marcia is bringing restorative practices to Compass Academy…with help from Lola Salazar and her family foundation.

**A Family’s Gifts**
Lola and her husband Rob both grew up attending Denver Public Schools. They met in high school, when she was a cheerleader and he was a football player. Now Rob owns a private investment management company in Denver, and Lola owns a candy store called Lola’s Sugar Rush, in historic downtown Littleton. Together, they and their two children, Isaiah Salazar and Angelique Moyer, operate the Salazar Family Foundation as a way to give back to the community where they grew up and became successful. When Lola heard about The Denver Foundation’s work funding restorative practices in Aurora Public Schools (see below), she let the Foundation know that she’d be glad to help spread this work into her old neighborhood. The timing was perfect for Compass Academy and its first class of sixth graders.

“I’m excited about the model,” says Lola, once a teacher herself. “It’s so difficult to be a teacher. And this is a special time to connect with these students, when everyone...
To make that impact, philanthropists must build connections with the people who spend every day doing the hard work of addressing needs and building our community’s future. I refer, of course, to nonprofit organizations and their outstanding staff members, and to resident leaders volunteering to make changes in their own neighborhoods. I have been inspired daily by these men and women, and have been glad that The Denver Foundation could play a role in partnership with them. One particularly inspiring story is that of Together Colorado and their work to bring parents, neighborhood residents, and school leaders together in the Whittier neighborhood to help kids graduate from high school (Give Magazine, Spring 2015). This project builds on relationships and strategies developed and promoted through the Foundation’s Strengthening Neighborhoods program and Inclusiveness Project.

The Denver Foundation and community foundations around the globe are at their best when they bring generous people together with creative organizations and community needs. In a dramatic example of this role of a community foundation in my tenure, The Denver Foundation brought donors together with food pantries to address Colorado’s hunger crisis during the 2009 economic downturn through our Critical Needs Fund. We then helped launch Hunger Free Colorado to address the systemic issues that allow hunger to persist as a problem in our state (Give Magazine, Fall 2013).

I’m also proud of the Foundation’s role helping bring donors together with the opportunity to support students in their educational pursuits through more than 60 scholarship funds. The largest of these was started by Roger and Margaret Reisher. Reisher Scholars are selected as rising sophomores or community college transfers at partner universities across the state and supported through graduation. It is an honor to connect the generosity of this extraordinary Colorado family with Colorado’s future leaders (Give Magazine, Fall 2012).

One of the most exciting new ways that we’re connecting people who care with causes that matter is through giving circles and affinity groups. On page 26, you can read about “The Soul of Philanthropy,” a photography exhibit that celebrates traditions of giving in the African American community—traditions we foster through giving circles like Denver African American Philanthropists (DAAP) and S.P.I.N. (Sisterhood of Philanthropists Impacting Needs). On page 11, we share the story of how the Foundation’s Arts Affinity Group is supporting sensory friendly theater.

Several years ago, editor Richard Magat brought together a group of essays about community foundations under the title An Agile Servant. It is this characterization that rings most true to me as I look back over my two decades with The Denver Foundation. It has been an honor to serve an organization that is flexible enough to help donors with diverse interests connect with nonprofits focusing on a wide array of needs, all building a community together. Even though I will be moving on, I will always remain connected to The Denver Foundation. (I’m a donor and a member of the Community Legacy Society!) I hope you will think about new ways you can become part of this remarkable, impactful organization.

Sincerely,

David Miller

From the Desk of David Miller continued from page 3

Readers: Past issues of Give Magazine mentioned in this article are available at www.denverfoundation.org/About/Publications-Newsletters/Give-Magazine
JOINING FORCES FOR GOOD:
Social Venture Partners Denver and Denver Active 20-30

By Angelle C. Fouther

For 15 years, Social Venture Partners Denver (SVP) has worked to develop philanthropy and volunteerism among its members and to build the capacity of nonprofit organizations. For 28 years, the Denver Active 20-30 Children’s Foundation (DA 20-30) has raised money to support at-risk and disadvantaged youth in Colorado. Last year, the two organizations joined forces to create a partnership that will positively impact the personal and professional lives of members in each organization as well as nonprofits throughout Metro Denver.

When the two groups came together through The Denver Foundation in early 2014, combining efforts seemed like a win-win proposition, and a dynamic synergism was formed.

DA 20-30, composed of approximately 100 members (men between the ages of 20 and 39-years-old), is most well-known for its chief fundraiser, the Schomp BMW Denver Polo Classic. The tournament, which netted $800,000 this year, is the largest of its kind in the nation and by far the biggest fundraiser for the organization, which grants out $1 million annually.

Randy Roberts, current president of the chapter, explains that the DA 20-30 model has traditionally consisted of a two-pronged approach to philanthropy: “We do a lot of fundraisers and have a robust grantmaking committee to give away the money we raise, and we also give back by serving on boards.” Each member is required to spend 100-300 hours a year on fundraising. The group spends all of the money they raise each year through grants ranging in size from $5,000 to $250,000 to approximately 50 local charities. Roberts admits that until discussions with SVP began, DA 20-30 did not, however, have a real mechanism beyond grantmaking and board service for engaging with the organizations they support.

“In talking to Pat Landrum (Executive Director of SVP), I understood that working with the nonprofits to help build capacity was the third prong,” Roberts notes. “We share our expertise to help them grow, and we also learn a great deal. It’s like gaining a Bachelor of Philanthropy degree.”

SVP offers a membership model as well (members are called Partners). Each partner invests $3,500 per individual or $10,000 per company to engage. SVP Partners also make grants to organizations (Investees) and volunteer a great deal of time, but time is spent by members offering professional know-how to help the investees build capacity. Each organization is unique in its needs; some require a communications strategy, others a model for fundraising. SVP’s expertise comes by way of relationship-building and connecting members who have the skills necessary to spur strategic growth in the nonprofits based on these needs.

The two organizations have combined their strengths to create a pilot program in 2015 enlisting 13 DA 20-30 members. With the technical assistance and mentorship of SVP, two project teams are volunteering time, over the course of one year, to build capacity in two DA 20-30 grantees: Bennie E. Goodwin After School Program and the Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (CDEC). The pilot is only slightly past the halfway mark but the impact is already measurable. The two teams have invested hundreds of hours of work with the organizations, striving to understand the inner workings of the selected nonprofits and how best to apply their shared skills to aid the nonprofits on a strategic level.

The program model benefits grantees and donors alike, according to Landrum. “Denver Active 20-30 members gain exposure to a wide range of leadership opportunities through their SVP experience,” she says. “By engaging in hands-on capacity building projects with nonprofit organizations, members are learning the ins and outs of how nonprofits are funded and operate. This helps them in their broader philanthropic endeavors, and members report taking lessons learned back to 20-30, to their businesses, and to their broader community giving.”
JOINING FORCES FOR GOOD: A Hands-on Approach

Bennie E. Goodwin After School Academic Program (BEGAS) is an Aurora-based nonprofit dedicated to providing educational assistance to multicultural youth and adults. Although the organization has only one full time, and one three-quarter time employee, Executive Director Terry Liggins describes it as a small organization that operates like a medium-sized one. One of the main barriers to optimum functionality, however, has been the lack of technology infrastructure.

The Denver Active 20-30 BEGAS team is led by Tim Keegan, a technology products manager at Parson Systems. Other team members include business consultants, a commercial banker, and a nonprofit program director. “We are deploying information management solutions so the team can digitize, store, access, and share documents in the cloud rather than on scattered personal computers,” says Keegan. He adds that this is very important as the organization works with many paper files and has not had a back-up system for their data. The 20-30 project team plans to provide training to the staff, once the implementation stage is completed. Keegan says that seeing the operational workings of a nonprofit has been enlightening and rewarding. “Rolling up your sleeves to solve a real problem is a different level of involvement from simply granting funds,” he says. It’s a deeper level of partnership. I feel like the combination of funding and service is turning our investments into a 1+1=3 equation.”

The Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (CDEC) became a nonprofit in July 2003, as an outgrowth of the movement in California following the tragic death of three children in a meth lab explosion in 1995. The purpose of CDEC is to facilitate collaboration and systems coordination by professionals to ensure that children living in dangerous drug environments do not fall through the cracks unnoticed and in need. Collaboration, indeed, has been the emphasis of the DA 20-30 CDEC project. Led by Merrill Stillwell, the team is assisting in a merger among The Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and two other organizations, Prevent Child Abuse Colorado and NOFAS (National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) Colorado. Stillwell, a mergers and acquisition manager for Blue Mountain Investments, has found that his managing of more than 30 corporate mergers has afforded him the ability to navigate familiar territory in this project. Still, he’s learned a great deal from his first nonprofit merger.

“In many ways, the due diligence on a new nonprofit partnership looks a lot like that of a for-profit acquisition,” says Stillwell. “But the mentality around nonprofit partnerships or mergers is a lot different from traditional acquisitions. It is a little trickier to define ownership of a nonprofit and the process involves more stakeholders. Partnerships and mergers are also just less common in the nonprofit world and it takes some additional work figuring out legal structures, accounting, etc.” Despite these challenges, the team went to work, much to the satisfaction of CDEC Executive Director Jade Woodard.

“The 20-30 team members spent hours working comprehensively to understand our organizational structure/functioning, our programs, our funding streams, and our vision for the future,” says Woodard. She adds: “I have learned so much throughout this experience—everything from directing and utilizing high-level professional volunteers to the necessity of process and documentation and the power of inquiry and creativity. I’ve learned about balance, structure, patience, leadership, and change.”
IN THE WEEDS: A Philanthropic Lens on the Colorado Marijuana Industry

By Laura Bond

With the legalizaion of marijuana changing laws and attitudes in Colorado, nonprofit organizations grapple with a new world of opportunity and challenge.

When recreational marijuana became legal in Colorado in January, 2014, it signaled a sea change not just in statewide drug policy but in public attitudes about pot. Colorado voters overwhelmingly supported Amendment 64, which decriminalized the recreational use of marijuana and opened wide the doors of an industry that had been steadily growing for more than a decade.

Today, as more and more states move to legalize marijuana to some degree, Colorado serves as a kind of testing ground for marijuana policy—and the first to face a slew of questions that have arisen over the past two years. Among them: How to regulate banking? How to collect and distribute sales tax? And how to negotiate the reality that, despite its state-level support, marijuana—and most related business—remains illegal in the eyes of the federal government?

Nonprofit organizations and philanthropic foundations in Colorado face a marijuana question of their own: to accept, or not to accept, funding from marijuana-affiliated businesses and donors, some of whom claim they’ve been unable to find organizations to accept their charitable gifts and sponsorship dollars. While marijuana use remains controversial, its economic impact is undeniable, generating millions of dollars in tax revenue and attracting business to the state. Should nonprofit organizations share in this new wealth, putting funds to work in service of the community?

“When recreational marijuana became legal, nonprofits started asking questions with a bunch of different components,” says Tom Downey, a former marijuana regulator whose firm, Ireland Stapleton, advises businesses on the legal issues surrounding legalization. “Some would ask, ‘Is our 501(c)(3) in jeopardy? Should we worry about other foundations cutting us off? Do we need a gift acceptance policy?’ Others had more general questions such as, ‘Is there really money out there?’ The conversation is so new.”

In July, Downey was among dozens of policy experts, marijuana industry advocates, and nonprofit leaders who convened at the State Capitol for a dialogue about the impact of marijuana legalization on nonprofit fundraising, co-hosted by Ireland Stapleton, the Colorado Nonprofit Association, and the Colorado Association of Funders. More than 120 people attended the event, which built on a similar convening in 2014. While many speakers acknowledged the potential opportunities inherent in this growing Colorado-based industry, which is positioned to boom as marijuana legalization spreads across the country, they urged caution.

“When nonprofits are considering what they’re going to do and how they’re going to do it, I remind them, there is a spectrum, from low risk to high risk, but the legal line never ends,” says Downey, noting that a shift in enforcement at the federal level could come at any time.

As nonprofits consider accepting marijuana-affiliated funding, Downey says, they should conduct a thorough risk-and-reward assessment with their executive team, board of directors, and legal advisors. They should also look for incongruities between their organization’s mission and gift acceptance policy.

Today, as more and more states move to legalize marijuana to some degree, Colorado serves as a kind of testing ground for marijuana policy...
SENSE AND SENSIBILITY:
Sensory Friendly Programming

By Laura Bond

For many children with autism or sensory integration disabilities, the performing arts are best enjoyed from a distance. The roar of the crowd, the dramatic lighting and sound effects, even sitting still in a dark theater—any of these can be difficult for those with sensitivities to sensory input. Often, it’s easiest for a family just to stay home rather than to risk an outburst, or a disapproving look from a fellow audience member.

In Denver, more than 50 organizations are joining together to make the experience of live art more pleasurable for people with sensory sensitivities. Led by the Lone Tree Arts Center and Phamaly Theatre Company, the Sensory Friendly Network invites families and individuals touched by autism spectrum disorders and other developmental and behavioral issues into the theater, the concert hall, and the arts community.

“We want Denver to be the most sensory-friendly arts community in the country,” says Lisa Rigsby Peterson, Executive Director of the Lone Tree Arts Center and co-founder of the Sensory Friendly Network. “We need all of our colleagues to make this a priority, to come together to say, ‘This is important. Let’s make this a part of what we all do.’ So far, the response has been overwhelming.”

Adapting arts experiences to this audience is easy, says Rigsby Peterson; sometimes, it’s as simple as taking the lights down, keeping the sound low, and instructing the audience not to clap between musical numbers. Rigsby has overseen the production of three sensory friendly performances on Lone Tree’s main stage, each of which drew between 100-150 people, many of whom had never before been to the center. A new monthly sensory-friendly program typically draws 30-50.

“They say to us, ‘This is the first time we’ve ever been able to do anything together as a family,’” says Rigsby Peterson. “People in a traditional performance might get mad at them because their child squirms in the chair or makes noise. They didn’t want to disrupt anyone. It can be a profound experience to see how it can make a difference for one of these families. If we do one show and they feel, all of a sudden, like the arts are for them too, that’s very satisfying.”

Rigsby Peterson says the Sensory Friendly Network will work with local service agencies to create high-quality programming and spread the word about sensory friendly offerings across Metro Denver. The Network launched in June with a summit that drew more than 100, including staff from the Autism Center and the Denver-based Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation in addition to arts groups large and small. This fall, the Network will adopt a series of initiatives that correspond to the new season for performing arts in Denver.

The Sensory Friendly Network is supported in part by The Denver Foundation’s Arts Affinity Group (AAG), which awarded $14,000 jointly to the Lone Tree Arts Center and Phamaly in January. The grant was one of six awarded during the AAG’s first annual “Art Tank” competition, wherein applicants presented project proposals to a live audience as well as judges from partner organizations Bonfils Stanton Foundation and Colorado Creative Industries. The AAG has awarded more than $65,000 to Denver-area arts organizations. The second annual event will be held in January 2016.

“The Arts Affinity Group of The Denver Foundation deeply believes in making art inclusive to new and underserved audiences,” says Christiano Sosa, The Denver Foundation’s Director of Capacity Building. “This unique project makes the theater more inclusive to a wider array of audiences, strengthens learning in the arts, and utilizes innovative techniques. Theater has a long history of advancing learning through the arts and, as a result of the grant, audiences will be more diverse across the sector.”

Curtains—quietly—up!

