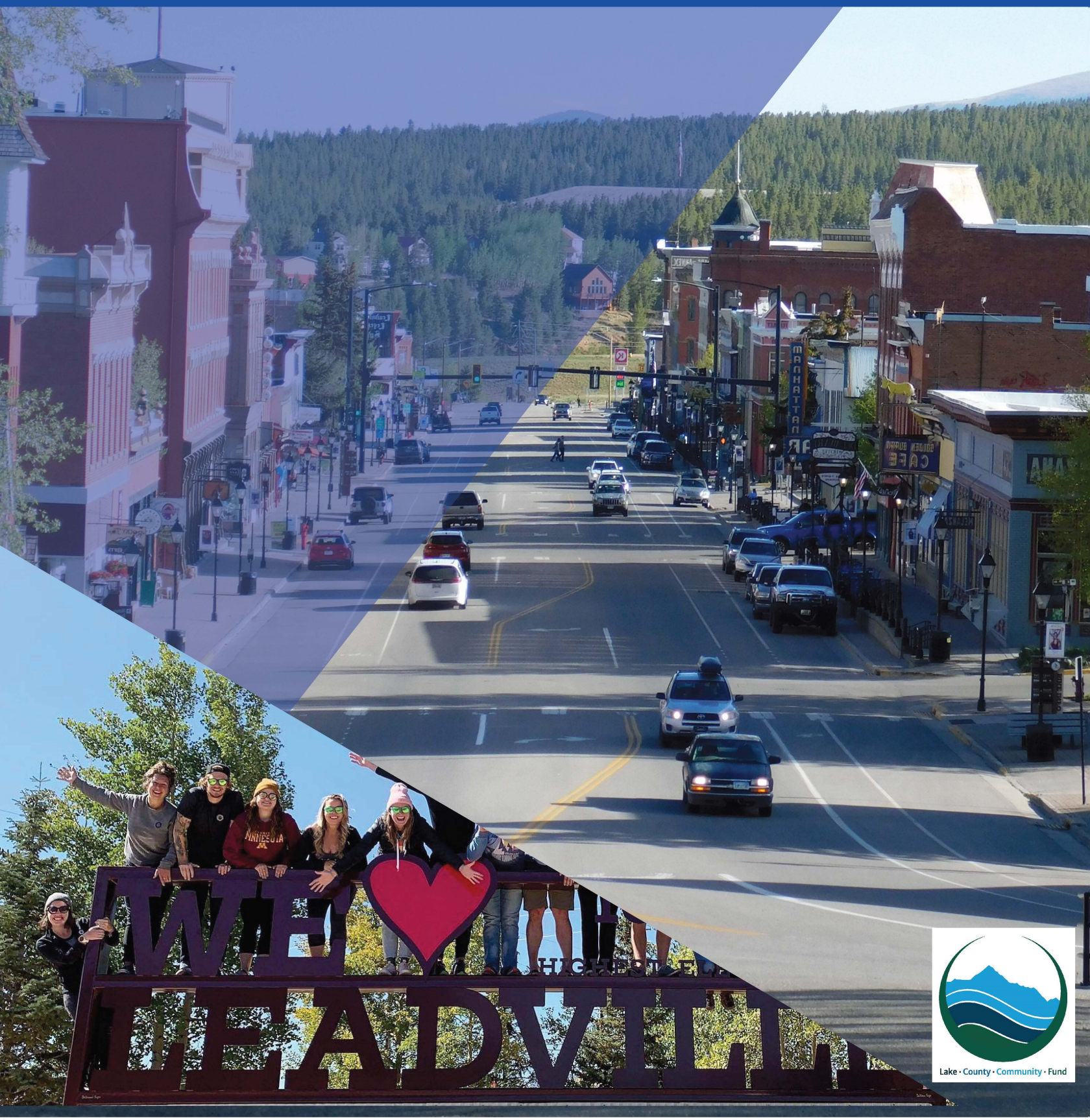
Lake County Community Fund

2024 - 2025 Impact Report

Collaborative Efforts, Philanthropic Support, High-Priority Needs



Lake · County · Community · Fund


STOP

Dear Friends, Partners, and Community Supporters,

On behalf of the Lake County Community Fund, we wish to express our appreciation for the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, Lake County Board of Commissioners, the City of Leadville, and nonprofits who have supported the Lake County Community Fund (LCCF) the past eighteen months. In this Impact Report, we will highlight some of our major accomplishments.

An important achievement was the development of a strategic plan that will guide our work from 2025 to 2028. Our purpose is to meet the needs of our resilient residents by creating a self-sustaining, local funding source for philanthropic giving and capacity building. We are dedicated to empowering local organizations with the support and resources they need to do their best work and make our community the best it can be.

As the fiscal sponsor for local organizations (PG.11), we are indebted to Kirstin Ayers and Samantha Brown of Ayers Accounting for providing the financial management and fundraising support to 31 local organizations including LCCF (PG. 29).

You will meet Grecia Castillo, a local resident and Board member, born in El Salvador, who shares her experiences growing up in a dangerous environment and eventually emigrating to Leadville at age 16 (PG. 13).

We are grateful for the support from POWDR, the parent company of the Copper Mountain Resort. Since 2019, the POWDR challenge grant has raised $1.3 million, thanks to 765 individual and foundation contributions. Since 2017, the Lake County Community Fund Board has awarded 167 grants totaling $523,350 to Lake County nonprofit organizations.

To access resources outside of Lake County, we contracted with Katie Santambrogio, Erin Gersbach, and Alison Millice of Social Impact Advisors in 2023 to initiate an aggressive grant writing and research program. The priorities for this effort included:

- Affordable housing and infrastructure
- Early childhood education
- Nonprofit capacity building
- Latino community leadership development

Between March 2023 and June 2025, 14 grants totaling $1.5 million have been awarded to Lake County. This includes a federal grant of $850,000 for an affordable housing project on behalf of the Leadville Lake County Regional Housing Authority.

