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Welcome to our spring 2014 issue of Give Magazine, celebrating the spirit of giving that thrives in Metro Denver. Speaking of “thriving,” our cover story this month describes the philanthropy of our state’s biggest nonprofit health care provider, Kaiser Permanente, which uses the “Thrive” slogan. We hope you’ll be inspired by reading about all the good they do throughout our community ... far beyond the excellent care they give to the patients in their network.

Kaiser Permanente is part of a new breed of corporate philanthropists, using their resources in very strategic ways to support their communities, their customers, and their organizational goals. This spring’s Give also examines other new trends in philanthropy, including the use of technology, the expansion of public/nonprofit partnerships (Denver Public Schools and Learning Ally), and the development of a new cadre of leaders in the millennial generation.

Still, we can’t forget the foundation on which we build, and we are so fortunate that noted historian and professor Tom Noel shares his thoughts on some of the leading philanthropists in Denver’s past through an excerpt from his book, Colorado Givers.

As always, we welcome your thoughts, your suggestions, and your ideas for how to improve our offerings in Give. We invite you to join us in celebrating Metro Denver’s generous spirit.

Sincerely,

Sandra Shreve
Chair, Board of Trustees

David Miller
President and CEO

The mission of The Denver Foundation is to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen our community. We hope that through the tips and stories of generous individuals, families, and organizations in this publication you will be inspired to give!

www.denverfoundation.org

Cover photo by Flor Blake: Kaiser Permanente recently awarded Munroe Elementary School a $2,500 grant for after school programs, including a jump rope club. Additionally, funds will be used to facilitate brain breaks in classrooms. Jandel Allen-Davis, MD, Kaiser Permanente’s Vice President of Government and External Relations, jumps with Munroe first graders Rosalie (l) and Victoria.
Building Thriving Communities

By Rebecca Arno

Kaiser Permanente was the founding funder of B-cycle. Designed to help Denver residents and visitors increase their daily activity, save money, and reduce carbon emissions, Denver B-cycle was the nation's first large-scale citywide bicycle-sharing program.
It’s a sunny late-winter morning, and an intrepid rider heads off on one of the bright red B-Cycles that have become ubiquitous on Denver’s streets. She rides past a schoolyard, where children scramble up a brightly painted playground structure and race down the slides. In the middle school down the street, students play a fierce game of kickball with their PlayWorks recess coach. And across town in an elementary-school kitchen, cooks are slicing fresh red peppers grown at the Denver Botanic Gardens Farm near Chatfield Reservoir.

These are the signs of a vibrant, healthy community, and that is exactly what Kaiser Permanente is fostering in Colorado.

Kaiser Permanente, you wonder? Colorado’s largest nonprofit health plan? Sure, they treat thousands of patients in their clinics and medical offices in 20 Colorado counties. But bicycles and playgrounds and healthy food? How is that the work of a health care provider?

Kaiser Permanente answers that question with an enthusiastic dedication to the health of the communities where their patients live, work, and play. Their mission is to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of their members and the communities they serve. Their goal is to “help Colorado thrive.” In service to this goal, they recognize that good health extends far beyond the doctor’s office and the hospital.

“We know that for our patients and their families to be healthy, they need access to nutritious food, great schools, and safe parks and playgrounds,” says Corina Lindley, senior manager of Community Health (a division of Kaiser Permanente). “We’re increasingly looking at why some communities have access to these things while others don’t. As we address issues of access and equity, we need to get to the root causes of some of the more serious health problems we see.”

Lindley and her colleagues at Kaiser Permanente know that they will be able to do the greatest good when they can use all of the resources within their sphere of influence. “We invest the time, expertise, and resources of more than 6,000 Kaiser Permanente Colorado physicians and employees to help address our state’s most pressing health and social concerns,” Lindley explains. “It’s incredible what this network can accomplish.”

In addition to Colorado, Kaiser Permanente serves patients and communities in seven other states and the District of Columbia. They invest in community-benefit activities wherever they are located and share their lessons learned, successes, and challenges, to ensure that together,
Taking Action
Several years ago, Kaiser Permanente Colorado conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment, which is now required of all nonprofit hospitals under the Affordable Care Act. They then decided to increase their community-benefit investments to address the root causes of health disparities and the social determinants of ill health. Their program is designed to work in four areas: Health Access, Healthy Environments, Health Knowledge, and Community Service.

In Health Access, they focus on care and coverage for low-income people, addressing health disparities related to income and race/ethnicity, and supporting partner organizations working to provide a safety net for those in need.

“We asked ourselves what we could do to help people living in low-income communities gain access to what people in other communities take for granted,” says Lindley. “What are the community assets that promote health?”

Thus, the Healthy Eating/Active Living program was born, seeking to build communities that are easy to walk, where people have access to food, better jobs, and adequate transportation. Kaiser Permanente is investing in 20 different projects across the state that will help local and state governments learn how to allocate resources more equitably in order to build intentionally healthy communities. Kaiser Permanente also works hard to promote food access and reduce hunger.

As the doctors in the network started screening for hunger concerns among their patients, they were surprised to learn that even patients with the resources to belong to a health care plan can experience food insecurity. One of the ways they help meet this need is through support of Hunger Free Colorado’s Hunger Free Hotline, which helps thousands of people every year.

When it is necessary and will make a difference to the community, Kaiser Permanente uses their voice to help promote public policy. To this end, they worked with Hunger Free Colorado and Representative Dominic Moreno (Commerce City) to pass “Breakfast After the Bell” legislation, which provides a free breakfast in the classroom to every child in low-income schools throughout the state. This nutritious start to the day is proven to help children maintain focus and attention during the school day, improving both health and educational outcomes.

A Good Listener
We all know that good doctors are great listeners. One of Kaiser Permanente’s practices is to work hard to meet communities where they are, and to spend time in schools and with local groups listening directly to the people who are accessing services. This work of “embedded listening” can be challenging, but it helps in figuring out how to address complicated issues like the link between physical activity and academic outcomes.

Kaiser Permanente’s listening practices have resulted in a number of exciting programs, including Thriving Schools. Recently, they awarded $1.4 million in grants to 21 school districts across their service area. In Weld County, they will provide afterschool programs for middle-school students. In Boulder County, they will seek to shift how bus transportation is provided while encouraging students to get more exercise. Beyond these grants, Kaiser Permanente partnered with its employees to award 38 mini-grants to increase physical activity in schools throughout Colorado, serving more than 20,000 students.

No End to the Good
Beyond the programs described here, Kaiser Permanente helps...
with numerous other strategies for promoting health, including nutrition promotion, obesity prevention, medical research, and the development of the health care workforce.

“Kaiser Permanente’s reach and impact are truly impressive,” says David Miller, President and CEO of The Denver Foundation. “When they began to work in partnership with The Denver Foundation, we found so many ways that our work in the community aligned.” Kaiser Permanente uses a business-advised fund at The Denver Foundation to manage a portion of its grantmaking. Their staff works directly with the Foundation’s Basic Human Needs program area to share information on potential grantees. “We are so fortunate that this outstanding health care provider also happens to be a visionary community investor. You don’t have to be a Kaiser Permanente member to appreciate all they do.”

Looking to the Future
As the leaders at Kaiser Permanente look to the future, they see endless opportunities for helping improve health for all. Jandel Allen-Davis, MD, Vice President of Government and External Relations and also a member of The Denver Foundation’s Board of Trustees, takes the long view. “The Affordable Care Act opens the door for people of all ages and all backgrounds to access health care in different ways,” she notes. “What does this mean for community health? How will this affect the persistent disparities in health care for those most in need? The landscape may change dramatically in the months and years to come.”

No matter what lies ahead, Kaiser Permanente will be there to help our community build toward greater health – and THRIVE.

Since 1985, Kaiser Permanente has inspired people to make healthy choices through educational theater. What started as a single play for elementary-school children has become a series of award-winning theatrical productions, skill-building workshops, and youth-engagement initiatives. Almost three million people in Colorado have been touched by Kaiser Permanente’s Educational Theater’s free programs.
Philanthropy is a concept that has as many definitions as it does individuals who have engaged in it over the years. Its impetus and ends are debatable, and its models evolutionary over time. But like love (which is the true meaning of the word), it certainly makes the world go ‘round. The following stories look at philanthropy from its historic roots to some of its modern-day manifestations.

What Is Philanthropy?

By Tom Noel, adapted from his book “Colorado Givers”

The difficulty in defining philanthropy is exemplified by the long struggle to get the U.S. Post Office Department to create a philanthropy stamp. After 18 years of discussion, the stamp finally issued in 1998 reads “Giving and Sharing: An American Tradition” and pictures a bee about to pollinate a flower.