For more information on The Denver Foundation’s Arts Affinity Group, visit www.denverfoundation.org.
COMPLEX SOLUTIONS FOR COMPLEX ISSUES: Denver's Social Impact Bond for Permanent Supportive Housing

By Kate Krebs Lyda

“Sure, giving homes to homeless people sounds like a good idea, just like feeding people and providing health care sounds like a good idea, but everyone knows we just can’t afford it,” said Hasan Minaj, a reporter on the satirical news program The Daily Show with Jon Stewart earlier this year. Minaj investigated the Salt Lake City Housing First program and found that housing people who are chronically homeless actually saves the city a significant amount of money annually.

Salt Lake City is not alone. Cities like Seattle and Denver are also taking what may seem like a counter-intuitive step of saving city governments money — by way of Emergency Room, detox and jail costs among others — by spending funds on homes for residents who are most in need of a safe place to call home.

Denver’s new Permanent Supportive Housing initiative takes the concept of getting those struggling on the streets close to home one step further by also providing intensive case management services for 300 individuals. This “harm-reduction” method first addresses that which is every person’s most immediate need — a place to call home — and then provides treatment for issues related to their homelessness such as those related to a chronic health condition, trauma from abuse and domestic violence, mental health, and employment needs.

We have known for quite some time that housing and supportive services save both lives and money. Ten years ago, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless studied this model, demonstrating it could cost less than $15,000 per year per person to provide Permanent Supportive Housing and save $31,000 in emergency costs. Additionally, the Coalition also found that people stayed in the housing—the housing was their home. Yet, a decade later, Denver still has people experiencing chronic homelessness. What will make the initiative successful this time around?

One of the challenges to implementing this strategy in Denver has been the lack of available housing in general in the Metro area, the key ingredient in providing homes for people. This initiative is additive in that new construction will add to the housing stock in the city. Also, by taking care of the housing piece first, the coordinated services are more likely to be successful.

“The data show this model not only saves money but also most effectively supports those experiencing chronic homelessness. The research drives this work, but intuition supports it as well. Just like I need a good night’s sleep and a place where I can think and plan to go to a job interview, a person without a safe, warm and stable place to call home cannot focus on the tough issues they need to tackle in their lives,” says Monica Buhlig, The Denver Foundation’s Director of Basic Human Needs.

In addition to creating new housing units and a program designed with interventions proven to work carried out by top-notch providers, the Permanent Supportive Housing initiative is funded differently than in previous attempts. The Social Impact Bond, aka SIB, aka pay-for-success, is a funding mechanism — that is not a bond at all — that creates tranches of conventional and philanthropic investments up front, and through precise measurements by professional evaluators, assesses savings to the city of Denver to determine repayment to investors.

Current financial models predict 100% repayment of the initial capital investment plus a 2% return to philanthropic investors. The Denver Foundation is exploring an institutional investment consisting of funds from its Impact Investing Program and Critical Needs Fund for Homelessness, as well as grants and philanthropic investments from the Foundation’s donors and fundholders.

“It’s a very attractive opportunity for many of our donors and donor-advised fundholders,” says Barbara Berv, The Denver Foundation’s Vice President of Philanthropic Services. “For those who care about housing and homelessness, a chance to contribute to housing and services to our community’s most vulnerable plus the possibility that their grant may come back to the Foundation or to their donor-advised funds means a win-win charitable gift. Who can argue with making a huge social impact while earning a financial return?” says Berv.

The complexity of social impact bonds mean that philanthropic investors assume much more risk than they would with traditional financial investments and SIBs around the globe have attempted a variety of models with varying results. But many social investors believe that complex societal problems demand complex solutions. In the case of Denver’s Permanent Supportive Housing Social Impact Bond, the best minds in housing, mental health and social services are coming together with professional real estate financing institutions and top-notch evaluators; philanthropy and other lenders are stepping up to make the model possible.

The SIB for permanent supportive housing has a very good chance of success: successfully saving the city money and successfully repaying investors. Even more importantly, the project has the potential to bring together leaders from all three sectors — public, private, and nonprofit — to put their best effort forward to address one of our community’s most pressing social and economic issues. Most important, though, Denver’s Social Impact Bond for Permanent Supportive Housing is nearly 100% likely to provide a home, services, assistance, compassion and dignity to 300 people for whom these things matter most. This may be the best investment any of us may ever make.

If you are interested in learning more about The Denver Foundation’s support of the Social Impact Bond for Permanent Supportive Housing, please contact The Denver Foundations Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.
Why I Give

by Phil Nash

CARRIE MORGRIDGE
Mining the Nation for Great Ideas

Carrie Morgridge credits The Denver Foundation (TDF) for teaching her a lot about impactful philanthropy. From 2000-2008, she and husband John held a donor-advised fund at TDF, where Carrie also served on the Foundation’s Education Committee. Their resources rapidly grew through John’s family’s holdings. In 2008, they formed the Morgridge Family Foundation, which today grants about $10 million annually, primarily in Colorado and Florida, where they have homes. Its mission is to invest in transformative gifts through education, conservation, the arts, and health and wellness. They do not accept unsolicited proposals. Instead, Carrie travels the country seeking out promising programs and projects to fund and brings those programs and innovations back to Colorado. Sharing her secrets of impactful giving, Carrie authored the book Every Gift Matters: How Your Passion Can Change the World.

John’s a behind-the-scenes guy and I’m always out there, bringing back ideas to talk about.

That’s a lot of work.
We started as business owners first. I didn’t get started in philanthropy until I was 30. We developed our work ethic in our 20s, flipping houses and owning a chain of tanning salons. I was proud I could make my own money and stand on my own two feet. Every person needs this, all of society. That includes our daughter and son now in their 20s. They are working and making it on their own.

What’s one of your best memories of giving?
We volunteered at our kids’ preschool and saw that they didn’t have any new books. So we gave $10,000 for all new library books. The reaction was overwhelming gratitude. Teachers cried. It was humbling to see our gift make such a huge difference. From that moment forward, we wanted to do more.

You go out looking for powerful ideas to bring to our region.
Describe one.
I heard Dr. Robert Goodman speak at a global technology education summit, where he stated that all kids should learn physics in 8th or 9th grade. Physics is the backbone of all science, yet it’s the last course taught in high school, and it’s not required to graduate. Dr. Goodman offers a free, open-source curriculum for teachers, and now trains the largest number of teachers in how to teach kids physics. We currently have 66 physics teachers around the Metro area working on their physics certification.

What excites you right now?
A project called Bridging the Gap with Mile High United Way. We’re working with young adults aging out of foster care with no family to help them set up their first apartment. They get a basic “move-in kit.” A donor can give $250 for vouchers these young people can use to furnish an apartment at Habitat for Humanity’s ReStore resale stores, making their apartment feel like a home.

What would you like to see 10 years from now?
I’m working on a project with an incredible neuroscientist from New York, called Turnaround for Children. Her research shows that kids growing up in poverty and harsh circumstances can actually have their brains shut down and the learning stops. Research is underway to develop tools teachers can use to turn on the light in these kids’ brains. If 10 years from now we can help teachers in a new way work with their impacted students and turn the brains on for learning, we could have a chance to end poverty through education. It would be my most rewarding project.

Your book emphasizes that people of all means can give.
Whether it is your time, talent, or treasure—we all have something to give. Collectively, we can all make a huge difference together—and that is why every gift matters.
Bruce Schroffel grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. Lorrie, his wife, grew up on Long Island. They met on a subway in New York when Bruce was a graduate student at Columbia. “He was cute and I picked him up,” Lorrie says. Together for 36 years, they moved to Denver in 2006 when Bruce took the helm at the University of Colorado Hospital. He led it through a financial turnaround and its move from East Denver to the Anschutz Medical Center in Aurora. He also conceptualized the newly expanded five-hospital Health System before stepping down in February 2014. The university honored him by naming the Bruce Schroffel Conference Center adjacent to the hospital. Now semi-retired, he consults and volunteers. Lorrie is a clinical social worker at Maria Drose Services, a counseling center primarily serving low-income clients.