With many parents having long commutes to work outside of Lake County, early childcare/education and after-school programs have been a high priority. The Lake County Early Care and Education Fund was established to fund child development and care. Thanks to a generous grants from the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, the City of Leadville, and donors, $217,000 has been raised to support early child education.

We look forward to your continued support and to updating you on exciting advances from the Lake County Community Fund.

With gratitude,

Lake County Community Fund Board and Staff

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President
Trustee,
Colorado Mountain College
Leadville, Colorado

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Leadville, Colorado

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President Emeritus

Kate Bartlett
Superintendent,
Lake County School District
Leadville, Colorado

Executive Director

John McMurtry

Mission

The Lake County Community Fund empowers local organizations and cultivates a compassionate community by advancing collaborative efforts, generating philanthropic support, and investing in programs that address high-priority needs.

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Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat* 10th Mountain Ski Down

The Lake County Community Fund wishes to express deep appreciation for contributions to the 2024-2025 Annual Report:

Jim Brown, PhD, editor of the Impact Report, wrote and contributed the article "Grecia Castillo: Unmatched Desire to Succeed." Jim is a writer, editor, and author. He and his wife, Arlene, are founders of HMS Publishing. From offices in their Atlanta home, they have provided health, medicine, and sports content to some of the country's leading medical and research institutions, including UCLA, Duke, Penn State, Georgia Tech, The Cleveland Clinic, Steadman Philippon Research Institute, and Belvoir Media Group.

We wish to express appreciation to Finn McNally, Community Reporter of Leadville's *Herald Democrat*, for donating many of the 'day in the life' of Lake County photos.

Justin Talbot has donated many of the photos in this Annual Report. Justin has lived in Leadville for 19 years and specializes in capturing the raw beauty of Leadville landscapes and adventure athletes in high-resolution photographs. His photos can be purchased at his shop and gallery "Galena" or on his website, www.40minutesfromleadville.com.

VISION

We envision Lake County as a vibrant community where diversity, history, and natural beauty are celebrated. It is a connected and supportive environment, enriched by abundant philanthropic resources that allow all residents to thrive.



Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, Herald Democrat

VALUES

Our Values reflect our deep commitment to fostering a thriving, inclusive, and supportive community.

Community First

We are deeply committed to Lake County and prioritize the unique needs and aspirations of its residents. By fostering a sense of belonging and possibility, we create a thriving community where everyone has the chance to succeed.

Equity and Justice

We are unwavering in our commitment to building a just and equitable society. We strive to dismantle systemic barriers, promote diversity, and ensure that everyone has access to opportunities and resources.

Collaboration and Partnership

We believe that collective action is essential to creating lasting change. By working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, we leverage our collective strengths to address community challenges and build a stronger Lake County.

Transparency and Accountability

We operate with the highest standards of integrity and transparency. We are committed to building trust with our donors and the community by being open and honest in our decision-making and being accountable for our actions.

Sustainability and Stewardship

We are dedicated to responsible stewardship of our resources. By investing wisely in programs and initiatives that align with our mission, we maximize our impact and create a sustainable future for Lake County.

OUR HISTORY

The Lake County Community Fund (LCCF) was created to provide an additional, steady source of funding for nonprofits in Leadville and Twin Lakes, Colorado.

Inspiration came when a group of individuals recognized that to accomplish their collective goals, these historic mining towns needed a more sustainable funding approach.

The LCCF Steering Committee was formed in August 2014 and began exploring options for building a community fund. As part of this process, the committee chose to form an affiliate fund with the Pikes Peak Community Foundation until its own application for 501(c)(3) nonprofit status could be approved. The initial board of directors was seated in February 2016, and the LCCF was formally established as an independent nonprofit in June 2017.

A fund by and for the community

Today, as board and committee members, we are hard at work setting up the processes that will help us establish a fund for Leadville and Lake County that can support great community efforts in good times and difficult times forever. Currently, our efforts are focused on creating policies to assist in expanding the LCCF and building the LCCF's endowment fund.

Above all else, we intend for LCCF to be a fund built by and for the community. We seek community input and continue our outreach efforts with local stakeholders to support the mission of the LCCF and refine our work based on the community's guidance.



OUR WORK

The Lake County Community Fund (LCCF) envisions a Lake County that has an abundance of sustainable philanthropic resources to support a thriving community.

To arrive at that vision, the LCCF provides a means to expand the capacity of local organizations, promote and facilitate giving opportunities, and inspire investment in Lake County.

Donors who want to give to a charity that supports the community can contribute to the fund and know their donation is going to a trusted source. Leadville and Twin Lakes nonprofits or organizations partnered with a Lake County agency can apply for grants through the fund to further their missions.

WHO WE SERVE

The Lake County Community Fund serves all 7,387 community members in Lake County by providing a new source of funds to support local programs, projects, and assets and to expand the capacity of Lake County organizations.

According to the Colorado Secretary of State, Lake County is home to 22 registered nonprofits in addition to dozens of agencies and projects affiliated with local government, schools, and churches.

The Community Fund's objective is not to compete with other community organizations, but instead to create a more efficient way for donors to make a gift, grant, or contribution to a variety of causes in Lake County.



Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 2016, YOUR GENEROSITY RAISED SPIRITS AND HOPE

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL RAISED
$4.9 MILLION

GRANTS AWARDED
67 GRANTS, $523,000

RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE
RAISED $378,000 FOR RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE FOR 721 HOUSEHOLDS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC



Congresswoman Brittany Pettersen presents a $850,000 check for an affordable housing project on behalf of the Leadville Lake County Regional Housing Authority. Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
SECURED CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTED SPENDING GRANT OF $850,000 ON BEHALF OF THE LEADVILLE-LAKE COUNTY REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

FOOD SECURITY
RAISED $116,069 FOR VOUCHER PROGRAM. DISTRIBUTED 2,392, $40 FOOD VOUCHERS

FISCAL SPONSORS—30 ORGANIZATIONS
TOTAL REVENUE $2.6 MILLION

REGIONAL CHAMPION COLORADO GIVES DAY
2020 - 2024, 27 LAKE COUNTY NONPROFITS RAISED $1.16 MILLION.

