Our Mission

The Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County promotes philanthropy to build resources, develops partnerships, and provides leadership that will be of lasting benefit to our communities.

1997 - 2017
A milestone anniversary is a special moment in the life of an organization. Typically, it is a time to celebrate three things: the joys of today, the memories of the past, and the hopes for the future. As the Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County marks 20 years of service, we are humbled and energized to consider all of these.

Since January, the Community Foundation has been celebrating what we do by teaming with Weld County nonprofits to provide grants that support free community events. These nonprofits represent a range of service areas that are part of the fabric that makes our communities strong and vibrant. Their events have engaged people from many ages and backgrounds. Events included a free weekend at Greeley’s Colorado Model Railroad Museum, two nights of discussion on mental health at Windsor High School, a week of support for human trafficking awareness at UNC, an international food festival, a family-oriented classical music concert, community recreation center access in Fort Lupton, a weekly fresh food farmer’s market in Mead, and more.

As we look back on two decades of service, we notice some astonishing trends. Our foundation began in 1997 with $357,891 in charitable distributions and $243,791 in donations. At the end of 2016, this had grown to $1,544,348 and $1,114,169 respectively. Total grant and program support through all twenty years was $22.8 million.

Other numbers tell the same story of growth and community support. Between 1997 and the end of fiscal year 2016, the foundation has awarded 1,186 scholarships totaling $2,469,176 to Weld County and other students. Since its inception in 2000, the annual Profiles Luncheon has also grown from 53 people to more than 350 attendees. It convenes leaders from business, education, government, the arts, and nonprofit organizations as well as students, veterans, and other community members interested in giving.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude at the many ways our donors, board members, volunteers, and staff have worked together to meet community needs through the years. We are also excited about the role that the Community Foundation can play in the future. Weld County is growing and as more people are attracted to the area because of what it has to offer, we are here to support them.

We are excited to play our role in maximizing giving and philanthropy right here, enriching the lives of the individuals and organizations which call our communities home. Working here has been a joy, a privilege, and a journey. We look forward to continuing this journey through the next two decades . . . and beyond.
Making Your Wish – Anniversary Grant Program:
Giving Gifts Back to the Community

The Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County created the Making Your Wish: Anniversary Grant Program as a way to celebrate its 20th anniversary by giving back to the community. The Community Foundation awarded up to 20 grants throughout Weld County and throughout the calendar year 2017. The grants underwrite events/activities that invite community participation, involvement and inclusion.

Foundation President/CEO, Rand E. Morgan, explains the decision. “The intent was to have a year-long celebration and give gifts back to the community rather than asking for birthday gifts. We chose to give grants to organizations that would provide free events and offer something special to a variety of participants. We’ll end the year with a weekend at Centennial Village during the Christmas holiday. It’s been fun to see these grants go out in a number of events and celebrate our anniversary and our county in these unique ways.”

Past events included:
• Colorado Railroad Museum: Free Weekend.
• Free Our Girls: Human Trafficking Awareness Week.
• United Way of Weld County: Screenings of the film “American Winter” followed by a panel discussion on Homelessness.
• Windsor/Severance School District: Awareness Event: “Start the Conversation; Let’s Talk About Mental Health”.
• Greeley Historic Preservation Office: Presentation on Musical Preservation Perspectives.
• Weld County RSVP: Law enforcement community appreciation event.
• Colorado Humanities: Free educational event titled “From the Trenches to Technology: On the Brink of World War I”.
• Fort Lupton Recreation Center: Free Friday evenings in June, July, and August.
• Life Stories Child & Family Advocacy: Family carnival.
• Arc of Weld County: Sensory-friendly film event.
• City of Evans: Heritage Day community celebration.
• Mead Downtown Development District Farmers’ Market: Sunday markets throughout the summer.
• Envision: To hold an art show that showcases paintings, ceramics and other types of media created by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that participate in Envision’s Art Program

Upcoming Events include:
• Soccer Without Borders will hold a second community event, date to be determined.
• City of Greeley Museum will host a Holiday Homesteaders event to be held on December 3rd from 10 am to 4 pm at Centennial Village Museum in Greeley.
• Colorado Dance Collective will host the “Hot Chocolate Collective” at the Northridge Highschool Auditorium, date and time to be determined.

Rand E. Morgan and Lauren Weber from the Community Foundation and Chris Houzel of Arc of Weld County enjoy a sensory friendly film festival at the Kress Cinema.
As it celebrates its 20th anniversary, the Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County is grateful to look back on a history of philanthropy that is focused on bringing lasting benefit to citizens of Weld County.

The foundation’s efforts began with the joining of the Weld Community Foundation and the Greeley Area Foundation. Dick Bond, who was previously president of the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) and then president of the community college system in Fort Morgan, had retired but was looking for a community connection. He moved back to Greeley and connected with Reginald Whitson and Norman Noe who were trustees for the Littler Youth Trust at 1st National Bank. According to Bond, “They wanted to start a community foundation and they hired me to do that. We began the process and called it the Greeley Foundation. Almost simultaneously, another group was pulling the Weld Community Foundation together. It consisted mainly of funds left from the construction of the Greeley Civic Center.”

They quickly realized the benefit of joining forces. “It became my task to pull those two together into a single community foundation,” Bond says. That became official in 1997 with Bond as the first President/CEO. “Starting a foundation here was a new idea. And it was one of the best things I ever did.”