Neither of you is from Denver. Is this your home now? Bruce: We love living here. When we came, we didn’t know if we’d stay, but we’ve fallen in love with Colorado. I like the people. Denver feels like a warm little town.

Lorrie: We have a passion for the outdoors, hiking, and the evolving culture of Denver.

How did you get involved in giving through The Denver Foundation? Bruce: First I joined the Human Services Committee and then went on the Board about four years ago. We created a small trust there so we can regularly support their various endeavors. There is such a dearth of unrestricted dollars.

Lorrie: They give to lots of organizations I believe in. I wouldn’t disagree with anything they support.

What has influenced your values about giving? Lorrie: My family was composed of civil rights advocates. We went on civil rights marches when I was a child, and my mother was involved early in the women’s movement. We didn’t have much money. My parents wrote checks for $100, a lot of money for them.

Bruce: My family didn’t have money. I got involved in various movements in the Bay Area. I also admired an uncle who was the Peace Corps director in Liberia. I’ve spent a lot of time in Africa working on projects. I volunteer with Project Cure and have been to Africa several times.

Do you have a favorite cause? Lorrie: As a social worker, I haven’t made that much money. Most of my counseling clients are low-income who couldn’t get help if I charged my full rate. I see that as a way I can give—offering people the opportunity to come in and entrust me with their lives.

Bruce: Helping the underserved, especially with education. It’s very personal. I could just as easily have been on the other side of the tracks. Where I grew up, it cost $50 a quarter—$150 for a whole year to go to college. It was just a matter of making that decision. Now, I’m involved with the Emily Griffith Foundation, which helps provide education and training for low-income people and lots of immigrants.

Are your children involved in philanthropy? Lorrie: We have two married sons. We’ve given them money stipulating that they give it away to something that has meaning for them.

Why do you give? Bruce: We aren’t among the really rich. But we have more than we ever imagined we’d have. We give back because we feel so lucky.
CHRISSEY DEAL AND SHAWN KING
Our Philanthropy is Evolving

Chrissy Deal and Shawn King just welcomed a new baby—a brother for their three-year-old son who just started preschool. Deal is a program associate at the Western States Arts Federation, where she manages its inclusiveness initiative. She is also a Trustee of The Denver Foundation, chair of its Inclusiveness Project, and a founding member of LatinasGive! King is a member of DeVotchKa, a Grammy-nominated band that will be featured in the Denver Center for the Performing Arts’ 2016 production of Sweeney Todd.

With two young children and demanding jobs, where does giving fit in?

Chrissy: We don’t have a set strategy, with an exact percentage of what we’ll give each year. Our approach is more fluid. I’ve given to causes I’ve been connected to, and the same for Shawn.

Shawn: At this point in our lives, we are more active as volunteers in the areas we support. We’ve got room to grow and become more pro-active about what we do as a couple.

What are your giving interests?

Chrissy: For me, it’s supporting young people. In about 2004, I became a mentor with PlatteForum, an arts-based youth development organization, and gained a great deal from the experience. Also, I’ve consistently given to Northwestern University’s Latino student scholarship fund. I couldn’t have attended Northwestern without financial assistance, so I’ve always given back.

Shawn: As a band, DeVotchKa has supported youth-focused arts and music programs. Personally, I’ve long been concerned about human rights and justice, particularly for Mexican immigrants. I was inspired at an artist activist retreat a few years ago with an understanding of how artists can be philanthropic by activating others through their music. Shortly after, I began a collaborative duo called Los Dreamers whose music focuses on the immigrant experience. The group has since helped organizations like the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network fundraise and continue their work of advancing immigrant rights.

What do you care about as a couple?

Chrissy: How quickly the fabric of our community is changing with Denver’s rapid growth. Families who have lived in neighborhoods for generations are being displaced. We don’t exactly know how to approach it quite yet, but we’d like to support dialogue about gentrification and what it means to be neighborly and work to preserve the character of Denver’s diverse communities.

Shawn: Having two young boys changes a lot. With our older son starting school, I’ve realized how quickly we will be deeply involved with other families in our community. It will be important fairly soon to start volunteering. It’s about how we model behavior.

Chrissy: I want our kids to feel a spirit of service and have it integrated into their lives so giving is not just a Thanksgiving-at-the-soup-kitchen experience.

Who were your influences in giving?

Chrissy: My mother. Every week she wrote a check to our church. Every Sunday, my sister and I took turns putting the check in the offering basket. My mom said she wanted to be a philanthropist, but in her mind, that would mean giving tens of thousands of dollars a year. Through LatinasGive!, I realized my mother was a philanthropist after all, as demonstrated through her very personal and consistent giving.

Shawn: My mother also. And my grandparents, who both lived to age 93 and volunteered from the time they retired until a few weeks before they passed away.

How is The Denver Foundation a resource for young families like yours?

Shawn: I appreciate what The Denver Foundation has done to support LatinasGive!, and for giving us ideas on how to deepen our impact through giving.

Chrissy: The foundation is an invaluable resource for people like us who are just coming around to thinking of themselves as philanthropists.

If you have suggestions for subjects for Why I Give, please email us at givelistens@denverfoundation.org.
Of all the charitable trusts, one of the most popular is the Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). This popularity is a result of a multitude of positive factors, including 1) an immediate charitable deduction to the donor at the time of the gift to the trust; 2) the deferral of any taxes on the sale of assets by the trust; 3) the payment of a cash stream to the donor or other non-charitable beneficiaries for either a period of years or for their life; and 4) at the termination of the trust, all remaining assets are distributed to the selected charity.

As with all charitable trusts, the IRS has strict conditions which must be met for the trust to qualify for favorable charitable trust tax treatment. For a CRT, it must be an irrevocable trust which the donor may not modify, although the donor may retain the power to change the charitable beneficiary. The trust must distribute a fixed amount or a fixed percentage of the assets of the trust each year, and that percentage must be between five and 50 percent of the total value of the trust. At the termination of the trust, the remainder to be transferred to charity must equal at least 10 percent of the present value of the assets initially transferred to the trust.

The payout amount to the non-charitable beneficiary(ies) can be computed in two different ways. One choice is to design the trust to pay a fixed amount each year which is calculated at the creation of the trust by multiplying the initial gift by the payout percentage. As an example, a trust which receives a $1,000,000 gift and has a 5 percent payout will distribute $50,000 each year to the non-charitable beneficiary. This is known as a Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust (CRAT). Many people like the security of knowing that the payout will be the same year after year.

The other option is for the payout amount to be recalculated every year by multiplying the value of the assets on the first day of the year by the payout percentage. As the assets of the trust grow and payouts are made, the value of the trust corpus will vary from year to year, as will the payout. With a payout computed in this manner, the donor will receive a higher payout as they share in any growth of trust corpus, but the donor can also receive less if the value of the corpus declines. A trust with this type of fixed percentage payout is called a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT).

If the trust qualifies as a charitable trust, different income tax rules apply. A charitable trust pays no income tax, so if an appreciated asset is transferred to the trust, the trust will pay no tax when the asset is sold. But the tax is not totally avoided, it is only delayed. When funds are distributed to the non-charitable beneficiaries, they will pay tax on the amount distributed. This delay is a significant advantage. Suppose a donor gives an asset valued at $1,000,000 to a CRT, and that asset’s basis is $100,000. If the asset was sold outside of the trust, the capital gains tax could be as high at 20 percent, meaning that a tax of $180,000 would be paid and only $820,000 would be available to invest. But with the sale occurring inside the CRT, there is no immediate tax, and the entire $1,000,000 is available to be invested.