LAKE COUNTY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FUND
ESTABLISHED IN 2023, $217,000 RAISED TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN IN LAKE COUNTY.

Friends of the Community

Anschutz Family Foundation
Ayers Accounting, Inc.
Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Boettcher Foundation
Buena Vista Tool
Central Colorado Conservancy
Chaffee County Community Fund
City of Leadville
City of Aurora
Climax Molybdenum Company
Colorado Health Foundation
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Colorado Gives Foundation
Community Banks of Colorado
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Copper Mountain Resort
The Denver Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Friends of Twin Lakes
Freeport-McMoRan Foundation
Freight
Givebutter
Harper Rose Studios
Herald Democrat
Melanzana Mountain Gear, Inc.
Lake County Government
Lake County Tourism Panel
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
Leadville Arts Coalition
Leadville Veterinary Clinic, Inc.
Legacy Electrical Partners
Lifetime, Inc.
LPL Financial
National Recreation Foundation
POWDR
Pro Electrical
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
Safeway/Albertsons
Sangre de Cristo Electric Association
Saunders Company
Social Impact Advisors
Tenth Mountain Division Hut Association
Valley of the Sun United Way
Xcel Energy Foundation

FISCAL SPONSORED FUNDS

The Lake County Community Fund (LCCF) serves as the fiscal sponsor for 29 organizations offering a convenient method for donating to a variety of causes within Leadville and Twin Lakes. The LCCF provides tax-deductible receipts to donors and accounting services.

Andrew's Heavenly Horse Rescue is dedicated to transforming the lives of horses, donkeys, goats, dogs, cats, and other animals in need through rescue and rehabilitation.

Blue Elements cultivates watershed stewardship and connects communities to the value of their natural resources. Through education, expeditions, and volunteerism, Blue Elements works to uncover the deeper connections between humans and nature via the transformative power of the river.

Broken Arrows Rodeo Committee's mission is to bring a regularly scheduled rodeo to Lake County, thus providing our community with awareness of and opportunity to embrace our ranching history.

Cloud City Commissary exists to nourish Leadville's local food economy by providing affordable, accessible kitchen space and resources for emerging and established food entrepreneurs.

Cloud City Curling Club offers the sport of curling to the Lake County community. Curling is a fun, social sport that emphasizes sportsmanship and can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

Desert Mountain Medicine's mission is to provide innovative wilderness medical training with an emphasis on risk assessment and prevention.

Desiree Fernandez-Padilla Scholarship Fund was created in memory of Desiree Padilla. The scholarship fund supports Lake County residents seeking post-secondary education or training in health, human services, social services, or social work fields.

Get Outdoors Leadville! connects youth and families to the outdoors, to inspire dreams, foster stewardship, build leadership, and strengthen community.

Good Natured Learning empowers teachers to integrate routine, modest, bite-sized nature connections into the way they teach, unlocking nature's benefits for their learners, themselves, and the planet in school where they already are.



Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

Greater Good Community Acupuncture coordinates capacity building for the Cloud City AcuWellness project which provides acupunture treatment.

Heather's Fund was created to serve and protect youth in need of mental and behavioral support by providing a healing and secure therapeutic environment in a beautiful indoor/outdoor space.

Irish Network Colorado honors the memory of more than 1,300 Irish immigrants who came to Colorado in search of a better life, who died here trying to find it, and who deserve not to be forgotten.

Lake County Disaster Relief Fund responds immediately to crisis situations. The Fund distributions are determined by Lake County Office of Emergency Management and Lake County Public Health, with consultation from Lake County Human Services.

Lake County Early Care and Education Fund's mission is to support and promote licensed high-quality early care and education programs in Lake County.

Lake County Open Space Initiative preserves the intrinsic, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Upper Arkansas River Watershed.

Lake County Public Library builds community, fostering life-long learning, providing equal access to information, and promoting diversity of ideas.

FISCAL SPONSORED FUNDS

Lake County School District challenges students to reach their fullest potential through personal, engaged, and rigorous learning in the classroom and beyond.

Lake County Search and Rescue provides emergency search, rescue and recovery services for persons lost, missing, or otherwise impaired in the rugged back country surrounding Leadville, Colorado.

Lake County Sheriff's Office and Shiled616 mission is to start each day with a purpose to provide the residents and visitors of Lake County with the highest level of public safety services that gives everyone the opportunity to fully enjoy a peaceful life.

Lake County Volleyball Club provides girls the opportunity to be part of a challenging and rewarding sports program, building lifelong relationships with teammates, and learning how to work together to achieve common goals.

Leadville Dance Academy provides professional dance education and performance opportunities for all of Lake County in a safe, superior studio environment.



Photo Courtesy : Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

Leadville Lions Club serves our local community through various projects and events throughout the year, such as awarding grants and scholarships to school district teachers.

Leadville Mainstreet strengthens community connection through historic preservation, beautification, and the activation of public spaces to support a thriving downtown.

Lideres Latinx Leadville commits to the work of social justice in favor of the immigrants in Lake County by facilitating their integration into a new culture and providing information and resources.

Lideres Latinx Justice and Advocacy Fund is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the rights of marginalized communities, including immigrants and historically underserved populations in Lake County.

Mineral Belt Trail provides a recreational avenue for the public to enjoy the historical features prevalent in the Leadville mining district and nature's beauty along the way.

Project Dream serves the Lake County School District students K-12 and encompasses after-school, Friday, and Summer programs.

Sacred Space Films is producing the documentary, "Echoes of the West – A Legacy of Resilience,"which will explore the thread of tenacity common to the early settlers of the Upper Arkansas River Valley.

St. George Community Meals and Food Pantry For nearly 30 years, St. George has used food to build community, creating a trusted space where everyone is welcome to access the food they need.

Tree of Sharing is a volunteer and donation-based organization. Gifts are purchased with donated funds. These gifts are distributed to families in need during the holiday season. The project's success depends on the generosity of Lake County residents, services, and private organizations.