Philanthropy can be viewed as a bee spreading sustaining pollen to each flower, to each good cause. However, to many, raising and giving money is as painful as a bee sting. For those asked to be givers, the call can be as annoying as a swarm of telemarketers at dinner time.

Is philanthropy a science or an art? Can only the rich be philanthropic? Is it just a matter of giving money? Or should gifts of time and talent count? How about the soldier or peace officer who sacrifices his life? Does philanthropy, as the 32-cent stamp suggests, include sharing whatever you have?

The motivation behind philanthropy is varied, complex, and not always disinterested. Some altruists donate their money, time, or abilities to fix fundamental social problems. Some may be troubled by cruelty to animals, starving children, disease, or disasters. Others may reckon that their charity will atone for their sins and get them into heaven. Skeptics may view public benevolence as a means of social control, a system whereby wealthy benefactors maintain the class structure and produce a sober, productive work force reminded of its proper place.
More has been written about Colorado philandering than philanthropy. Yet, the Highest State has a rich, but little explored history of generosity.

**Aunt Clara Brown: Up From Slavery**

Clara Brown faced down adversity and racial prejudice with her faith in humanity and God. “Aunt” Clara, as she was affectionately called, was born in 1800, a slave of Ambrose Smith. Clara married at the age of 18 and had four children: Margaret, Eliza Jane, Paulina, and Richard. After the death of Smith in 1835, she, her husband, and her children were sold to different masters. She was purchased by Kentuckian George Brown. After 20 years of sterling service, the Browns gave her freedom and their family name.

In June of 1859, Aunt Clara became the first black woman to reach the Colorado gold fields. In Denver, she helped start the first Sunday School, an ecumenical “union” effort. In the spring of 1860, Aunt Clara joined a party headed up to Central City. In that town of scruffy miners, she opened the first laundry and took in filthy long flannel underwear, work shirts, woolen trousers, and overalls. After settling into a two-room cabin on Lawrence Street, she also cooked, catered, cleaned, and worked as a midwife.

Aunt Clara’s hard work paid off; she found her gold mine in her washtub, scrubbing her way to respectability and financial security. With the help of Jeremiah Lee, another black Central City pioneer, she bought a house and began investing in Central City real estate and mines. With the money she saved, she helped build St. James Methodist Church, which still stands on Eureka Street opposite the opera house.

Aunt Clara Brown is commemorated with a stained-glass window in the Colorado State Capitol, a chair in the Central City Opera House, [and] a bronze plaque on St. James Methodist Church. Few women overcame so much to help their communities, their churches, and their relatives and friends.

**Emily Griffith: A Teacher For All Times**

[In 1916,] at a time when many Americans joined organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan to persecute poor immigrants, teacher Emily Griffith came up with a radical alternative: she offered the newcomers a free public education to help them learn English and job skills. Emily even made home and work place visits to help her pupils.

Not the sort of administrator who hid in an office, Emily put her desk by the main door at the Opportunity School so she could greet everyone coming and going. She kept her pockets full of nickels for anyone without streetcar fare home.

After seeing a student pass out from hunger in her class, Emily and her mother made big pots of soup at their home at 1524 Fillmore Street. She carried pails of soup to work with her every morning on the East Colfax streetcar line. She served free soup to any and all.

[Now, almost 70 years after her death,] her Opportunity School still offers hundreds of courses “for all who wish to learn,” job training for all who wish to earn, and a variety of goods and services for all who wish to save. **Editor’s Note:** Emily Griffith was a founding member of the Grantmaking Board of The Denver Foundation in 1925.

Thomas J. Noel adapted this article from his book, Colorado Givers: A History of Philanthropic Heroes (with Stephen J. Leonard & Kevin E. Rucker). Dr. Noel is the author or co-author of 41 other books and a Sunday Denver Post column, and he appears on Channel 9’s Colorado & Company as Dr. Colorado.
Philanthropy: a Growing Field

Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)
The Denver Foundation, as a community foundation with connections to both the funding and the nonprofit communities, is in a natural position to be a host for giving circles of all types. The Denver Foundation is proud to play a key role in several giving circles in the Denver community.

In 2013, The Denver Foundation brought together a group of passionate and knowledgeable arts funders to create the Arts Affinity Group (AAG) as a collective giving platform. The purpose of the group was to bring expanded opportunities for those who partner with the Foundation to leverage their funding, learn from one another, and promote arts in our community. In addition to the Arts Affinity Group, the Foundation is host to the Denver African American Philanthropists (DAAP), the first African American male giving circle in Colorado. DAAP has emerged as a force for giving and has also been recognized for its important role as a community leadership organization. The group was recently voted “Best Giving Circle in the United States” by Black Celebrity Giving and profiled in JET magazine.

Both formal giving circles and affinity groups, as well as the more informal groups that collectively hold funds at the Foundation but manage their own process outside of the Foundation, lead to greater engagement and connection among the donors and the causes they care about. This increased connection translates into greater giving.

In February, AAG voted to approve their first round of grants, providing support to six leading arts learning organizations based on criteria that focused on innovation, technology, and access for disadvantaged populations. The groups approved for funding by the AAG this year are:

- **Buntport Theater** for a civil rights oriented theatrical and digital storytelling program in conjunction with East High School;
- **Youth on Record**, formerly Flobots.org, for their work providing in-school and out-of-school training and classes for high-risk youth in the area of technical music development; and
- **Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)**, for a summer program focused on “artbots” reengaging youth in the creation of technology-oriented arts programming.

Smaller grants were also awarded to **Oh Heck Yeah**, **El Sistema**, and **Redline**.

While the impact of the specific grants awarded by the AAG this year may not be known for some time, the enthusiasm and engagement are notable accomplishments of the collective learning/giving model. Beyond that, national models have shown that deeper and more lasting impacts result from this type of group philanthropic practice. According to the Forum of Regional Associations of Grantmakers in a 2009 report entitled “The Impact of Giving Together,” people “give more, give more strategically, and are more knowledgeable about nonprofit organizations and problems in their communities when they participate in giving circles.”

The success of the Arts Affinity Group has inspired the Foundation to expand its offerings with the launch of an environment-focused affinity group later this spring.

For more information on the Arts Affinity Group or the upcoming environment-focused affinity group, contact Kelly Purdy, kpurdy@denverfoundation.org. For more information on Denver African Americans in Philanthropy, contact LaDawn Sullivan, lsullivan@denverfoundation.org.
Katrina is an enthusiastic young woman, positive about her future. She dreams of becoming a pastry chef someday. A junior at South High School in Denver, she loves her classes and enjoys mentoring younger students when they need help. But Katrina’s path hasn’t always been an easy one.

“I think we found out in first grade I had a learning difference,” she recalls. She spent some time in special education classes and when she came to South as a freshman, she had what is called an “IEP” – an Individualized Education Plan – that acknowledged her challenges. Reading was always a struggle. “My mom had to read everything out loud to me. That could be really hard when she came home after a long day at work and was tired, and I was tired, but we did it. Then I found out about Learning Ally ... and all that changed.”

Learning Ally, founded in 1948 as Recording for the Blind, has evolved over the past 66 years to serve a broad variety of people with learning disabilities, including dyslexia. Today, Learning Ally provides an array of educational solutions designed to meet the needs of students, parents, and educators. One of its programs provides digitally produced audiobook services for students in Denver Public Schools (DPS), and one of the first schools to receive services was South High.

“I just download the books onto my iPod and listen to them whenever I need to study,” Katrina explains. “They have every textbook there is, and lots of other books too. I never thought I’d read for fun, but Learning Ally has helped me explore the world of books.” Learning Ally provides the largest online library of its kind in the world, containing more than 80,000 human-narrated audio textbooks and literature titles.

Katrina’s teacher, Allison Mitchell, has been at South for five years, now, as a Resource English teacher. She is grateful for the resources offered by Learning Ally – both the materials themselves and the training support for teachers. “Learning Ally gives students the courage to access parts of the curriculum that otherwise would be difficult for them. I have students who would never have been able to consider an honors or AP class, who are now doing so with great success.”

The reason Learning Ally is available to all of the students in DPS is through the generous support of an anonymous donor through The Denver Foundation. A grant of $500,000 will fund the program for two years to support kids who have reading-based learning disabilities, of this population 80% are dyslexic. This creative connection between a nonprofit, a passionate donor, and a public school system will have dramatic results for students like Katrina.