But remember, the tax was not avoided, it was only delayed. Given the above example, if the non-charitable beneficiary received $50,000 from the CRT in year one, the beneficiary would be responsible for paying the delayed capital gains tax on the distribution. They would pay that tax when they filed their personal income tax return. The non-charitable beneficiary will receive a tax form from the trust at the end of the year telling them how much taxable income from the trust they must report.

The donor’s charitable deduction is calculated by computing the present value of the remainder interest which will pass to the charity at trust termination. The factors which are included in the calculation are 1) the value of the gift on the day it is made; 2) the value of the annual payout percentage; 3) the number of years the payouts will be made for (if the trust will pay for a specific number of years); and 4) the age of the donor(s) of the trust will pay (if the trust will pay over a lifetime). The calculation uses an estimated rate of return provided by the IRS to compute the present value of the remainder which will pass to charity.

Let’s look at a practical application of a CRT. Jim and Jane Smith have a $1,000,000 block of stock with a basis...
of $50,000. Jim and Jane are both 65 and they would like to diversify that stock without paying a big tax bill. They don’t need the proceeds immediately, but would like to receive a cash payment each year for the rest of their lives. At their death, they would like to make a charitable gift to benefit their favorite charity.

Jim and Jane create a CRUT that will pay Jim seven-and-a-half percent of the trust corpus each year for life and, if Jim dies, those payments will be made to Jane for the rest of her life. When they are both gone, any funds left in the CRUT will pass to their favorite charity. They then gift the $1,000,000 in stock to the CRUT.

If that gift were made today, they would receive a tax deduction for their charitable contribution of just over $202,000. The trust would distribute $75,000 to Jim in the first year. If the trust’s investments earned five percent each year and Jim and Jane lived until their life expectancy of 87, the trust would have paid them approximately $1,267,000 over those 22 years. Following their deaths, approximately $558,000 would pass to the charity.

If Jim and Jane wished to take the maximum amount allowed out of the trust, the payout rate could be increased to a maximum of 11.2 percent. In this case, the charitable deduction would be $100,000 and the first payout to Jim would be $112,000. The trust would have paid them approximately $1,343,400 over the 22 years they survived. Following their deaths, approximately $234,000 would pass to the charity.

In the right situation, a Charitable Remainder Trust is an extremely effective planning tool for donors seeking to delay taxes, retain an income stream for life, and benefit their favorite charity.

Phil Keenan is a principal in the law firm of Ambler & Keenan, LLC focusing on estate planning, taxation of estates and gifts, and probate and trust law. He is also a CPA and a CFP®. Prior to his legal career Mr. Keenan served as an officer and pilot in the United States Navy. He is active in several local community organizations, and serves on the Professional Advisors Councils for both The Denver Foundation and Colorado Public Radio. Mr. Keenan was a 2009 recipient of The Denver Foundation's Philanthropic Leadership Award.
Impact 100 Metro Denver

By Sarah Harrison

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”
-African saying

When longtime friends Pat Wynne and Cathy Murphy first heard about Impact 100 from friends in Sonoma, California, they were impressed by the simplicity of the program, the strength of the process, and the excitement of being part of such a community. That was 2010. In the intervening years of watching the Sonoma chapter grow and thrive, time and effort researching other chapters in the US, and some helpful life changes, Pat and Cathy concluded: “The time is now.”

The duo launched Impact 100 Metro Denver to become part of a philanthropic movement spreading throughout the country. Founded in Cincinnati in 2001, Impact 100 connects women to pool their resources and make at least one significant gift to the community annually. Chapters now exist in 26 US cities, from California to Ohio to Florida. “The vision is this: 100 women, giving $1,000 each, granting $100,000 a year to one organization,” explains Cathy. Over time, many chapters grow beyond 100 members and are able to make more than one annual grant of $100,000.

Having chosen their model, Pat and Cathy selected The Denver Foundation as the financial steward of their group’s funds. “We like the investment options, the educational opportunities, and the potential for community connections and networks,” notes Pat.

The fund agreement for Impact 100 Metro Denver was inked in May, and the recruiting has begun. “We’re reaching out to personal networks, including friends, neighbors, fellow community volunteers,” says Cathy. The goals are straightforward: recruit at least 100 women donors by year-end, then participate in grantee vetting and finally grantmaking by June, 2016. There will be opportunities for members to volunteer, to learn about the community, and of course, to have fun. Grantmaking areas of focus and specific grantees will be chosen by the group’s donor members.

Impact 100 Metro Denver is open for business and offers interested women of all ages and interests the chance to get involved in strategic, collective giving. The group requests a tax-deductible gift of $1,000 annually, and a non-deductible administrative fee of $150 to cover start-up and administrative expenses. There are many options for giving, including making an annual gift via check, credit card, or a monthly bank draft.

“We will make a difference,” notes Wynne. “We hope people will join us to go far together.” If you’re interested or know someone who is, contact Pat or Cathy by email: impact100@denverfoundation.org.

(Above) Women throughout Metro Denver are hosting Recruitment Parties as Impact 100 works toward gaining 100 members.

(Right) Pat Wynne and Cathy Murphy brought Impact 100 to Denver.
David Bruton is well known for his work on the football field, as a Safety and Special Teams member of the Denver Broncos. But off the field, the Miamisburg, Ohio native is tackling the goal of promoting literacy in elementary school-aged youth. Bruton, who graduated from Notre Dame with a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Sociology, recognized the importance of education and wanted to convey this value to his son. So he challenged his son to see who could read more books in a year. Lighting the inherited flame of competition, his son took the challenge and has become a better reader. The two, Bruton says, have formed a stronger personal relationship around reading as well.

Bruton expanded his goal of sparking a passion for reading among elementary-school-aged youth after he witnessed the needs of the students and the teachers in his home town. This occurred in 2011, during the NFL Lock-Out, when he went back to Miamisburg and worked for a year as a substitute teacher for the Ohio Department of Education. Through that experience, he saw how kids who were not reading got further and further behind in school. This year, he created Bruton’s Books, a program of the David Bruton Jr. Foundation (a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation). The mission of Bruton’s Books is to help low-income children in grades K-3 to become strong readers through tutoring and by providing books to underfunded schools, libraries, and classrooms.

“We have a huge epidemic here in Colorado in terms of reading illiteracy, especially in grades K-3, so I wanted to tackle that,” Bruton said.

Before students of Ms. Johnson’s second grade classroom set out for summer vacation from Denver’s Columbine Elementary School, they got a real treat. Dave Bruton visited their class, sharing stories about his life-long love of reading. Bruton gave each student two new books to stimulate their imaginations and keep their reading skills sharp over the summer.

To date, Bruton’s Books has been implemented in four Metro Denver schools with plans to expand.
Playing it Forward
One Square at a Time

By Louise Martorano, Executive Director, RedLine
The Hopscotch project was conceived by contemporary artist Agustina Woodgate, who began painting thousands of squares on sidewalks in Argentina, her country of origin, with the goal of connecting communities through play. Having added hopscotch squares in Poland, Florida, North Carolina, and just recently Colorado, Woodgate has also linked countries through consecutive numbering that begins in Buenos Aires and continues through Denver, which is only the end until the artist is invited to continue the path in another city.

In Woodgate’s Hopscotch, RedLine saw an opportunity to use art and play to link neighborhoods and communities that might otherwise not be connected. In doing so, the organization hoped illustrate the importance of being united as members of the greater Denver community.

With the right partners, collaborations, and community engagement, Hopscotch was also a perfect opportunity to use a universally known and accessible game to engage people from different backgrounds and in different parts of the city. Hopscotch leveled the “playing” field for all community members to come out and play. The squares also served as a launching point for members of the community to participate in dialogue about equitable access to resources.