LAKE COUNTY LEADERS

Grecia Castillo: Unmatched Drive to Succeed

By Jim Brown, Ph.D.



"I fell in love with Leadville from the beginning," says Grecia Castillo. "It was beautiful, small, and the pace of living was slower. It was a place that made me happy to know I was safe."

Grecia's family had not been safe. In 2015 and 2016, El Salvador recorded more homicides than any other country in the world, according to Foreign Policy Magazine. Crime, shootings, kidnapping, drugs, and gangs were rampant.

"It was pretty scary," remembers Grecia. "As females, we were in danger all the time. If a gang member wanted to take you, there was nothing you could do about it. I just wanted to finish high school, get a college degree, and start a career. I had no hope of doing it there."

Grecia was 16 when she and a younger sister emigrated to the United States. They were transferred from Texas to New York City by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Two months later they were reunited with their father and another sister who were living in Leadville. At the time, he was working with a construction company.

"My dad lost his job and moved away, but I decided to stay in Leadville," Grecia adds. "I was 16. I had no job and no place to live permanently. I was about a "2" with my English skills and hadn't finished high school. I had to go to work to support myself and my sisters."

Unmatched Drive to Succeed

This is where Lake County and Leadville did

what they always have done—stepped up to help one of their own. Grecia got a job cleaning houses. "I did that kind of work pretty much all the time. It was hard, but I wanted to make my clients happy and we needed the money to survive."



Convivio, June 11, 2025

L-R. Kate Bartlett, Superintendent of Lake County Schools, Grecia Castillo, Luz Escalera, Food Supervisor, St. George Church, Paloma Gethzemani Hammond, D.A., Colorado Mountain College, Manager of Special Projects, and Cipriano Gurrola Navarro, Housing Coalition Facilitator, Lake County Build a Generation.

Grecia enrolled in Cloud City High School and began studying to complete her high school diploma. "I had a lot of support from the community and from the teachers at Cloud City. One of them, Mona Cloys, gave me the kind of attention and care I had never experienced."

"Grecia's story has been filled with challenges and uncertainty, yet she never fails to overcome it," says Mona. "Never have I been blessed with a student who showed so much potential. Not only did she complete her graduation requirements and dramatically improve her English, she also completed 11 credit hours at Colorado Mountain College.

Another Leadville resident, Lake County Community Fund (LCCF) Board of Directors member Gloria Perez, got to know Grecia. "She asked me what I needed. I told her I wanted my sisters to live with me, that I needed an apartment and a job, and that I wanted to go to college. Gloria supported me in so many ways. When I graduated from Cloud City, she took me to buy clothes for the ceremony, then treated my family members, a work colleague, and me to lunch."

First Generation College Graduate

Grecia earned two scholarships that enabled her to attend college at CMC—one from the Leadville Trail 100 Legacy Scholarship Program; the other from the Madelyn Videtich Memorial Scholarship Fund. Four years later, she graduated with an Associate

Degree in health science. She became a first generation college graduate on both sides of her family.

Grecia held a fulltime job while attending classes and assumed the role of mother/caretaker for her two younger sisters. At times, she had to take fewer courses because she needed the time to work and earn more money. She sent some of that money back to El Salvador to help pay medical expenses for her younger brother, who had been diagnosed with a brain tumor.



Líderes Latinx Leadville

After college, Grecia formed her own consulting and translating business called Synergo Consultancy. Then Monica Ramirez*, a financial aid specialist at CMC and LCCF Board of Directors member, told her about a new position with Líderes Latinx Leadville. It is a group of people from different nationalities who have committed to the work of social justice for immigrants n Lake County.

*Learn more about Monica Ramirez in the *2023-2024 Lake County Community Fund Annual Report.*

Advocacy, Leadership, Making a Difference

We actively speak up for our community, raise awareness of the challenges Latinx folks face in places like Leadville, and push for changes that make a real difference."

"Leadership is not just about reaching personal goals, but about helping others do the same. In addition to supporting individuals, we're also cultivating leaders who will, in turn, guide and uplift others. It's a cycle of growth, mentorship, and community transformation."

Grecia applied and—no surprise—became the organization's first paid staff member (lead consultant). "It was exactly the kind of position I wanted. It allows me to give back to the community that has helped me so much. We look out for the Latino community in Leadville," explains Grecia. "The position involves developing resources, providing

information, fundraising, helping people understand and reach their goals, and facilitating their integration into a new culture." That's not all Grecia does. She volunteers at Cloud City High School, with the One Community Project, and is on the organizing committee of the We Love Lake County Community Dinner.

Superpower?

We asked Grecia how she has managed to overcome so many obstacles, manage so many things at the same time, and achieve so many of her goals. Does she have a superpower?

"If I have a superpower, it is my ability to stay calm in stressful situations." At a very young age, she's overcome more than a lifetime of stressful circumstances. Mona Cloys described another of Grecia's superpowers. "Grecia's drive to succeed is unmatched."

Youngest Ever

In October 2024, Grecia Castillo became the youngest member ever to be appointed to the Lake County Community Fund Board of Directors. Board President Melissa Kendrick says, "Grecia's experience as an immigrant, her ties to our local schools, and her language skills bring a unique perspective as we work to provide for the sustainable future of our diverse community." Grecia serves on the finance and classroom support committees.

Grecia's Message

"I want to do this so that the community knows that the support they give is worth it. Lake County and Leadville helped me personally, economically, and educationally. It made a huge difference in my life."

"When you support one person, it helps more than one. In my case, I have been able to help at least 10 people who live in Lake County. It's important for me to participate in the LCCF's projects because they have an impact on the whole community."

[Jim and Arlene Brown are founders of HMS Publishing. From their Atlanta offices, they have provided health, medicine, and sports content for some of the world's leading medical and research institutions, including UCLA, Duke, Penn State, Georgia Tech, The Cleveland Clinic, Steadman Philippon Research Institute, Belvoir Media Group, and Harvard Health Publishing.]