Within a couple of years, Bond realized that running a community foundation required more time than he expected. “I was way beyond my initial retirement and the foundation desperately needed someone full time in the lead position. So I pushed for them to hire someone.”

Julie Johnson Haffner was hired as President/CEO in April of 1999. “When I started, we needed to update the office systems and procedures. After that, we met with donors and prospects and went to the schools and talked to students who had scholarships. This was about building on our presence in the community. People had to continue to get to know who we were, what we did and how to use us.”

As things became more settled, new work began. “Scholarships were already a big part of the effort. We then looked at the need from a broader perspective,” Haffner says. Outreach became a stronger focus. “We talked to major donors and asked what they wanted to see happen and how we could help them realize that dream.” Collaboration with other organizations and agencies began to grow through the foundation’s efforts.

In 2004, Judy Knapp was hired as the foundation’s President/CEO. Knapp was previously at the University of Northern Colorado Foundation and liked the idea of a community foundation. “The beauty of this structure is that the money comes in from a variety of people and organizations and it goes out in a myriad of ways. Some donors are interested in the arts, others in education so you have choices. At the UNC Foundation, the money stayed at UNC. Here we had the ability to have a larger impact in the larger community.”

“There were issues with homeless and with affordable housing. Education was always underfunded. We were able to address a number of issues in a variety of areas,” Knapp says.

“One thing I think people don’t
understand about community foundations is that they can provide help to non-profits that are in their infancy. Those groups may not have the money or staff so, coming under the foundation, funds can be accepted and are tax deductible.” She points to the founding of the Poudre Learning Center, as an example. “It began as a Rotary Club project,” she says. “Hall-Irwin Corporation donated the land, architectural services were donated and it was a real community effort. The foundation was able to accept those gifts, providing the tax deductions and support activities that helped build the Poudre Learning Center.”

Always rising to the occasion, the foundation faced challenges such as the 2008 tornado in Windsor and the 2013 catastrophic floods. “The wonderful aspect of the foundation is that it can pitch in wherever there is a need. This was a job at first but, over time, it became my calling. Here was an opportunity to be a catalyst and make changes in Weld County. I didn’t do that by myself, though. We had great staff, a wonderful board, amazing volunteers and the caring non-profit community.”

With Knapp’s retirement in 2015, Rand E. Morgan, became President/CEO. “I’m still learning all kinds of things about community foundations and their impact. It is tremendously rewarding and inspiring.”

Morgan says he’s met. “We work with donors who have hearts as big as Weld County and each one comes with a unique story. Everyone’s life experiences are different and that dictates what they want their money to do. It may be for youth programs or a particular organization. Others start scholarship funds or funds in memory of loved ones. Some of our donors give us open ended funds which can be spent in many ways.”

That flexibility is important, Morgan says. “Those discretionary funds are invaluable. We may not be aware of the certain areas in the future of the county so those funds can be used for social issues and needs we don’t even see now.”

Donations can have lasting impact, he says. “One example is one of the first funds, the Littler Youth Fund. It was started in the 70s, established by money donated by Hubert and Mary Littler. Although they didn’t have children, they really enjoyed supporting youth causes and activities. It started with $150,000 and has grown to over $3 million and continues to support worthy organizations and impact lives. Long after we’re gone, the Littler Fund will still be giving to the county.”

And that’s the bottom line for all of the foundation’s efforts. “It’s all about improving and impacting quality of life in the community around us,” Morgan says.
Through its first two decades of service, the Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County distributed $22,823,837 in grants, scholarships, and program support. Below is a timeline of milestones reached on the road to facilitating Weld County giving.

**July 1997**
The Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County (CFSGWC) was established by merging the Weld Community Foundation and the Greeley Area Foundation. The merged foundation had approximately 25 funds and Dick Bond served as the first President/CEO. Total assets of the new organization were $7,583,801 and the total amount in distributions (grants, scholarships and program support) was $357,891.

**1999**
Julie Johnson Haffner began her tenure as the second President/CEO of the foundation.

**October 2000**
CFSGWC held the first Profiles Luncheon to highlight philanthropy in Weld County. 53 supporters were in attendance.

**April 2001**
The Windsor Community Foundation, an affiliate fund, was established.

**July 2001**
The Fort Lupton Community Foundation, an affiliate fund, was established.

**2004**
Judy Knapp began her tenure as the third President/CEO of the foundation.

**2006**
The Community Foundation’s Centennial Society was established with 21 founding members.
2007
CFSGWC celebrated its 10 year anniversary. At that time it had $12 million in assets, managed 100 funds, and distributed grants, scholarships and program support totaling more than $10.4 million since 1997.

2008
The Community Foundation and its Windsor affiliate collaborated to provide support for those affected by the mile-wide tornado that occurred in Windsor and surrounding communities that spring.

January 2010
Inaugurated the CommUnity series of trainings for nonprofit organizations.

August 2013
CFSGWC moved offices from Downtown Greeley to the FMS Bank Building on 35th Ave.

September 2013
Collaborated with United Way of Weld County to provide support for victims of the 100 year flood.

March 2015
Rand E. Morgan began his tenure as the fourth President/CEO of the foundation.

2017
CFSGWC celebrated 20 years of service in Weld County. As of December 31, 2016 (the date of the organization’s most recent audited annual report) the foundation maintained $18,350,607 in assets, provided $1,544,348 in grants, scholarships, and program support, and managed more than 135 funds. It also retains 61 members of the Centennial Society and hosted more than 350 people at the annual Profiles Luncheon.