Collaborators Yael Nyholm, Director/Founder of Radian, and Davian Gagne, Grants and Operations Manager of Mile-High Connects, were instrumental in identifying neighborhood partners who could help articulate and make visible the needs of communities throughout Denver. Following a planning meeting that included over 22 nonprofit organizations, businesses, libraries, city officials, and representatives from The Denver Foundation, the group selected seven neighborhoods for Hopscotch. At each location, different organizations volunteered to be a “community hub” for dialogue, outreach, and engagement. Now things were hopping!

With support from The Denver Foundation and the Biennial of the Americas, RedLine was able to bring Hopscotch to Denver in July. Over ten days, volunteers helped paint squares and share the story at every location, neighborhood kids played the game, and Glacier Ice Cream donated delicious treats to participants. The Denver Post, Rocky Mountain PBS, Fox 31, and Colorado Public Radio helped spread the word. Most importantly, community members in Globville-Elyria-Swansea, Sun Valley, Confluence Park, Downtown, Lo Hi, and Civic Center Park couldn’t help but alter their relationship to the sidewalk with opportunities to hop vs. walk. And of course, none of this would have been possible without the artist and her vision “to make your city your playground.”

Hopscotch remained on Denver’s sidewalks through August. The project connected children, teenagers, adults, and seniors of different backgrounds through play. At each location, neighborhood members commented that they had seen the previous installation on the 16th Street Mall and then came home to their neighborhood to the squares being painted right outside their home. As one resident noted, “Thank you for creating ways for the community to get involved in this awesome project. I had such a wonderful, wonderful time meeting kids, parents, artists, RedLine staff, and other volunteers and being a part of the playful energy that this art brought to the neighborhood by Fairview Elementary.”

Much of the social fabric of this piece and how it brought people together is still being sewn, and the relationships being built between communities extend far beyond each square.
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A GIVING FAMILY: The Denver Foundation’s Community Leadership Circle

Deepened Involvement

Laura Barton and her late husband Peter first came to The Denver Foundation in 2001. They had just realized the financial benefit of a business venture and wanted to put some of those resources into a charitable fund. “Our intention was to learn about charitable giving as preparation for future philanthropic activities for our family,” explains Laura. “We selected The Denver Foundation because it offered excellent financial stewardship of the assets, and we were interested in the educational offerings.”

Laura’s involvement with The Denver Foundation has deepened through her service as a volunteer on the Board of Trustees and several advisory committees. Laura’s philanthropic priorities include education, reproductive health, human services, and children’s health. She includes her children, now in college and beyond, in decisions and discussions about the family’s philanthropy.

In 2008, Laura made a generous donation to the Foundation to create a fund in the Community Endowment, recently renamed The Fund for Denver. The Foundation makes grants from the fund in the community’s areas of greatest need, then reports to the Barton family about the impact. “I wanted to endorse the thoughtful work I observed when I was on the board,” she explains.

Commitment

Carol Gossard may have grown up in Dayton, Ohio, but she was a true woman of the West. She and her husband Bill ran the Gossard family’s Circle Bar Ranch near Craig, Colorado for decades. Bill served four terms in the Colorado legislature representing mountain and Western Slope counties, while Carol became active in the Red Cross, a passion that would extend throughout her life.

Carol and Bill moved to Denver’s Country Club neighborhood in the 1970s and brought their commitment and volunteerism to the Metro area. Carol became deeply active in philanthropy and civic causes, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Four Mile House Historic Park, the Colorado Symphony, and Hospice of Metro Denver. In her later years, she became deeply involved with the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and the Humanities, which features the Gossard Forum, an amphitheater devoted to presentations and dialogue on medical ethics.

In 1991, Carol joined The Denver Foundation’s Board of Trustees, beginning a commitment to the Foundation that would last throughout the rest of her life. She served two terms as a trustee and then served on the Marketing and Gifts Committee, introducing The Denver Foundation to others. After she passed away in 2007, she left a generous unrestricted bequest to create the Bill and Carol Gossard Fund, which will help meet the needs of future generations as part of The Fund for Denver.

A Lifetime of Learning

Throughout her life, Pat McLearn has given countless hours of volunteer service to such organizations as the League of Women Voters, Colorado State Parks Board, Denver Audubon Board, Colorado State University’s Master Gardener Program, and Sand Creek Regional Greenway. Pat says: “My work has always been in the nonprofit sector, much of the time as a volunteer. It just feels like what you should be doing when you are a part of a community.”

A sense of volunteerism and a commitment to those less fortunate are traits that Pat shared with her husband, Hugh McLearn. Hugh, who died in August of 2007 from the complications of a bicycle accident four years prior, was a prominent Denver lawyer, real estate investor, and Democratic activist. Additionally, he served as President of the Board of the Denver Health Foundation and was a strong supporter of the health clinics in Denver Public Schools.

Pat, who was born on the East Coast, and Hugh, a native of Minnesota, met in San Francisco while he was serving in the Army. The two moved permanently to Denver on Christmas Eve, 1960. They had two sons: Andrew, a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, and Cameron, a management consultant.

The couple created the Hugh and Patricia McLearn Fund at The Denver Foundation, then decided to become Community Legacy Society Members because they wanted their funds to go back to the community after their lifetimes. In 2011, Pat created the Patricia B. McLearn Education Fund, a field of interest fund for Education, and became a member of the Community Leadership Circle. “I trust the Foundation to decide where the money will go,” Pat said. “And I also trust they’ll be around.”

While The Denver Foundation accepts gifts of all sizes to support its endowment and programs, the Community Leadership Circle is a group of donors who provide significant support to help The Denver Foundation improve life in Metro Denver today and for generations to come. The following are three stories of giving.
Greenberg Traurig:
Great Minds Great Hearts Campaign

By Amy Jewett Sampson

They often are not seen or heard, but the impact of their commitment can be felt throughout the Denver Metro area.

In 2010, the Managing Shareholder of the Denver office of the international law firm Greenberg Traurig, David G. Palmer, helped celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the office by launching a signature philanthropic and community engagement campaign–Great Minds Great Hearts (GMGH).

“Giving back is part of who we are,” says Palmer. “Not only is it a core value of our culture; it unifies us and gives all of us a shared sense of purpose.”

The goal of GMGH is to make significant contributions to distinct and deserving nonprofits each year, with over 20 nonprofit organizations receiving gifts so far in 2015. With Palmer’s guidance, GMGH has become a full-fledged community outreach effort that has sustained itself over the past five years.

Through the GMGH program, the firm’s Denver office supports the work of local nonprofits. Grants are given in the areas of Arts & Culture, Diversity, Education, Leadership, and People in Need. In addition to these core grants, GMGH offers other financial, in-kind, and volunteer support throughout the community. The organizations chosen to receive funding also count on the active participation of GT attorneys in dozens of metro-area nonprofit organizations including the following:

YMCA of Metropolitan Denver
As a sixth-generation Colorado native, intellectual property attorney Amy Kramer joined the advisory board for the YMCA’s Downtown location to support the Y’s community-focused goals of youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

Food Bank of the Rockies
Rolling up his sleeves and getting right to work lifting and packaging boxes of food supplies at its warehouse is not unusual for patent attorney Heath Briggs when processing incoming donations and sorting outgoing care packages at the food bank.

Anti-Defamation League
Real estate attorney Neil Oberfeld, chair of the Mountain States Region of ADL, helped to sponsor an essay contest at area high schools allowing students to express their admiration of diverse heroes throughout history.

Center for Legal Inclusiveness (CLI)
Diversity in the legal profession can only be accomplished within a culture of inclusiveness. Maranda Compton, one of six Native American attorneys practicing in the Denver office, and a board member to CLI, is bridging the gaps between diverse people and perspectives.