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Investments in Lake County

Affordable Housing

In a collaborative effort the Lake County Regional Housing Authority worked to address the significant housing crisis that persists in the rural mountain community of Lake County.

Colorado's Congressional delegation approved an $850,000 funding package through the U.S.Department of Housing and Urban Development for an affordable housing project in Leadville. The funding will go toward the installation of below grade infrastructure and site prep for building affordable housing.



Lake County Government held a groundbreaking ceremony for the affordable Housing project on Wednesday, October 23, 2024..

Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, Herald Democrat.

Early Child Care and Education

The Lake County Early Care and Education Fund was created as a new fiscal fund to support licensed childcare providers and families, and improve the overall early childhood education in Lake County. During 2023 - 2025, Lake County Government, the City of Leadville, Xcel Energy and the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation contributed $217,000 to support the Early Care and Education



Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

"Bright Start has provided stable, joyful care for my daughter Hailey. Before having Hailey at Bright Start, I frequently had to consider quitting my job because the other childcare options in the county were inconsistent and frequently closed. I cannot stress how helpful it has been to have a dependable, safe, and good place to bring my daughter while I work. She has adjusted well to the consistent schedule and enjoys telling me about her days when I pick her up. It means so much to know that she is surrounded by peers and learning and maturing in a safe, good place."

Non profit Capacity Building

The Colorado Health Foundation, Freeport-McMoRan Foundation, and the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation have awarded $375,000 in funding to Lideres Latinx Leadville to support community advocacy efforts, leadership development, and capacity building.

Lideres Latinx is an organization with a mission to advance the well-being of immigrants and Spanish-speaking residents in Lake County with the help and support from The Lake County Community Fund as the fiscal sponsor.

With this funding, Lideres Latinx has organized the following initiatives:

- Mental Health Workshop for Women

For many, it was the first time they encountered mental health support that acknowledged both their gender and cultural identity, an essential step toward reducing stigma and promoting healing in our community.

- Posadas 2024 – A Celebration of Culture and Community

This event serves as an opportunity for community members to learn more about Latin American holiday traditions.

- Lake County Commissioners Candidates Forum

Organized during the 2024 Fall elections, this forum helped amplify Latinx voices and emphasized their role in shaping local leadership.



Lideres Latinx hosted the Lake County Commissioner Candidates Forum on October 10, 2024. This event allowed the community to engage directly with the candidates, hear their positions on important issues, and ask questions.

Desiree Padilla Memorial Scholarship



The Lake County Community Fund is honored to support the Desiree Fernandez-Padilla Memorial Scholarship Fund. Desiree was not only a valued member of the community, but she was also a beloved member of the Lake County Human Services team.

This scholarship was created via a Resolution passed by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners on December 6, 2024. An amount of $30,000 was dedicated to support this effort with the goal of empowering local students pursuing post-secondary education in health, human services, or social services.

Desiree Fernandez-Padilla was an integral part of Lake County's Department of Human Services and Public Health operations. Her tireless efforts, compassion, and commitment to the well-being of others left a profound impact on the community she served. This scholarship honors her memory and aims to inspire the next generation of professionals dedicated to making a difference in Lake County.

The scholarship fund will support local students pursuing careers in fields that reflect Desiree's dedication to improving the lives of others. This initiative underscores Lake County's commitment to investing in its future while remembering those who have paved the way for community-driven progress.

"I think it's important to continue to encourage people to help each other in this community," said Lake County Commissioner Sarah Mudge. *"I'm proud to be a part of this, and I hope we do help some folks in Lake County."*

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

From philanthropists and activists to government leaders and business people, the Lake County Community Fund collaborates with local organizations to facilitate giving opportunities to help solve our community's most critical needs.



Photo Courtesy: Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

Grants: In 2025, the Lake County Community Fund Board awarded 20 grants totaling $77,350 as part of the Community and Copper Mountain Resort grants program.



State of the Community: Eight organizations updated the community on positive aspects of Community Connectors, April 17, 2025



Photo Courtesy: Justin Talbot

Regional Champion: During Colorado Gives Day, 2020 - 2024, 5,899 donors contributed $1.16 million to Lake County nonprofit organizations.



Photo Courtesy: Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

We Love Lake County Community Dinner, Saturday, September 10: More than 475 community members participated in the sixth annual dinner at Ice Palace Park.

2017 – 2025, 167 GRANTS, $523,000 AWARDED TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

True to its mission, the Lake County Community Fund empowers local organizations and cultivates a compassionate community by advancing collaborative efforts, generating philanthropic support, and investing in programs that address high-priority needs.

The Lake County Community Fund supports a variety of projects in Leadville and Twin Lakes: arts, community and economic advancement, environment, education, health, youth development, and more.

The grant award process involves a thoughtful and thorough review of the many qualified applications. We undertake a careful assessment of community needs, research existing programs, and identify gaps in services in order to make grants that will provide the most effective support for the Lake County community. We want our grants to provide support for Leadville/Lake County nonprofits' greatest needs. We also hope the grants will highlight community buy-in for valuable local endeavors.

Grant Awards

In 2025, the Board awarded $52,094 to 16 Lake County nonprofit organizations as part of the Community Grants and $25,256 to four nonprofits under the Copper Mountain Resort grant program.

Lake County Community Grant

The Lake County Community Grant supports projects that fit within the following areas:

- Arts and Culture
- Community and Economic Development
- Education and Training
- Environmental Initiatives
- Health and Wellness

2025 GRANTS AWARDED

Copper Mountain Resort Grant

In 2019, thanks to a $200,000 gift from Copper Mountain Resort and POWDR, a grant-making program was initiated to fund projects that include the following criteria:

- Outdoor adventure education
- Development of lifetime sports skills
- Environmental causes

The objective of this grant is to inspire a healthy adventure lifestyle among Lake County youth, promote lifetime sports, and support environmental causes.