“Early intervention like this can do so much to help kids,” says Terrie. “Imagine how much it could have helped Katrina and her mom to know about Learning Ally back in grade school.”

Working together, the Denver Public Schools and Learning Ally will help students with learning differences, like Katrina, to become more confident, resilient learners able to achieve their full potential. For more information, visit learningally.org/dps.
MILE HIGH CONNECTS: A Vehicle for Funder Collaboration

By Dace West

Across all types of philanthropy, there has been an increasing shift to capitalize on the leverage that comes through collective investment, rather than giving in isolation. The trend is often seen in individual donors jointly investing resources through vehicles like giving circles (see page 11), but traditional institutional philanthropy is increasingly turning toward a similar model.

One great example is the emergence of a group called Mile High Connects, where national foundations, local foundations, and banks and financial institutions have come together to invest in increasing access to housing choices, good jobs, high-quality schools, and essential services via public transit. By increasing resources, influencing policy, and working directly with residents, Mile High Connects is working to ensure that the Metro Denver regional transit system fosters communities that offer all residents the opportunity for a high quality of life.

Last year alone, Mile High Connects wove together over $2 million in collective philanthropy and was then able to leverage those funds even further by coordinating with public investment in transit infrastructure and transit-oriented development.

This investment enabled Mile High Connects to create a new pooled grant fund to support equitable transportation initiatives across the Denver region; organize learning opportunities and site visits with similar funder collaboratives in Atlanta and the San Francisco Bay Area; develop a web-based research tool called the Equity Atlas to help communities map affordable housing, livable-wage jobs, quality of schools, and services; and to invest in community-engagement activities to ensure that RTD service continued to low-income Denver communities impacted by the opening of the west light rail line.

“It can be hard to find a way into these big complex issues like affordable housing, high-quality schools, and family-supporting jobs,” says Dace West, Mile High Connects Director. “Particularly, when you’re thinking about the built environment and the development of infrastructure around a whole neighborhood, it can sometimes feel like your investment isn’t going to make a difference. Collaborative giving opportunities like Mile High Connects offer philanthropists and other investors the opportunity to make their dollars go further by pooling and leveraging resources.”

Unlike traditional grantmakers, Mile High Connects funders function as core partners at the decision-making table, serving together on the steering and working committees of the collaborative and determining the best ways to expend their co-invested resources. This structure has led to opportunities for deepened learning for the funding partners across the multiple issues addressed by Mile High Connects and has enabled them to find new and creative ways to put their funds to work for greater impact on community outcomes.

For more information about Mile High Connects visit www.milehighconnects.org or call (303) 865-4609.
Much has been researched, written, discussed, and anticipated with regard to the impact of the Millennial Generation (those born, roughly, between 1980 and 2000). As the older of its men and women begin to make their marks in the work force, the focus intensifies on this unique generation.

They have experienced what many refer to as helicopter parenting (even amidst unprecedented divorce rates), while also having witnessed the devastating events of 9/11, two subsequent wars, and the collapse of the financial markets – the poisonous epicenter of which was the US housing market. And, they beheld all of this via myriad multimedia, 24/7, on-demand platforms.

Yet, words such as “confident,” “cause-oriented,” and “team players” are used to describe those millennials who now rise to leadership in the workplace. This is a welcome set of traits in the nonprofit sector, where we strive to address social issues that persist and shift in our world’s ever-changing landscape. For the past seven years, The Denver Foundation has provided summer opportunities, through the Nonprofit Internship Program, to college students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the sector – students of color, first generation college students, Pell grant recipients, etc.

Through a highly competitive application and interview process, selected students are paired with nonprofit host organizations. In addition to paid employment for ten weeks, interns engage in a series of workshops on topics such as Nonprofits 101, fundraising, communications, leadership, and networking skills.

The program began as a way to encourage the increased future involvement of diverse persons as staff, board members, volunteers, and donors in the nonprofit sector. The Denver Foundation, which does regular evaluation to gauge the effectiveness of the program, revised the curriculum in 2013 to focus more on leadership development and community engagement, as well as to offer interns a deeper look at community needs related to economic, racial, and ethnic disparities.

To date, more than 100 students make up the alumni corps of the Nonprofit Internship Program, many of whom have engaged in nonprofit careers and leadership in the philanthropic sector. The following are snapshots of eight alumni – all millennials – who each offer a glimpse into the style and mind-set of future community and philanthropic leadership.

Alfredo Reyes, 24

Alfredo Reyes is a first-generation college student. Both of his parents emigrated from Mexico. His father worked in construction while his mother cleaned hotel rooms until she was forced to retire after three open heart surgeries. Alfredo attended Colorado College as a Gates Millennium Scholar, and is now studying for his Masters of Educational Foundation, Policy, and Practice at CU Boulder. Alfredo worked at Platte Forum while in the Nonprofit Internship Program in 2011. “Philanthropy, to me, is the act of building a community,” Alfredo states. “Community is my life and philanthropy has played a role in my discovering what I am passionate about and how I give back.”

Currently a part-time advisor at West High School, Alfredo says he is working with four local organizations to develop an internship program. He has also worked to pilot a program at Westminster High School. His research will be presented at a symposium in Boston with an opportunity to be cohosted by Harvard and MIT. He also serves on The Denver Foundation’s Education Committee.

“My professional goals all apply to what I am doing now,” Alfredo says. “I don’t just want to be an academic. I want to be involved in policy and theory. Harvard has a doctorate of education leadership – it’s a triad of education, business, and government. The Denver Foundation tries to bring everything together in that way, I believe. It’s more than just giving money; it’s getting to the root of the issue – using what we have to solve issues.”

Alfredo’s advice: Work in whatever niche you can find to help – whether locally or on a national level. And surround yourself with positive people who care and who want to make the world a better place. Don’t fear chaos. Vulnerability is where personal growth happens and community is built.
**Angela Cobian, 25**

Angela Cobian is also a graduate of Colorado College. Currently a Fulbright Scholar in Mexico City, she teaches English at a pedagogical university in the south of the city. She credits speech and debate, which she began in high school, with helping to change her worldview. She also credits her nonprofit internship at Bright Beginnings with helping to cement her professional goals.

“I had planned to become an immigration lawyer,” Angela states. “I realized I did not want that once I got in the Nonprofit Internship Program. I was educated on how nonprofits work and transform communities of color, and could apply what I was learning at Bright Beginnings – about how play and personal contact with a child helps in development. I knew I needed to be in a classroom.”

Her first foray into the classroom came through Teach for America. “Teach for America intersects human, social, and monetary capital,” she states. “That’s my definition of philanthropy: taking what you have, and using it toward an end that satisfies a gap in society.” Through the program, she was paired with businessman and philanthropist Marco Antonio Abarca who helped her think through professional goals and open doors to individuals who could assist her with her eventual goal of running for local office.

Angela shares that, after 9/11, she, like so many, was left with big questions: why did that happen and why do similar things continue to happen? “It leads my generation to continue to seek meaning, and to be driven to contribute to philanthropy. You grow up seeing that communities have different experiences and you want to help.”

**Angela’s advice:** Do what you can. Invariably, we have all been the recipient of some sort of philanthropy, whether white, black, rich, or poor. Pay it back!

**Nathan Brown, 23**

A native of Denver, Nathan attended and graduated last spring from University of Denver as a Millennium Scholar and an AVID Scholar. His goals are to attain an International MBA and eventually become the ambassador to China. A trip to China during his last semester of college cemented his interests. After several life changes last year, including the death of his father, Nathan decided to work full-time before completing his goal of attaining a graduate degree. He’s found a special home within Denver African American Philanthropists, a giving circle comprised of black men of all ages and backgrounds who give their time, talent, and treasure to the Metro Denver community. He is the group’s youngest member. Nathan, who interned at The Denver Foundation in 2011, was awarded the Swanee Hunt Community Leadership Award in 2012 for his community-building efforts.

“I have come to define philanthropy as simply volunteering with a passion, being truly invested in that volunteer work,” Nathan says.

Nathan says that his understanding, firsthand and through interaction with nonprofits, fuels his passion and desire to help fight disparities, racial inequity, and the lack of inclusiveness that are far too common in the Metro Denver community. “It gives me a reason to participate in philanthropic endeavors.”

**Nathan’s advice:** The greatest thing anybody could give is time and consideration. Five minutes of selflessness can change somebody’s life.