I Have A Dream Foundation
Litigation attorney Cuneyt Akay has given countless hours helping Denver’s most at-risk youth achieve their dreams through a 12-year program of mentoring, academic assistance, life-skills development, cultural enrichment, and financial support.

As Greenberg Traurig, now with more than 1800 attorneys and more than 35 offices in the U.S., Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia, begins its second decade in the Denver metro area, its commitment to community engagement is truly reflective of the Great Minds (and) Great Hearts who work there. GMGH is funded through the Greenberg Traurig Philanthropic Fund.
MIND THE GAP: A Call to Action by Robert Putnam

By Laura Bond

There’s a growing opportunity gap in the United States, a widening chasm that favors the wealthy while dimming the well-being and economic prospects of millions of low-income Americans, according to Harvard professor, social scientist, and author Robert D. Putnam, who joined The Denver Foundation for an impassioned presentation at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.

“Professor Putnam describes a crisis of opportunity in an America where a zip code can indicate more about our future than our innate abilities,” said David Miller, President and CEO of The Denver Foundation, in opening remarks. “Young people should have the support they need to rise and to achieve.”

Putnam provided a sobering overview of his new book, Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis, which examines a country that is increasingly divided along class lines. One chapter of Our Kids tells the story of two young people, both from Putnam’s working-class hometown in Ohio: One had access to education, activities, and love in a two-parent home. The other did not. Reflective of the broader trend, one is now successful in life and career. The other struggles in poverty.

“You have affluent enclaves, and poor enclaves,” said Putnam. “Rich kids are with other rich kids; poor kids with other poor kids. As a result, we’re not connecting with people from different social class backgrounds. We’re living two different kinds of Americas in the same country.”

Americans in the lower-third of the United States economic spectrum have a lower level of education, which Putnam argues is the most fundamental indicator of decreased opportunity for the future. Children raised by less-educated parents have decreased access to support for basic skills like reading; they’re less likely to be involved in extracurricular activities (which are often out of range, financially), which build social skills and self-esteem. They’re less likely to bounce back from the kinds of setbacks that touch the lives of all young people.

“Increasingly, America’s poor kids are isolated from everybody—parents, schools, community institutions,” said Putnam. “They know this and they are unbelievably distrusting.”

Putnam presented a number of ideas about how to close the opportunity gap. Among them: provide support for stable caring families; boost jobs and wages for low-income workers; provide high-quality early education; and build mentoring programs. Putnam encouraged individuals to organize and work at the grassroots level, in partnership with community foundations.

“America’s large community foundations, like The Denver Foundation, provide the civic backbone, because they provide a way of funneling financial support and can be leaders in solving social problems,” he said. “If we’re going to make progress, it’s going to be hard to do that without community foundations.”

The Denver Foundation leads a number of initiatives that broaden opportunities for America’s youth and low-income families, including Strengthening Neighborhoods, which focuses resources within specific high-needs communities. Numerous scholarship programs help families by making education more affordable.

Visit www.denverfoundation.org to learn more about The Denver Foundation’s work to create more equitable opportunities for Denver’s kids.
**So Much Soul**

*By Laura Bond*

A photographic glimpse into the history, and future, of African American philanthropy.

The Denver Foundation and Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library celebrated National Black Philanthropy Month by co-hosting “The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited,” a photographic and narrative exploration of African American giving, which ran throughout August at the library in Denver’s historic Five Points neighborhood.

Denver is one of only ten cities to host “The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited,” which explores the triumphant movement of conscious giving for social change, shared through photos and words, of African American philanthropists. Groundbreaking in focus and depth, the exhibition draws evocative images and incisive stories from the award-winning book *Giving Back: A Tribute to Generations of African American Philanthropists*, by Valaida Fullwood and photographer Charles W. Thomas Jr.

In an opening reception at Blair-Caldwell on July 31, author Fullwood described how she was inspired to create the book and exhibition while working with a group of young philanthropists in her hometown of Charlotte, NC; Fullwood is the founder of Next Generation of African American Philanthropists (NGAAP), which helped create the model for African American giving circles in Denver and elsewhere.

“It’s like Maya Angelou says: ‘If there’s a book you want to read but it doesn’t yet exist, you must write it,’” Fullwood said. “It started as a seed of an idea to bring people together for conversation, and to inspire action to do some amazing things in your community.”

“While the book is a tribute to elders, our hope with the touring exhibition was that it would give a sense of the responsibility of a new generation,” she continued. “I wanted to spark ideas about what we, as individuals, can do to make a difference in our communities.” Fullwood said.

As both a book and a photographic exhibition, “The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited” explores the African American philanthropy experience and giving traditions grounded in faith, mutuality, responsibility, and social justice. The exhibition was enhanced by a gallery of portraits (many taken by Denver Foundation staffer Flor Blake) celebrating notable individuals, families, and charitable groups in Denver that support the community through gifts of time, treasure, talent, and testimony: The Pigford Family, Brother Jeff Fard, and the late John and Edna Mosely were among the philanthropists featured in the exhibition.

“The Soul of Philanthropy Reframed and Exhibited” visited Denver as part of The Denver Foundation’s focus on Elevating Philanthropy in Communities of Color (EPIC). Funded in part by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, EPIC is The Denver Foundation’s ongoing investment in the existing, emerging, and often invisible acts of philanthropy in communities of color.

“This exhibit was a window into African American giving,” said LaDawn Sullivan, Director of Community Leadership for The Denver Foundation. “While the photos may be black and white, the culture and history of giving in the African American community is a vibrant collage, including individual, collective, and strategic philanthropy which impacts and elevates our communities. This is certainly a ‘reframed image’ of what is stereotypically depicted of philanthropy in communities of color. This exhibit was designed to spur conversations, connections, and ideas which the The Denver Foundation looks forward to potentially supporting.”


Eula and Janet Adams, Councilman Albus Brooks, Linda Campbell, Richela Das, Chrissy Deal, Myra Donovan, MaryAnn Franklin, Barbara Grogan, Eddie and Andria Koen, and Rich Lopez served as the event’s host committee.

To see images from “The Soul of Philanthropy” exhibition, please visit www.denverfoundation.org.

Janet and Eula Adams were two of the Denver-based philanthropists featured at the exhibit.

Author Valaida Fullwood addressed the crowd in Denver, gathered to see the exhibit.
A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS:
Christine Marquez-Hudson Named as CEO of The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation, Colorado’s oldest and largest community foundation, has tapped Christine Marquez-Hudson, CEO/Executive Director of Mi Casa Resource Center, as its new President and Chief Executive Officer. She is the fifth chief executive in the 90-year-old foundation’s history.

Marquez-Hudson will step down from Mi Casa at the end of the year and assume her new role in January 2016. She will succeed David Miller, who will be leaving the Foundation at the end of this year to create an institute on philanthropy and social enterprise at the University of Denver, after 20 years at the helm of the Foundation.

Virginia Bayless, Chair of the Foundation’s Board of Trustees and head of the search committee, expresses excitement about the prospect of Marquez-Hudson’s leadership. “We are thrilled to welcome Christine Marquez-Hudson to The Denver Foundation. She brings inspiring vision and entrepreneurial acumen to the role of President and CEO of The Denver Foundation.”

Marquez-Hudson was selected through a months-long national search from among an impressive pool of potential candidates. Bayless sees Marquez-Hudson as a perfect match for The Denver Foundation’s needs as the organization celebrates its first 90 years of service to Metro Denver. “We are blessed to work with hundreds of generous people and businesses to steward their gifts of time, talent, and treasure, and to help them make a difference for those in need. Christine has deep knowledge and empathy for underserved communities, and profound expertise in bringing resources and people together to create opportunity. She provides proven leadership that will help us ensure that Metro Denver is a place where everyone can build a high quality of life,” says Bayless.