Lake County High School Ski Team. Photo Courtesy: Finn McNally, Herald Democrat

Lake County Community Awards

Advocates of Lake County: Awarded $3,000; funds will be used for the operations budget to keep the facilities up to date, clean, and comfortable for clients.

Bright Start Learning Center: Awarded $5,300; the award will be used to invest in current staff, supporting professional development, and providing continuing education opportunities. In addition, opening more childcare spots will provide support for young teachers who are interested in finding a career in this field and open job opportunities.

CASA of the Continental Divide (Court Appointed Special Advocate): Awarded $3,500; funds will be used to serve child victims of abuse and neglect in the Dependency and Neglect Program, as well as students who are experiencing barriers to their education in the Truancy Program.

2025 GRANTS AWARDED

Cloud City High School: Awarded $1,500; for the 2025-26 school year, Workforce Boot Camp will continue to be a vital part of the student experience at Cloud City High School, required for all students. Career Tours will be held once a month, providing students with direct exposure to industry professionals and real-world workplaces. Cloud City High School remains committed to preparing students for success in both higher education and the workforce.

Cloud City Mountain Sports: Awarded $3,800; funds will be used to purchase timing equipment to host alpine ski races at Ski Cooper. This will provide alpine ski and snowboard athletes the opportunity to compete at "home," which will offset the cost of race-entry and lift ticket fees for the high school and middle school teams.

Heather's Fund: Awarded $500; funding supports the creation of a world-class sanctuary to serve and protect youth needing mental and behavioral support by providing a healing and secure therapeutic environment in a beautiful indoor/outdoor space.

Lideres Latinx: Awarded $3,500; "Posada 2025," is a community-driven cultural celebration that honors the rich traditions of the holiday season while fostering inclusiveness and togetherness. Through music, traditional food, and interactive activities, Posada 2025 will bring families and individuals of all backgrounds together to experience the warmth and joy of this cherished festivity.



Posada 2025

Lake County Build a Generation: Awarded $3,000; the third annual Pride cerebration Lake County will include a parade, drag show, and wellness festival. The celebration is being planned by more than 13 organizations, businesses, and government agencies that make up the Pride Planning Committee.

Lake County Early Care and Education Fund: Awarded $6,000; grant funding will support licensed childcare providers in Lake County with tuition assistance for families. This funding will help bridge the critical need for tuition assistance for our neediest families.

Lake County Search and Rescue: Awarded $1,230; together with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, Lake County Search and Rescue will co-host a free Avalanche Aware (formerly "Know Before You Go") educational event open to the public. This presentation will inform residents of Lake County about traveling safely in avalanche terrain.

2025 GRANTS AWARDED

Lake County Volleyball Club:Awarded $1,880; funding will provide tuition assistance and a safe place for Lake County youth to participate in a team sport. Being a member of this club provides young athletes the opportunity to learn and improve their volleyball skills while learning how to work and communicate as a team.



Lake County Volleyball Club. Photo Courtesy Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

Cloud City Wheelers: Awarded $4,800; with reduced government funding in 2025, the Leadville Ranger District of the United States Forest Service will not hire a seasonal trail crew as they have in previous years to maintain our area's busy trail system. The Leadville Ranger District will rely on the Cloud City Wheelers to perform necessary maintenance on over 180 miles of system trails. The Cloud City Wheelers will maintain trails that attract over 100,000 visitors a year.

Planned Pethood Assistance: Awarded $3,000; Planned Pethood provides animal welfare assistance aimed at mitigating economic euthanasia through the prevention of unwanted pet overpopulation, promoting a healthy animal community, managing lost or stray animals, and supporting financially disadvantaged Lake County community members for pet care.

Smart Bellies: Awarded $5,000; Smart Bellies provides weekend food for 50 weeks out of the year to school students by providing them with their very own bag of nutritious food to eat over the weekend. Each bag contains two breakfast items, two entrees, two pieces of produce, and three snacks.

St. George Episcopal Mission: Awarded $4,584; the mobile food pantry visits Mountain View Village on a weekly basis to provide easy access to healthy, culturally relevant food for those who are unable to come to our onsite food pantry. The mobile food pantry is a critical component of St. George's response to the food insecurity crisis and rising cost of living in Leadville and Lake County.

St. Vincent General Hospital District: Awarded $1,500; St. Vincent Health has committed to a new ambulance for Lake County. A critical component of the project is the communications equipment that allows the crews to speak with 911, law enforcement, first responders, and the hospital emergency room. The grant award will go towards the purchase of radio equipment for the new ambulance.

2025 GRANTS AWARDED

Copper Mountain Resort Grant Awards

Cloud City Conservation Center: Awarded $6,000; the Nature-Based Learning programming provides all students with hands-on outdoor education that promotes academic success and environmental stewardship. Through field lessons, classroom extensions, afterschool programs, and career exploration, Cloud City Conservation Center removes barriers to access and delivers inclusive, lifelong connections to the outdoors.

Colorado Outward Bound School: Awarded $3,256; grant will fund the purchase of equipment improvements for the high ropes course, ensuring a safe, efficient, and transformative experience for Lake County School District students and Get Outdoors Leadville! youth.

Get Outdoors Leadville!: Awarded $9,000; funding supports 2025 Rockies Rock Summer Camp Program. Focused on Positive Youth Development through outdoor activities, the camp serves youth of all identities, backgrounds, and abilities, aged 5 to 18. Participants participate in unique opportunities to develop essential life skills, strengthen their self-identity, and deepen their connection to nature.

Project Dream: Awarded $7,000; funding supports the operations of after school outdoor clubs for kindergarten through sixth grade. Outdoor Clubs provide students with the opportunity to explore their interests, engage in physical activity, and grow in their social-emotional development.

"Rockies Rock has exceeded my expectations for my child. She continues to bring home the new knowledge she learns. For instance, she casually brought up stream health and how the presence of micro-invertebrates can help determine if the stream is healthy. She is 7 years old! "- Rockies Rock parent



Rockies Rock Summer Camp, an eight week enrichment camp for first through eighth graders. Young campers are developing a life-long love of nature and growing new skills.