**Brittany Pyle, 26**

Brittany graduated from Metropolitan State College. She worked as The Denver Foundation’s nonprofit intern during the summer of 2009, and subsequently developed a career in the nonprofit sector, currently working as Volunteer Coordinator for the National Stroke Association. She also serves on The Denver Foundation Basic Human Needs Committee. “I hope to see myself grow in a direction that supports the causes I am passionate about,” she states, adding, “I would like to work closer to issues that make a difference – hunger is number one. How do you feed people? How do you have a stable food system?” Homelessness is another issue near and dear to Brittany’s heart. “There are a lot of different programs that will change how we look at housing, for instance being able to make sure a family has somewhere to go if there is domestic violence.”

“Philanthropy to me means giving my money back to my community in a meaningful way – in a way that empowers my community.” She adds that she is very selective in what she supports, doing the research before engaging. “I think that is an overall trend – people want to know how their money is being used,” she shares.

Brittany says her understanding of disparities – racial and economic – influences both her career and giving choices. “As someone who has needed assistance to get school supplies and keep lights on, I know that sometimes the availability is not there. Offering wraparound services and being aware of how cultural difference plays a role, having that lens, means being able to help people in need.”

**Brittany’s Advice:** Remember: philanthropy doesn’t mean dollars; it means making your own personal impact.
Jenni Gasbarro, 29

Jenni participated during the first year that the Nonprofit Internship Program was offered in 2007. A student at CU Boulder, she was placed with the American Red Cross Mile High Chapter. She has been there ever since, now serving as Director of Corporate and Foundation partnerships for the organization. Having been an intern in the first year, and now serving as a member of the Selection Committee for new interns, she understands how the program has evolved over the years and how its emphasis on inclusiveness has helped to broaden the local nonprofit sector.

“With work on this committee I see that inclusiveness speaks to the richness of community. Great opportunities arise when we look at each individual to see how he or she can contribute,” Jenni shares. “There are infinite combinations of skills and characteristics that bring such beauty to our community. I strive to have deeper relationships with clients and funders by really understanding who they are and the uniqueness they bring.”

She says she views philanthropy as determining those essential pieces we can give of ourselves for the greater community good. “As a millennial and young professional, it’s been interesting to have to create a community. After college you aren’t on the same track as everyone else. You step into a beautiful diverse world. Philanthropy is a great way to be engaged.”

Jenni says it’s exciting to be a part of the millennial generation. “We have a powerful voice, and people are paying attention.”

Jenni’s advice: Explore things that are fun and meaningful to you: your time and money will follow suit.

Nate Garcia, 22

A native Denverite, Nate grew up in a ministerial family – his father is a pastor of a local church. He graduated as valedictorian from East High School and is currently on the cusp of finishing undergraduate studies in economics at Stanford University. As classmates around him secure corporate positions with substantial starting salaries, he finds himself clear: that’s not his path.

“I am called to philanthropy; it strikes a chord with me,” Nate says. “I have learned a lot from The Denver Foundation. Every conversation helps me understand that it seems like a pathway for me.”

He is currently the General Manager of Development for Stanford Student Enterprises, an operation run for the students by the students which employs 35 student employees in various roles. Nate organizes events and handles all recruitment for the campus. He also stays busy as a resident assistant (RA) on campus and as the Philanthropy Chair for his fraternity.

As for future goals, he is applying for fellowships for the fall. He then hopes to land where he can use his skills to focus on issues of racial equity and economic opportunity. “The Denver Foundation has played a large role in my learning new ways to be flexible and strategic about creative solutions for issues that affect a lot of people,” he shares.

“The discussions I had this past summer gave heart and soul to that which I have been wanting,” he says. “When I see tragic things happening, when things are unjust, I can put a lot of faces to people from my upbringing. It’s what I want my work to be.”

Nate’s advice: If you want to make a difference, connect with incredible people doing incredible work. It’s about finding the right place and people. It will definitely change your life.

Genevieve Laca, 26

Genevieve Laca is currently the Grants and Special Projects Manager at Colorado Neurological Institute. She is working toward attaining her professional certificate in fundraising (CFRE) in order to continue fundraising for the causes she loves.

“I grew up understanding that philanthropy didn’t have to involve a lot of money, just a lot of heart,” Genevieve says. “I’ve been shaped by the causes I care about and enjoy the time I get to spend with others working to advance education, GLBTQ issues, health equity, and animal rights.”

Genevieve participated as an intern in The Denver Foundation’s first Nonprofit Internship Class in 2007. “To me, inclusiveness is about neither highlighting a group nor leaving them in the dark, but recognizing all for exactly who

83% of millennial respondents made a financial gift to an organization in 2012
Jonathon Stalls, 31

Jonathon Stalls says that philanthropy is connected to almost everything he does. “I sit on the Nonprofit Internship Program Selection Committee, I speak to students and kids at their schools, I give to different nonprofits, I engage with crowdfunding to support entrepreneurs and causes. It’s an everyday part of my life.”

He adds that philanthropy, to him, is not just about monetary gifts; it’s about behaviors and cultures of caring – time, skills, and significant effort.

Speaking of significant effort, Jonathon has “walked the talk” quite literally. A year and a half ago, he started a social business called Walk to Connect, which takes individuals, groups, and companies on focused walking trips to help people get to know their town and to see how they can make their communities more walkable.

Jonathon got the inspiration for the program in 2010 when he participated in an eight-month backpack walk across the United States as part of a campaign for Kiva, a nonprofit that connects people through lending to alleviate poverty. “I got to know people across the country and raise awareness for an organization I care about. It took a little toll on my life, but we generated over half a million loans, and personally I had so much clarity; I was in the best shape of my life. The walk has taught me so much about walking alongside anybody and everyone. The Nonprofit Internship Program was such a great launch into that – my experience working with the African Refugee Center in 2009.”

About the millennial generation, Jonathon notices: “So many of them are not interested in ROTH IRAs. They are not interested in the bag of money for later in life. They want to feel like they are giving now. Although they may be gifted with two loving parents or food on the table, there is a lot of understanding that there is hardship out there. They’ve been reminded about a world of pain and distance from such a young age.”

Jonathon’s advice: Be open to how your life can be transformed by being connected.

Genevieve Laca, 33

Genevieve says that The Denver Foundation Internship Program gave her the chance to work that Project Angel Heart in 2007, an experience that propelled her forward toward her career goals and helped her earn the Hearst Minority Fellowship for graduate school.

“I have enjoyed serving on the Intern and Organization Selection Committee and the program’s growth and refinement have been astounding,” she states. “I am asking other interns who love the program like I do to come together to raise enough money to support one additional intern each year. No amount is too small and there are monthly giving options.

I’ve already made my pledge and if you’d like to help us reach our goal by 2015 email me at genevievelaca@gmail.com. This Nonprofit Internship Giving Fund will boost not only our program but the nonprofit sector by adding more bright, compassionate, and driven individuals to the nonprofit sector.”

Genevieve’s advice: You’re a millennial and you have so much to offer! You’re not too young to give, sit on a board, or advance in your career. Giving circles and donor-advised funds are great ways to pool funds with people who share your passions to make a deeper impact. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved, and as someone who works at a nonprofit, we eagerly await your support.

Infographics: The 2013 Millennial Impact Report
Technology has been an amazing gift to the world. Without tools like mobile phones, the Internet, and smart social networking platforms, it was far more difficult to support the causes we care about.

The question isn’t “how” technology has impacted philanthropy. The real question is how well have we used technology to make headway with our missions.

That is a huge question to wrap our heads around. So let’s borrow the ubiquitous rating model from online powerhouses Trip Advisor and Amazon to help us grasp this moment in time.

**Fundraising ★★★☆☆**

*Review:* It’s easier now than ever to make a donation. You can actually donate to a cause simply by text messaging – which helped Mile High Red Cross mobilize resources for victims of Colorado’s devastating floods and wildfires last year.

Denver Dumb Friends League raises over $1 million every year with its always-popular Furry Scurry event. Online fundraising software together with fundraising coaching and great marketing empowers 12,000 pet lovers, with 5,000 dogs, and 600 volunteers to create their own online fundraising page and use email and social media to raise pledge money for the walk.

Why only three stars? Using technology to create communities of interest, reliable revenue streams, and new supporters is still the domain of the brave and early adopters.

**Making Voices Heard ★★★★★☆**

*Review:* Storytelling is essential to philanthropy, but not everyone has the means to broadcast their story… until now.

“There’s a lot of power in telling a good story,” says Steve Fenberg of New Era Colorado. “You used to have to tell your story speech by speech, in room by room, in person. Now, you can tell an incredible story and within a couple of days have it go around the world.”