“A ninth generation Coloradan, Marquez-Hudson has led Mi Casa to become a nationally-recognized leader in job training and business development. Before joining Mi Casa, Christine served as Director of Consulting and Capacity Building at JVA Consulting where she worked with hundreds of organizations across Colorado, specializing in organizational development, strategic planning, governance issues, and resource development. Christine’s career includes teaching in Central America and working for three foundations as a program officer, project manager, and capacity builder.

“I am excited beyond words to have the opportunity to lead The Denver Foundation into this next phase of service to the Metro Denver community,” says Marquez-Hudson. “I’ve dedicated my life to addressing the issues The Denver Foundation is working on: basic human needs, education, economic opportunity, community leadership, as well as growing philanthropy, racial equity, and resident engagement. This is a privilege and an opportunity that I take very seriously. I plan to use my understanding of these issues and my appreciation for the generosity and dedication of The Denver Foundation’s donors to help make Metro Denver a great place for everyone.”

David Miller shares Bayless’ enthusiasm about his successor. “I am delighted with the selection of Christine as my successor at The Denver Foundation. She is a great choice, and I’m so appreciative to Ginny Bayless and the rest of the search committee for their excellent work. I’ve had the privilege and honor of serving in this job for the last 20 years. I hope that Christine will serve for at least the next 20!”

Marquez-Hudson has been widely recognized for her leadership. She was named the 2013 9News Leader of the Year and recently recognized as one of the 2015 Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Colorado by the Colorado Women’s Chamber. She is a 2009 Bonfils-Stanton Livingston Fellow, a Colorado Trust Fellow, and an alumna of the National Hispana Leadership Institute’s Executive Leadership Program. She serves as a trustee with the Boettcher Foundation, a member of the Colorado Women’s Forum, former co-chair of the Denver Latino Commission, a member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association’s Board of Directors, and a member of the Mayor’s Education Compact Committee.

She received her Masters of Nonprofit Management from Regis University, where she was a Colorado Trust Fellow, and her Bachelors in Political Science, International Relations, from UCLA.
When Urim Apocalypse came to Denver as a refugee in 2010, his first priority was to connect with relatives. Then to find a home, enroll in school, and start building a stable life. But Urim had other plans, too. Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Urim had long used art to express himself and endure the hardships of growing up in a war-torn region. Once he was settled in the United States, Urim dreamed of further exploring his creative talents—and using his art to help others.

“I want to inspire people with my work, especially young people,” he says. “I want to pass the message to all parents to never discourage their artistic children to pursue their dream due to the uncertainty of having a stable financial life or fear for failure.”

In June, Urim moved closer to his dream when he was named the first recipient of The Denver Foundation’s new Ambassador Scholarship, which will support him through four years of post-secondary study. Now 17 and a graduate of Hinkley High School in Aurora, Urim entered the University of Colorado at Denver this fall; there, he’ll pursue studies in art, with an emphasis on animation. Before long, he says, he’ll be model for other young people who wish to pursue art as a vocation, not just a hobby.

“My goal is to have my own animation studio and help young artists pursue their passion and attain their dreams,” he says. “I want to inspire people with my work, youth specifically, and demonstrate the possibility that modern artists can be as successful financially as if they pursued some other ‘stable profession’ such as being a teacher or a computer specialist.”

Launched this spring, the Ambassador Scholarship is a new program created to transform families and communities by providing scholarships to support advanced education among refugees in Metro Denver. Urim was selected from a pool of exceptional high school seniors, all of whom successfully completed the Leadership Program offered by the African Community Center of Denver, an agency that serves the Metro area refugee community. Urim was selected based on his demonstrated engagement in the community, resilience and persistence, positive leadership abilities, motivation to continue his education, vision for the future, and academic proficiency.

“Urim is not only a gifted scholar and artist but also a charismatic leader,” says the scholarship’s founder and supporter, who chooses to remain anonymous. “His compassion and kindness inspire those around him to succeed.”

The Ambassador Scholarship was created to affect “not only the recipient, but also a whole community,” says its founder. “Refugees are exposed to a range of traumatic experiences. These applicants demonstrate the ability to retain a sense of hope for the future that requires an amazing capacity for resilience and persistence. Additionally, I was impressed by the students’ leadership abilities and their motivation to engage the larger community.”

One student per year will be selected to receive a scholarship covering the student’s unmet need after all other financial aid and scholarships have been applied. Award amounts will vary based on a student’s need, other aid, and the cost of their school. The recipient is recommended by a committee composed of community leaders and volunteers; The Denver Foundation then makes the final decision.

The Ambassador Scholarship is the newest of The Denver Foundation’s extensive scholarship programs. In 2014, the Foundation awarded 831 scholarships from more than 45 different school funds, totaling more than $3 million.

Expect great things from the creative and hard-working Ambassador Scholar, and others to come. For more information The Denver Foundation’s scholarship programs, visit www.denverfoundation.org.
Across Metro Denver, urban agriculture is nourishing communities and planting seeds for the future.

In many parts of Metro Denver, it’s easier to find a warehouse, a liquor store, or a check cashing outlet than it is to find a place to buy a stalk of broccoli or a bunch of carrots. Large swaths of northeast and northwest Denver, Adams County, and Aurora, among others, meet the United States Department of Agriculture’s definition of a “food desert”: a low-income census tract where either a substantial number or share of residents have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store.

Yet there are encouraging signs of life in Denver’s urban food deserts. Plant life, that is. From small farmers markets and school and community gardens to nonprofit organizations that empower communities to grow and sell their own food, urban agriculture is on the rise, especially among a new generation of volunteers, ecopreneurs, and activists who embrace the connection between food, wellness, and justice.

“Urban agriculture provides vegetables and other healthy foods to low-income families at an affordable price rather than relying on big brand stores for a better alternative than the typical food culture that these families tend to be exposed to,” says Miguel Jara-Garcia, who spent the summer interning at The Growhaus, an urban indoor farm in northeast Denver, as part of The Denver Foundation’s Nonprofit Internship Program.

Jara-Garcia is now in his first year of studies in Human Development and Family Relations, with a minor in communication, at the University of Colorado Denver. Through his internship at The Growhaus, Jara-Garcia saw firsthand how community outreach and education are as much a part of the urban agriculture movement as plants and seeds.

“Urban agriculture allows groups of people to discover the potential of plants and learn about the history of their communities by getting involved with the agriculture,” he says. “It builds a sense of community among the members involved.”

Also a part of The Denver Foundation’s Nonprofit Internship Program, Chris White spent time at EarthLinks, a nonprofit organization in west Denver that provides job training skills and other supports to individuals experiencing homelessness. Some of that training takes place in a community garden, where people rebuild self-esteem and opportunities while tilling soil.

“Urban agriculture can give individuals and communities an improved sense of self sufficiency,” says White, now a freshman at Regis University with a double major in Peace and Justice Studies and Business Administration and a minor in urban agriculture. “Also, the practices of planting, watering, and harvesting can be very meditative, and can help individuals escape from the harsher realities they may be facing.”
Photos, clockwise from upper left:
Barbara Grogan, Anna Jo Haynes, and Nancy Schulein at Robert Putnam talk; Graduates of Mi Casa Resource Center’s “My Nanny Solution”; Grace Stiles and daughter Kaya Green among others at “The Soul of Philanthropy” VIP Opening; Nina and Greg Moore at “The Soul of Philanthropy”; 2015 Nonprofit Interns with Denver Mayor Michael Hancock; Renowned Investment Consultant Grady Durham addresses Denver philanthropists; Members of the Environmental Affinity Group at panel discussion; Professor Robert Putnam with Denver Foundation Board Chair, Ginny Bayless, and Denver Foundation President, David Miller.
Denver Active 20-30 Children’s Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing philanthropic leaders through concentrated fundraising efforts and direct interaction with local children’s charities to support at-risk and underprivileged youth.

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