COLORADO GIVES DAY

In 2020, the Lake County Community Fund was selected by the Community First Foundation to be Regional Champion. The goal is to increase charitable giving in Lake County and strengthen local nonprofits.

December 10
COLORADO GIVES DAY
ColoradoGivesDay.org

December 10th, 2024, 966 donors contributed $214,866 to Lake County nonprofits:

Advocates of Lake County
Cloud City Conservation Center
Cloud City Mountain Sports
Cloud City Wheelers
Friends of Twin Lakes, Inc.
Full Circle of Lake County, Inc.
Get Outdoors Leadville!
Good Natured Learning
High Mountain Institute History Colorado
Irish Network Colorado
Lake County Build a Generation
Lake County Community Fund
Lake County Open Space Initiative
Lake County Public Library
Leadville Community Health Foundation
Leadville Dance Collective
Leadville Trail 100 Legacy, Inc.
Lideres Latinx Leadville
Morning Star Child Center
National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum
PBSwims
Planned Pethood Leadville
Project Dream
St. George Episcopal Church
Tabor Opera House Preservation Foundation, Inc.
Tree of Sharing

Community Champion, 2020 - 2025
5,899 gifts, $1.16 million raised for Lake County nonprofit organizations.



St. George Community Meals and Mobile Food Pantry

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

On April 17th, 2025 at Freight, eight organizations updated the community on the positive aspects of Community Connectors, 2024 accomplishments, and 2025 goals.

The "State of the Community" event was sponsored by the City of Leadville, the Herald Democrat, and the Lake County Community Fund.

"We want to recognize and create awareness about the work of our Lake County agencies that bring our community together and their vision for 2025 and beyond. In challenging times, Lake County has a history of rallying together, connecting. Collectively, our community has taken care of one another and provided stability. As we have clearly demonstrated through deeds, we are stronger together." said Mayor Dana Greene.

The event provided local organizations with an opportunity to update community members on past and current projects, roadblocks, and successes, as well as future plans.

Eight organizations updated the community on the positive aspects of community connectors:

- St. George Episcopal Church, Community Food Access
- Lake County School District
- Wednesday Coffee
- Cloud City Concerned Citizens - Independent Voice
- One Community
- Lideres Latinx Leadville
- Lake County Government
- City of Leadville



WE ❤ LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY DINNER

FIESTA IN THE PARK

Following a beautiful Fall afternoon, the Community Dinner, sponsored by the *Herald Democrat* and the Lake County Community Fund, welcomed more than 480 participants. In addition to good company, delicious food, and games for kids, the evening featured live music by the Metropolitan State University of Denver student mariachi, *Los Correcaminos de MSU Denver*.



"The Community Dinner is a time to celebrate this special community and the personal relationships that make us strong," said Greg Labbe, who volunteered to coordinate the dinner with the host Lake County Community Fund.

IMPACT

The Face of Philanthropy
January 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