New Era Colorado turned crowdfunding on its head when it shared its story in a YouTube video supporting municipal electric utility in Boulder. Looking to defeat a ballot measure that would reverse the city’s decision to become a municipal utility as a way to reduce Boulder’s carbon footprint. That video was picked up and shared by Upworthy.

The ballot issue was actually only voted on by 30,000 people in Boulder, but New Era Colorado’s video was viewed by over 1,000,000 people in a matter of a few days. The video drove over $200,000 in donations from 7,000 people in all 50 states and 34 foreign countries to fund additional organizers, register voters, and mobilize young voters.

**Community ★★★★★☆**

*Review:* Our need to belong is part of what makes us human. Expressing ourselves, our culture, and what we care about in relationships with others is essential to a rich life experience. Marketing guru Seth Godin argues that the Internet has ended mass marketing and revived a human social unit from the distant past: tribes. Founded on shared ideas and values, Godin says that tribes give ordinary people the power to lead and make big changes.

Google indexing data backs up Godin’s theory with hard numbers. Google reports that there are 650 million Facebook groups. 650 million! That number is far higher than actual active groups on Facebook, but if even a fraction of those groups are active, it means that there are about 100 million groups of people that self-selected to be part of an interest community — whether that interest is art, business, philanthropy, a hobby, a sports club, or politics. We can connect with people like us by logging on.

**Mastering our craft ★☆☆☆☆**

*Review:* This area needs work. Today’s Internet requires broadband access. Yet, municipal broadband is slow to catch hold. Municipal broadband makes sure that low-income communities, especially school students, have high-speed access to the Internet to take advantage of its wealth of information.

As for nonprofit organizations, a small group of early adopters and innovators are reaping the most benefit out of technology for both programs and fundraising. The truth is that technology is underperforming for many nonprofit groups that don’t have in-house “techies” to help figure out strategy, implementation, and keeping up with new technologies. And like vocabulary for preschoolers, once you fall behind, say in building a housefile of supporters, catching up gets harder and harder as the years go on.

Technology breakthroughs are happening at such a rapid pace. The great news about technology and philanthropy is that the best is yet to come.

Subscribe to Mandy O’Neill’s blog at www.connectednonprofit.com for free tips.
RELIGION AND GIVING

Religious Values Fuel Charitable Giving

By Bruce DeBoskey, J.D.

The world’s major religions actively promote philanthropy by encouraging charitable actions that address pressing issues like income inequality, hunger, homelessness, climate change, discrimination, and injustice.

America’s religions do the same. In 1835, political thinker Alexis de Tocqueville observed, “Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power.” Today, 80 percent of Americans formally identify with a religious tradition.

“Connected to Give: Faith Communities” (www.jumpstartlabs.org) is a recently published study that takes a closer look at the ways religious and spiritual values fuel philanthropy in the United States. The study concludes:

A donor’s identification with any religious tradition increases charitable giving – and not just to the organizations identified with the donor’s particular religious or spiritual identification. While congregational giving remains a cornerstone of giving for religiously identified Americans, the more connected they are to their own faith community, the more likely they are to support a wide variety of charitable causes.

The comprehensive look at US giving patterns, published by philanthropy-research organization Jumpstart Labs (www.jumpstartlabs.org), also uncovered these findings:

• Seventy-three percent of American giving goes to organizations with religious ties: religious congregations (41 percent) as well as religiously identified organizations (RIOs) (32 percent) like Catholic Charities (www.catholiccharitiesusa.org), the Salvation Army (www.salvationarmyusa.org), or American Jewish World Service (www.ajws.org) that pursue a variety of charitable purposes.

• While most charitable dollars flow to RIOs, more individuals actually contribute to non-RIOs, like United Way (www.unitedway.org), the arts, and environmental groups.

• Most donors contribute to both RIOs and non-RIOs, not one or the other.

• People with religious or spiritual identifications give at higher rates, primarily because they give more to RIOs.

• Households affiliated with the five largest religious groups in the United States – Black Protestant, Evangelical Protestant, Jewish, Mainline Protestant, and Roman Catholic – give to charity at similar rates.

Among Americans who donate, more than half say their commitment to religion is an important or very important motivation for charitable giving.

“Nonprofits that are not religiously identified should recognize that many of the donors who support them do so in a context of religious or spiritual values,” says study co-author Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm of Indiana University’s Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (www.philanthropy.iupui.edu).

Co-author Shawn Landres, Ph.D. (CEO of Jumpstart Labs) states: “Frequently lost in the conversations about strategic philanthropy, with its focus on metrics and outcomes, are the values that drive us to do good in the world. For most Americans, those values play out in a religious or spiritual context. Identifying and bringing our values to our philanthropy helps us stay focused on what really matters – the fundamental belief taught by all major religions that we are all in it together and that we are accountable to something greater than ourselves.”

By embracing and acting upon the universal religious and spiritual value that we are all accountable to each other, or to a higher power that scrutinizes our “Good Samaritan” behavior, philanthropically motivated people could readily resolve many of the world’s most pressing problems.

In the course of history, religion has often been a tremendous divider of people. The “Connected to Give” study demonstrates that religion can also be a powerful uniter in support of the greater good. At a time of enormous needs, the values taught by the world’s religions can inspire, motivate, and challenge us all to charitable action.

Bruce DeBoskey, J.D., is a Colorado-based philanthropic strategist working with Elaine Gantz Berman and Carey Wirtzfeld at The DeBoskey Group to help businesses, foundations, families and individuals design and implement thoughtful philanthropic strategies and actionable plans. He writes a monthly column “On Philanthropy” which appears in the Sunday Denver Post.
The suicide note was short:
“I love you all so much. I hope you can accept this as a good thing. The constant anxiety was simply too much.”

After more than 20 years battling mental illness, Craig Allen ended his life on March 24, 2012. Just months earlier, Craig’s mother, Sally V. Allen, opened a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation with part of a severance payment she received when her employer’s company was sold. At first, she had no specific plans for her fund. After Craig’s death, Sally reached out to her former husband and Craig’s father, James W. Allen, and together they launched the Craig Wentworth Allen Memorial Fund.

Tell us about Craig.
Sally: Craig was a perfectly wonderful guy. He was an architect, single, and built a lovely contemporary house in Golden by himself. It’s in a historic neighborhood and was once a grocery store. After attending Graland, he graduated from Manual High School in 1987 and went to Middlebury College as a mid-year freshman. When he got there, he couldn’t deal with the stress and formed a suicide plan. They sent him home. He remained suicidal, so his psychiatrist hospitalized him at Mt. Airy for about a month. Craig worked hard to put it behind him. He earned his bachelor’s at Occidental College and then his master’s in architecture at UCLA. As he grew older, he always struggled with anxiety and depression. He saw different therapists and was faithful about taking anti-depressant medication. Craig developed another face for the outside world.

Jim: The bottom line is that he was in pain a lot of the time, and felt worthless. Just before he died, he was job-hunting, which greatly increased his anxiety.

What will the fund do?
Jim: Its purpose is to support organizations dedicated to improving mental health resources, primarily in Colorado. The fund is designed to grow over the years, thereby increasing its impact. We trust The Denver Foundation to wisely shepherd our funds for maximum benefit.

Sally: We formalized it on the first anniversary of his death. Our older son Vance and his wife Phyllis are also advisors. The fund is in our wills.

How do you hope to help?
Sally: We are not dashing out to do something right away. We are trying to understand the unrelenting need and how we and others might help.

Jim: This is a way to direct positive energy and thoughts about Craig and to turn our grief toward the future. We hope to team up with others interested in mental health to make our dollars go farther.

Any examples of work you will support?
Sally: I now serve on the board of Mental Health America of Colorado (MHAC), which is a great place to learn.

Jim: One idea is to have mental health specialists on call via a mobile unit. Now, in a mental health crisis, your option is to call the police. They handcuff the person and usually put him or her in jail. It is a terrible emotional experience. If mental health professionals were part of an EMT unit, they could better handle the situation.

Sally: Craig’s hospitalization was horrible for him and horrible for us. He told me many times that he would not go back into a mental hospital. I’m now sure that’s why he never shared his final desperate thoughts.

Anything else?
Jim: Stigma. MHAC has a program called Check Your Head, which works with high-school kids experiencing tough issues and talking about them out in the open.
Sally: Craig was deeply aware of the stigma of mental illness. He often said he wished he had a broken leg or cancer – something he could talk about.

**What do you want people to know?**
Sally: Mental illness is a disease. Many people think of it as some sort of weakness; society is too ignorant about it. My greatest grief is that Craig had to go through such pain with such courage for so many years and we couldn’t do more to help.

Jim: Craig knew he was loved, and he loved us back.

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**DENISE BURGESS**
**Business Leader:**
“Giving Is Part of My DNA”

The Webb Building. The Denver Justice Center. Denver International Airport Hotel and Transit Center Project.

These are just a few of the large construction projects in which Burgess Services has taken part. This second-generation family business launched 40 years ago by Clyde Burgess is owned and operated today by his daughter, Denise Burgess.


These are just a few of the boards and commissions where Denise Burgess has exercised her leadership in the community. She has received many awards, including these in the last two years: Colorado Women’s Chamber of Commerce Top 25 Most Powerful Women, The Network Journal’s 25 Influential Black Women in Business, and the Girl Scouts of Colorado Woman of Distinction.

**You’ve been very successful. What’s your story?**
My dad founded Burgess Heating and Air Conditioning when he retired from the military. I never intended to go into the business. After graduating from Aurora Central, I went to the University of Northern Colorado and studied journalism. I worked in newspaper and radio sales locally, then moved to San Diego, where I managed a radio station. My daughter was born there. Soon after, in 1994, my dad asked me to come back and help with sales and marketing part-time. From there I moved into accounting, finance, and project management. After dad’s untimely death in 2002, I became president and got my construction management certificate at the University of Denver. My career took off when I transitioned the firm into a national construction management company. We have about 12–15 employees at any given time.

**How did you get involved in giving?**
My grandfather was a United Methodist minister and my grandmother was a stalwart in the community. She instilled giving in us – the idea that you have to give back. It is not an assignment, it is an expectation. It’s like learning to ride a bike. It’s just expected. So it’s in my DNA.

**What’s your first memory of giving?**
Toys for Tots.

**And today?**
We started the Burgess Family Fund at The Denver Foundation in 2013. My daughter and niece are also advisors.

**What are your funding priorities?**
My hot button is STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. We are new, and we are working with The Denver Foundation staff to write our funding guidelines. We want to see students exposed to STEM in afterschool programs, or at the high-school or college level. Young people of color, in particular, aren’t exposed to all the opportunities in the STEM world, so we’d like to change that.

**Anything else?**
Health and wellness. Preventive health care should be part of everything from an early age. My target is to catch kids early and get them introduced to health and wellness so they have a baseline going.

**In terms of giving, who do you admire?**
I look at the smaller players. Our fund is small, so I’m excited when I see how gifts of $500 or $1,000 can make a big impact on people’s lives.

**Why do you give?**
I’ve been blessed a lot in my life. I can’t even wrap my head around receiving so much and not giving anything back. That’s why we’re put on earth. It’s what makes me Denise Burgess.
WILL LABAHN
Philanthropist, Volunteer, Leader

Philanthropy has been a mainstay in Will LaBahn’s family for generations beginning with great-grandparents he never knew. Originally from Milwaukee, Will came west to study business at Colorado State University. He then got an MBA at the University of Colorado/Boulder, where he lived for 24 years before moving to Denver six years ago. His life is the picture of balance. He works at his own private equity investment firm about half time and devotes the same amount to philanthropic work. He serves on boards and committees, raises money, and does hands-on volunteer work.

Do you have a focus for your giving? Yes. Two main areas – youth development and the arts.

Why youth?
It’s a huge passion of mine to help the younger generation to develop as responsible adults and future leaders. My main interest is offering camping experiences that provide youth development, leadership training, and outdoor adventure for deserving youth.

How do you go about it?
I am involved with the John Austin Cheley Foundation, which provides camping experiences for youth who might not be able to afford the cost. I went to Cheley camps as a youth and so did my family. They started 94 years ago. Later I was a counselor. A few years after the Cheley Foundation was founded with a mission to make camping accessible to deserving and disadvantaged children, I was invited to serve on the board. In this 25th-anniversary year, I am helping with their first-ever fundraising event.

What about your own camping experience?
It was very important in my own critical years as a youth. I made lifelong friends and it shaped my character. It also made me want other kids to have the same kinds of experiences so they can become good, responsible citizens. Today, I’m an outdoorsman by nature.

What about your involvement with the arts?
I enjoy art. It’s important to have art available for the public to enjoy. I have good relations with the museums in town, and I work with them to support their kids’ programs.

For example ...?
There is a teen program at the Museum of Contemporary Arts that I help with. It’s a group of artistically talented teens who apply to be in the program. They get space in the museum, and they work together to create painting and sculpture. They also promote the museum and the arts to metro-area schools.

What is your first memory of giving?
Going with my mother to buy groceries for people in Milwaukee’s inner city. I delivered bags of groceries to people in the housing projects.

And 10 years from now ...?
I like to feel personally connected to what I support, and to see the impact. I have this dream of starting a nonprofit foundation that will provide outdoor experiences for children – one that I can be involved in running myself and put trusted, talented people in place to carry it on. Then I could step out of operations and oversee the board.

Why do you give?
It was ingrained in me very early that, when you are fortunate, you give back and help others who are less so. It’s in my blood, and it gives me tremendous satisfaction.

Top 15 Reasons People Give

1. Someone I know asked me to give, and I wanted to help them
2. I felt emotionally moved by someone’s story
3. I want to feel I’m not powerless in the face of need and can help (this is especially true during disasters)
4. I want to feel I’m changing someone’s life
5. I feel a sense of closeness to a community or group
6. I need a tax deduction
7. I want to memorialize someone (who is struggling or died of a disease, for example)
8. I was raised to give to charity—it’s tradition in my family
9. I want to be “hip,” and supporting this charity (i.e., wearing a yellow wrist band) is in style
10. It makes me feel connected to other people and builds my social network
11. I want to have a good image for myself/my company
12. I want to leave a legacy that perpetuates me, my ideals or my cause
13. I feel fortunate (or guilty) and want to give something back to others
14. I give for religious reasons—God wants me to share my affluence
15. I want to be seen as a leader/role model

Excerpted from www.fundraising123.org, October 6, 2012

If you have suggestions for subjects for Why I Give, please email us at givelistens@denverfoundation.org.
Integrate Retirement Planning With Charitable Giving

By Stephanie L. Herdahl
Next Generation Wealth Systems™

Beyond Taxes

For many Americans, giving money to charity – during their lifetime or in their will – is an important financial goal. But common sense says you shouldn’t do so at the expense of other goals – for instance, educating your children or funding your own retirement. By thinking ahead, it’s possible to include charitable giving in the comprehensive financial planning process.

When you integrate charitable giving with your other goals, the most important question to ask yourself is: “Do I have a heart for charity?” Don’t make donations just to get a tax deduction. People tend to be bitter about money they gave away if they don’t have enough assets in 10 or 15 years when they retire. The bottom line is that charitable contributions may reduce your tax liability, but make sure those dollars are truly discretionary before giving them away.

Charitable contributions can take many forms. Most people are familiar with giving cash or checks. But it’s also possible to donate stock or other securities. The advantage is that you may not have to pay capital gains taxes on any appreciation in the value of the publicly traded securities – and you may receive an income tax deduction for the current market value. Note that your choice in charitable beneficiaries may affect your allowable charitable deduction.

An increasingly popular strategy for charitable giving is the donor-advised fund, an easy-to-establish, low-cost, tax-efficient, and flexible way for you and your family to support charities and create a charitable legacy. Other, more complex, sophisticated strategies are also available, such as family foundations. Although the assistance of an attorney is needed, you and your family members can use the foundation to make gifts to your favorite charities. Other commonly used charitable vehicles include:

• A charitable remainder trust. You retain an income interest for a period of time. Then the assets go to the named charity. The donor gets the income plus an available income tax deduction based on the present value of the interest going to charity.

• A charitable lead trust. This vehicle operates in reverse, with payments first going to charity. After a period of years the assets go to a non-charitable beneficiary you select. This strategy works best for individuals who don’t need the income the assets will generate in retirement but want to control who gets the property.

Giving During Retirement

Before starting the charitable giving process, determine what your passions are and who you want to help the most. Charity does truly begin at home, and you should make sure you have enough assets to maintain your standard of living in retirement. Work with your financial advisor from the beginning to confirm that you have sufficient discretionary assets to continue making charitable contributions in retirement. Computer modeling can help gauge what any financial decision – including large gifts to charity – will mean 10 or 20 years in the future, and can determine if gifts may be possible in the future after you’ve met your other financial goals.