2024 - 2025 OVERVIEW

Total Assets
$1,290,612

Total Liabilities
$6,874

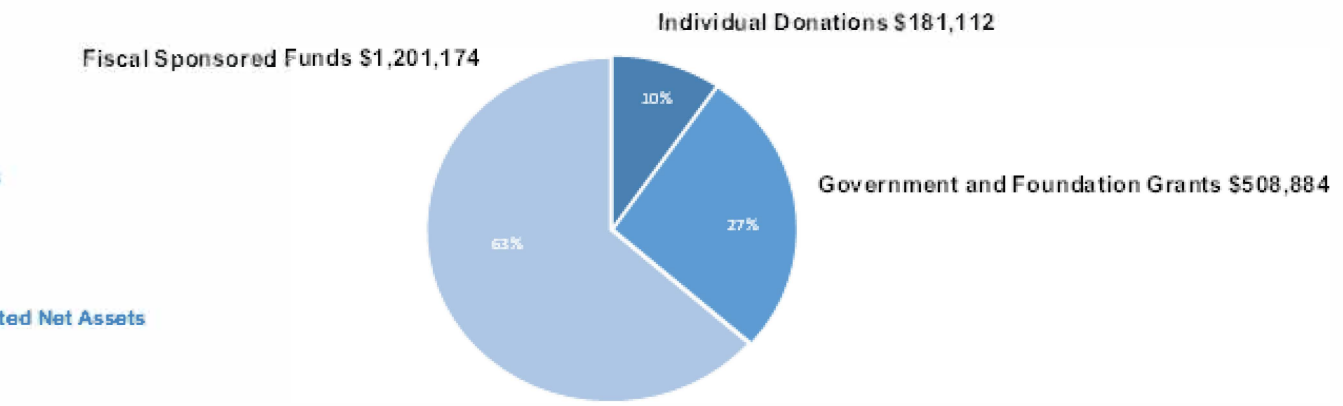
Total Unrestricted Net Assets
$608,499

Total Change in Net Assets
$226,584

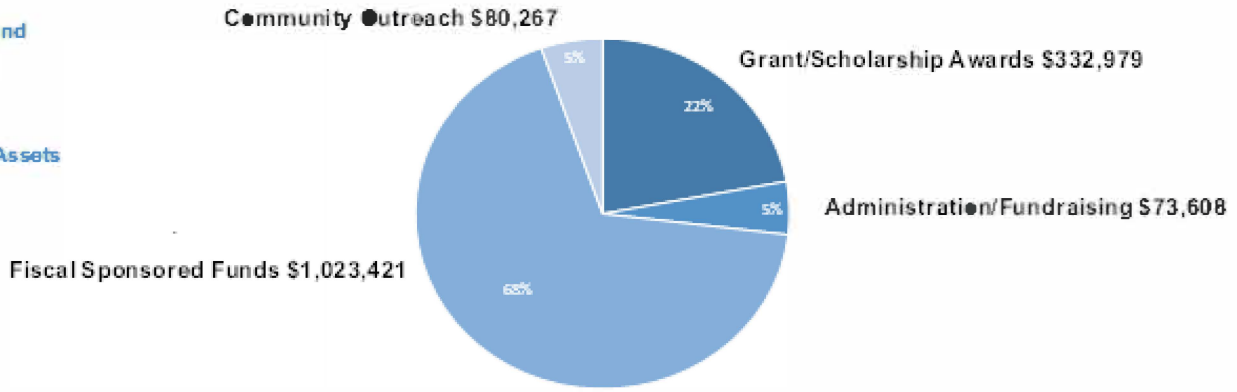
Cash at Year-End
$1,253,267

Restricted Net Assets
$675,239

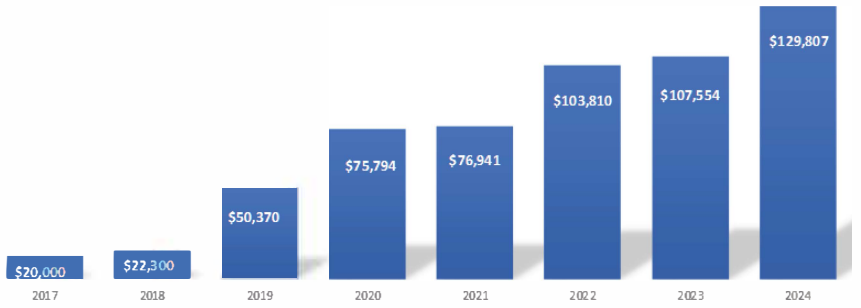
2024 - 2025 INCOME



2022 - 2023 EXPENDITURES

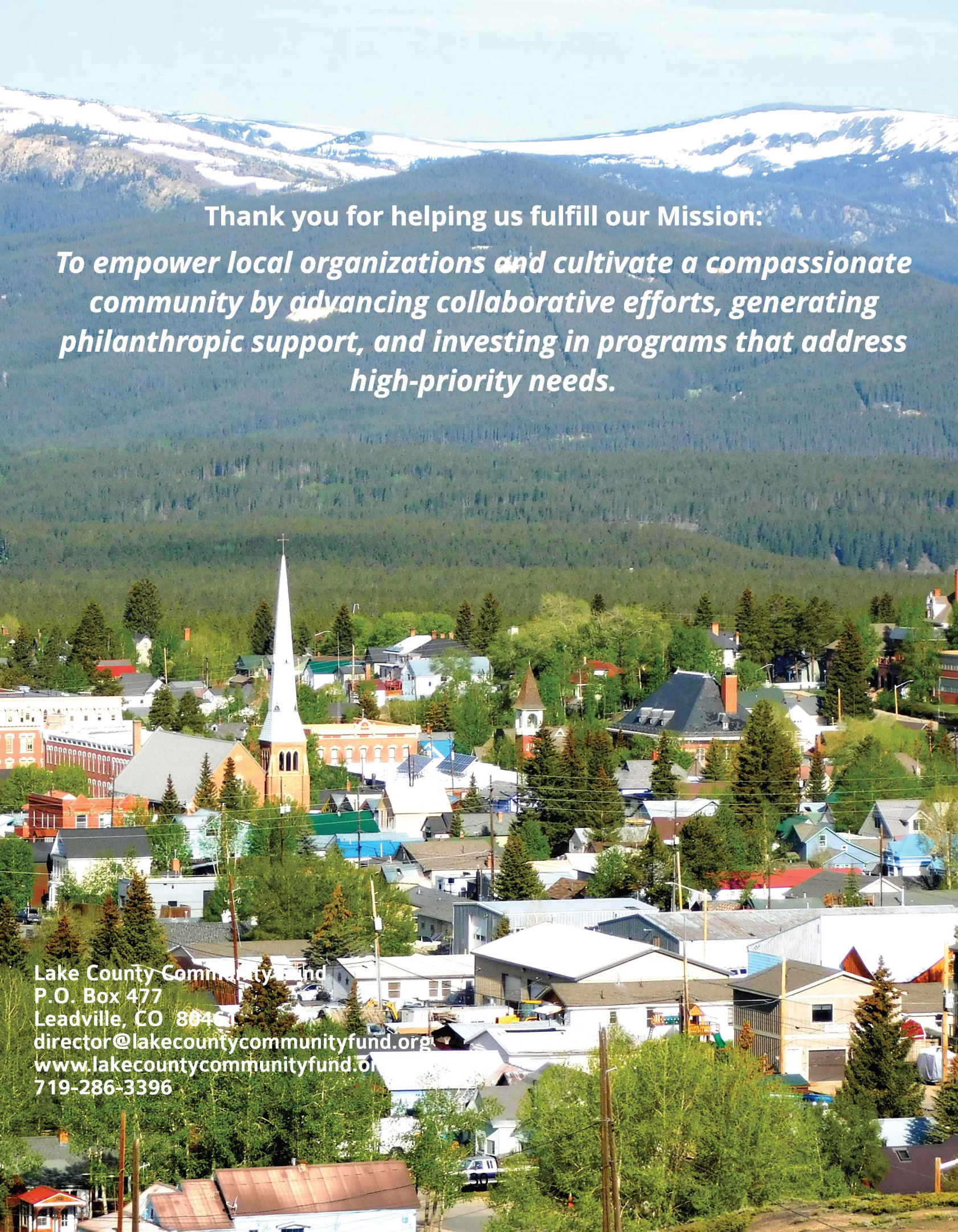


2017 - 2024 Grant Awards



A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained by writing to:

Lake County Community Fund
P.O. Box 477
Leadville, Colorado 80461
or by calling (719) 286-3396
email director@lakecountycommunityfund.org



Thank you for helping us fulfill our Mission:

To empower local organizations and cultivate a compassionate community by advancing collaborative efforts, generating philanthropic support, and investing in programs that address high-priority needs.

Lake County Community Fund
P.O. Box 477
Leadville, CO 80461
director@lakecountycommunityfund.org
www.lakecountycommunityfund.org
719-286-3396