Charitable Bequests

There are generally three places your money can go when you die – to family members, to charity, or to estate taxes. An estate plan can help you control who gets your money at the lowest possible tax cost. In their wills, people often list charities and the dollar amount each will receive. But make sure your estate can afford the bequests. If you make specific bequests and
If the estate shrinks to $1 million, 5 percent is only $50,000, but more is left for family members.

**Future Legacy**

Often, people’s charitable interests expand as retirement nears. They have a greater sense of their mortality and wonder about their legacy. Giving to charity can help add meaning to their life. With proper estate planning, you and your spouse can not only have a comfortable retirement but also leave a charitable legacy that will continue even when you’re gone.

**TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE GIVING:**

**Your Family, Your Philanthropy**

By Sarah Harrison, Deputy Vice President of Philanthropic Services, The Denver Foundation

The sign in the SAME Café on Colfax reads: “It’s easy to make a buck. It’s a lot tougher to make a difference.” SAME (So All May Eat) is Denver’s first nonprofit restaurant. Its goal is to build a healthy community by providing food in a respectful and dignified manner to anyone who walks through the door. Patrons pay what they can, donate money, and volunteer time. It’s a great mission, and the food’s great too.

When starting and growing a culture of philanthropy in our families, we may experience this exact dilemma: we have money to give, but how do we know we’re making a difference? Here are some ideas to help create and expand generosity in our families.

**Discuss shared values**

Identifying your family’s core values and focusing on those you share can be helpful in focusing your philanthropy. What words resonate with you? Compassion? Equity? Humility? Leadership? Justice? Creativity? Identifying your values together, and discussing them as a group is a first step to understanding what you want to do together to make the community a better place.

**Define shared goals**

Once you know what values motivate you and your family, a next step is envisioning a future that promotes and supports those values. Together, describe the community where your values are thriving. Try framing it in words and in pictures. You are creating the blueprint for a stronger, healthier, better community.

**Determine common interests**

With your values and vision in place, you can begin to discuss issues to support. Ask yourselves two questions:

What do we want to maintain? You may be proud of your community’s cultural offerings, or its commitment to the environment, or ongoing, important social discourse.

What do we want to change? This might include access to basic human needs for everyone, or increased graduation rates in public schools.

Framing your family’s giving patterns provides focus, identifies common goals across the generations, and leads to the selection of grantee partners. It emphasizes that family philanthropy is more than giving money; it is investing in change and building a better today and tomorrow. For more family philanthropy resources, visit www.denverfoundation.org.
Mental Health in Mexico

By Morgan Smith

The berserk woman rips free from the patients who were trimming her fingernails, charges across the patio, and huddles alone in the shade. Her name is Marta. We’re in a mental asylum called Visión en Acción in the desert west of Juárez, Mexico. It’s 103 degrees and no one knows what she will do next.

At Visión en Acción, José Antonio Galván, a former addict with little government support and no formal mental health training, has been providing safety, care, and dignity for roughly 100 mental patients for the last 17 years. New York Times columnist David Brooks wrote that “people in the mental health field” are “heroes of uncertainty, using improvisation, knowledge, and artistry to improve people’s lives.” Galván is one of those heroes.

Now Marta huddles in the shade, her hands covering her face. All you can see are the carefully trimmed fingernails. She was essentially dumped at the asylum an hour earlier by eight heavily armed police officers. Now Galván tells us to let her calm down. Finally two tiny sisters named Leticia and Elia, both patients, go to her. Elia rests her head on Marta’s shoulder. Soon Marta lowers the hand that was covering her face. She is smiling. The moment of tension has passed.

“It’s like a family here,” Galván says.

This is one key to Galván’s success – patients caring for other patients with respect and affection. Despite her inability to speak coherently, Elia, for example, has an innate ability to calm the anxieties of others.

In a new trend, California and Louisiana prisons are using inmates to help other inmates who have Alzheimer’s. Galván has taken this much farther – his patients largely run the asylum. They gather firewood to boil water, help prepare and serve meals, wash clothing and blankets, and clean the living areas. On Fridays, the more functional patients shave and bathe the others and trim their finger and toenails. When a patient named Victoriano tried to gouge his eye out, they wrapped him in blankets like a mummy and restrained him until he was calm again.

This is a financial necessity but, more importantly, work brings a sense of purpose, usefulness, and dignity. One task is caring for a growing population of pigs and chickens, part of Galván’s goal of becoming increasingly self-sufficient. A patient named Benito Torres is in charge. Previously he had yearly bipolar attacks, became aggressive, and had to be locked up. However, this new responsibility seems to have completely relieved those symptoms.

When a patient named Becky announced that she and a patient named Juan Carlos wanted to get married, Galván found someone to donate a wedding dress. “We’re all equal,” he said. It’s critical that his patients have a chance to do the things that normal people do.

Each time I arrive, patients immediately ask to be photographed. On subsequent visits, they request prints from the prior visit. For these patients, there’s something very affirming about a photograph of yourself or with friends.

At first, Becky would hound me for cigarettes and I said no until Galván advised me that she had beaten another woman to death over one cigarette. So, placing practicality over principle, I began bringing cigarettes and quickly saw the great sense of pleasure and calm that this monthly smoke provided.

For most of us, a cigarette, the candy bars I bring, or a Walgreen’s 4X6 print seems trivial. Here they’re a gesture of caring and a moment of pleasure – something to break the sense of isolation so common in outbreaks of mental health–related violence here in the US.

To quote Brooks again, Galván is “using improvisation, knowledge and artistry” to save these lives. There’s much that we can learn from him.

Morgan Smith was a member of the Colorado House of Representatives, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Director of the Colorado International Trade Office. He now lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and travels to the Mexican border at least once a month to document and work with humanitarian programs there. He can be reached at Morgan-smith@comcast.net.
Arapahoe High School Community Fund Honoring Claire Davis

By Kelly Purdy, Philanthropic Services Officer, The Denver Foundation

Colorado has seen more than its fair share of tragedy, but one thing has remained constant in the face of so much sadness: the strength and commitment of our community to come together in support, in solidarity, and in healing.

When 17-year-old Claire Davis was shot at Arapahoe High School on December 13, 2013, the “Warrior Strong” spirit erupted in an outpouring of generosity within the Centennial community and across Colorado. With the images of students holding vigils; businesses raising funds; and Michael Davis standing on stage and showing the world what forgiveness and human kindness looks like in its finest, purest form, this tragedy has proven that Coloradans support one another, love one another, and care for one another.

One more small way in which we do that is through philanthropy. The Denver Foundation is honored and humbled that the Davis family chose to work with us to steward their daughter’s legacy, and we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of the community in supporting this effort. The Arapahoe High School Community Fund Honoring Claire Davis was established as an advised fund with the intended purpose of supporting charitable activities aimed at bringing an end to school violence.

Hundreds of generous individuals, families, and businesses have contributed to the fund and we are committed to working with the Davises to ensure that those dollars are used with care and thoughtfulness to make the greatest difference possible, and pay tribute to Claire’s memory.

The Davises intend to use this fund to help bring an end to school violence. Right now, we are working together to research the best programs on the local and national landscape that are addressing this issue. This includes programs to improve student mental health, end bullying, and provide behavioral support to students and school communities. We are researching where the most success is happening, where the gaps in services are, what can be improved or expanded, and where the opportunities for change are greatest. We know that Claire’s legacy can be one of change, and we are honored to be working alongside the Davises to bring that about.

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado Receives $7.5 Million Investment

By Megan Stribling & Kim Hughes, the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado

The Alliance for Sustainable Colorado recently received a $7.5 million Program Related Investment (PRI) made through a donor-advised fund of The Denver Foundation. The Alliance is using the loan, with a highly favorable interest rate, to invest in LEED platinum renovation of the Alliance Center, a 100-year old, multi-tenant nonprofit building in Lower Downtown Denver. The Alliance will also be able to pay off its municipal bond issued by the City of Federal Heights and held by Wells Fargo Bank, and invest in critical deferred maintenance and repairs.

This PRI is the first of its kind for The Denver Foundation and breaks new ground for future projects. Generally, a PRI is a loan with better terms than those that can be obtained commercially. PRIs also afford funders and recipients the opportunity to leverage financial and social impact benefits. In this case, the Alliance is receiving an interest rate of one percent per annum for a 15-year loan over 25-year amortization, saving over $4 million in interest compared to a commercial loan of 5.5 percent (two percent over the prime rate). As the loan is repaid, the funder may re-grant the funds, thus increasing its long-term impact.

“We are grateful to Dr. Stephanie Gripne, head of the Impact Finance Center at the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver, who both conceptualized and provided the expertise to make this transaction possible. We also thank Wells Fargo Bank and the City of Federal Heights, which allowed us to refinance the Alliance Center in 2011. Without their invaluable assistance, we would not be where we are today enabling...
Yoga Builds More Than Flexibility and Muscle

By Rebecca Arno

... it can also build community. It’s not surprising that Denver would be home to a one-of-a-kind yoga-based nonprofit with the descriptive name Im’Unique. The organization was founded by trainer and community leader Tyrone Beverly.

“When people experience yoga together in a welcoming environment, it can change the way they treat each other,” he explains. The goal of offering yoga in welcoming locations has drawn Beverly into partnerships with local cultural institutions.

“People might not come to a fancy gym or yoga studio, but they’re used to bringing their kids to the Denver Zoo or the Museum of Nature and Science,” he says. Im’Unique offers free yoga at cultural institutions nearly every week through its Illustrating Union Yoga Tour, rotating between the zoo, the museum, and Wings Over The Rockies. Im’Unique has also offered classes at the Wildlife Experience and Denver Botanic Gardens. While most classes are open to anyone, some focus on specific groups, such as seniors or expectant mothers.

“When individuals are in open, complete health, they make connections with each other and can address more complex community issues,” says Beverly. “I see us as a problem-solving organization more than simply a yoga organization. We’re looking at things like racism and poverty through the lens of health.”

Beverly became interested in yoga by accident, while at a video store years ago looking for a Bruce Lee martial arts training video. “I found a yoga video instead,” he remembers. “Even though I was pretty athletic, I couldn’t get through the 90 minutes.” He became a student of the practice and quickly moved into the role of teacher. Today, people from all races, economic levels, and neighborhoods throughout Metro Denver come to take classes with him.

This summer, Im’Unique will host its second annual Mile High Yoga Experience at Sports Authority Field. The assembled crowd participates in a huge on-the-field yoga class and then takes part in a community health fair. For more information, visit ImUnique.org.

John Powers (Founder and Board Chair of the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado), Mayor Michael B. Hancock, and Jeff Ackermann (Director of the Colorado Energy Office)

the synergies of co-location for over 30 nonprofit tenant organizations and others who utilize the building,” states John Powers, Founder and Board Chair for the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado. “We are profoundly grateful to the benefactors of the Alliance and delighted to be a part of this creative and groundbreaking funding option that can be utilized by donors. We look forward to demonstrating the value of this financing method for its expanded use in the future.”

“This PRI is an example of The Denver Foundation’s commitment to helping fundholders achieve their philanthropic goals,” says Barbara Berv, VP of Philanthropic Services at The Denver Foundation. Barbara adds, “Maximizing impact in our community, whether through impact investments like this or through traditional grantmaking, means The Denver Foundation is achieving its mission.”

As a result of this PRI, the Alliance may complete the renovation of the Alliance Center, creating the 21st-century workspace and sustainability hub for Colorado. In addition, the case study of this PRI will contribute to the National PRI | MRI Research Project, the first of its kind being conducted by the University of Denver’s Impact Finance Center. For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Stephanie Gripne at Stephanie.Gripne@du.edu or (303) 900-2060.
Social Venture Partners Help Grow Remarkable Futures

By Pat Landrum

Why would a successful nonprofit turn for help after 20 years of steady growth? Because they knew they could be better. Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) is a mature, well-recognized asset in the Denver Metro community. They have a solid staff, and strong relationships with the city, housing authority, key community foundations, and dozens of other community agencies. By all measures, they appear to be doing everything right. But, by their standards, that wasn’t good enough.

DUG’s Executive Director, Board, and Staff recognized a pivotal opportunity when they decided to apply to Social Venture Partners (SVP), a powerful nonprofit that deploys an organized network of local business people who transform nonprofits. SVP unleashes the financial resources, passion, and skills of business people to help tackle the strategic business needs of nonprofits.

DUG saw that after over 20 years of successful growth from four to more than 130 neighborhood gardens, their organization needed to review and update their business model to take it to the next level of growth and sustainability serving Denver’s community. They knew they needed high level, high-impact strategic help.

SVP met DUG’s request with a strong team of eight SVP Partners under the leadership of Eric Watson, Division Preceptor for DaVita and Lauren Benjamin, Business Development and Product Marketing Manager for Intralox. SVP is guiding the DUG team through a process to identify and implement their best path for growth, impact, and sustainability. This process takes three months to develop and up to one year to execute.

There is a similarity between DUG and SVP. DUG can be involved every step of the way with community gardens ranging from leadership development, funding, design and construction, education, and long-term garden support. SVP works with DUG, and other nonprofits every step of the way providing a combination of high-impact giving and strategic support. In addition to SVP Partners working with nonprofits to make strategic changes, SVP also delivers the means for a company to engage employees on a philanthropic level, helping a company staff apply their individual skills on a meaningful level, and bring new learning back into the business to strengthen the company team.

“Youth at work with DUG

“Critical to our mission is the belief that we need to come alongside neighborhoods, in a support role, as they work to create their own urban community gardens. We seek to enable, unite, and empower participants to reach out and build their community.” Michael Buchenau, Executive Director for Denver Urban Gardens.

“DaVita wants to be a strong part of our community and we recognize that one important way to do this is to empower our team to give of themselves. Social Venture Partners provides the avenue to do just that. Our team members are provided with a challenge to give back to the community they live in. And in giving, DaVita team members learn new skills and develop new relationships that support them personally and in turn support the company.” David Richardson, Division Vice President for DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc.
The Colorado Trust (The Trust) has created the Health Equity Learning Series to increase knowledge and raise awareness of health equity in Colorado. Based on research gathered through an environmental scan across the state, The Trust identified differences in health care people receive in Colorado, based solely on their race, ethnicity, income, or where they live. Good health depends on more than medical care; it’s affected by where people live, their education level, the work they do, the wages they earn, and their opportunities to make decisions that affect their own and their family’s health. While everyone has personal responsibility for their own health, many individuals and families have limited opportunities to be healthy. By building awareness of health equity in the larger community, more Coloradans will have fair opportunities to achieve good health.

In 2013, the speaker series consisted of five events featuring national health equity experts, including Paula Braveman, MD, from the University of California, San Francisco; Anthony Iton, MD, from The California Endowment; Brian Smedley, PhD, from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; Adewale Troutman, MD, from the University of South Florida; Winston Wong, MD, from Kaiser Permanente; and more. The Colorado Trust will host four events in 2014 presenting several respected speakers, including Angela Glover Blackwell from PolicyLink; Manuel Pastor, PhD, from the University of Southern California; Llewellyn Smith from BlueSpark Collaborative; and others. To view past presentations and learn more about upcoming events, visit www.coloradotrust.org/program-areas/health-equity/health-equity-learning-series.
GIVING IN ACTION

Photos, clockwise from upper left:
Carla Mestas (left) and representatives from Tri-Institutional Collaboration of Auraria Campus-Wide Organizations with Dr. Cornel West (right of Center); DAAP members Eddie Koen, Benzel Jimmerson, and Tyrone Beverly during holiday giving project; David Miller with Philanthropic Leadership Awardees Wanda Coburn and Carl Stevens; Cheryl Preheim accepts Colorado Nonprofit Association Media Award on behalf of 9News (presented by Rebecca Arno); Lauren Casteel, Katie MacWilliams, Bruce DeBaskey, Barbara Grogan, and David Miller at Denver Foundation donor celebration; Andy Seth, Jennifer Applehans, and Michael Soares at SVP Denver Art of Philanthropy Event; graduation of the Executive Directors of Color training.
As a team, we will do extraordinary things.

“DaVita wants to be a strong part of our community and we recognize the way to do this is to allow our staff to give of themselves. Social Venture Partners provides the avenue to do just that. Our employees are ignited with the challenge to be a part of a team to give back.” — Dave Richardson, Division Vice President, DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc.

Pictured above from left to right: Dana Bryson, DUG Board Member, John Hershey, DUG Board Chair, Lauren Benjamin, SVP Lead Partner, Abbie Noriega, DUG Communications and Development Staff, Eric Watson, SVP Lead Partner, Michael Buchenau, DUG Executive Director.

Whether you are a professional who wants to use your unique skills to solve a pressing social problem, or a business that wants to have a greater community impact with your giving, Social Venture Partners can ignite your team.

You can engage with SVP by becoming a Partner, by sponsoring an SVP initiative, or by referring individuals and businesses to get connected with Social Venture Partners.

To learn more visit www.svpdenver.org

SVP Denver is a fund of The Denver Foundation.
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