Lake County Community Fund

Annual Report

2023 - 2024





Lake · County · Community · Fund





Building a sustainable future for our extraordinary community



Photo: Justin Talbot

Dear Friends, Partners, and Community Supporters,

On behalf of all of us at the Lake County Community Fund, we express our appreciation for the generosity of individuals, families, businesses, and nonprofits who have supported the Lake County Community Fund the past eighteen months. In this Annual Report, we will highlight some of our major accomplishments.

You will also meet Monica Martinez, a local resident who grew up in Lake County, attended local schools, and is now playing an important role in higher education and our community (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 $985,774, thanks to 662 individual and foundation contributions. During this time, the Board has awarded 147 grants totaling $446,000 to Lake County nonprofit organizations.

To access resources outside of Lake County, we contracted with Social Impact Advisors to initiate an aggressive grant writing and research program. The priorities for this effort include:

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

Between March 2023 and May 2024, six grants totaling $1.2 million have been awarded to Lake County. This includes a Congressional Directed Spending 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 and 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 grant from the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, and the City of Leadville, $165,000 was 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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Board of Directors and Officers

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Mission

The Lake County Community Fund provides a means to expand the capacity of local organizations, promote and facilitate giving opportunities, and inspire investment in Lake County.

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Photo: Finn McNally, *Herald Democrat*

The Lake County Community Fund wishes to express deep appreciation for contributions to the 2023 - 2024 Annual Report:

Jim Brown, PhD, editor of the Annual Report, wrote and contributed the article "Monica Martinez Ramirez: How It Took a Community to Help Her Achieve Academic Excellence." Jim is a writer, editor, and author. He and his 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 18 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 a Lake County that has an abundance of sustainable philanthropic resources to support a thriving community.

VALUES

Our work will be guided and informed by our beliefs in and commitment to:

Local We value support for local people, businesses, and organizations, and strive to support those entities through our communications, operations, and grant-making.

Community We value community input, guidance, and support, all of which are critical as we strive to understand community needs and fund initiatives to address them.



Photo Credit: *Herald Democrat*

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Our community is home to people from a range of backgrounds and beliefs, cultures and traditions, opinions, and experiences. We value diversity, equity, and inclusion because our initiatives are stronger when we draw on the rich perspectives our community offers.

Collaboration We value collaboration because positive impacts are greater when we work together to harness our collective strengths.

Heritage We value Lake County's rich heritage—our mining history, mountain culture, and our unparalleled landscape—which makes ours an extraordinary community and serves as an inspiration to locals and visitors alike.

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 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

Above all else, the intention for the LCCF was 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. Since 2017, the LCCF has:



Photo Credit: *Herald Democrat*

- Created a sustainable funding source by raising $3 million, supporting the collective goals for the Lake County community.
- Provided community leadership during the 2020 COVID shutdown that raised $800,000 for rent and utility assistance for 721 households representing 2,500 family members.
- Awarded 147 grants totaling more than $446,000 to community organizations.
- Helped raise $899,220 for Lake County nonprofit organizations since 2020 through the community-wide Colorado Gives day.
- Developed an approach that prioritizes families who struggle to put food on the table. Raised $116,000 to create a restaurant food voucher program, distributing 2,400 $40 restaurant food vouchers and funding to purchase food for the central pantry at St. George Episcopal Church.
- Sponsored 24 organizations providing tax-deductible receipts, financial management, fundraising support, and grant writing services.
- Provided annual nonprofit training, Leadville Leads!, to support the growth and capacity building of nonprofit partners.

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.

Together, donors and nonprofits will build a long-term source of funding—and a sustainable future—for Lake County.

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 21 registered nonprofits in addition to dozens of agencies and projects affiliated with local government, schools, and churches.

The Community Fund's aim 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.

Our developing community foundation serving Leadville and Lake County is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Lake County Community Fund's aim 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.

SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 2017, YOUR GENEROSITY RAISED SPIRITS AND HOPE

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL RAISED
$3 MILLION

GRANTS AWARDED
147 GRANTS, $446,000

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

RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE
PROVIDED LEADERSHIP IN RAISING $800,000 FOR RENT AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE FOR 721 HOUSEHOLDS

FISCAL SPONSORS—24 ORGANIZATIONS
TOTAL REVENUE $4.33 Million

REGIONAL CHAMPION COLORADO GIVES DAY
2020 - 2024, 27 LAKE COUNTY NONPROFITS RAISED $899,220.

LAKE COUNTY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FUND
RAISED $165,000 IN 2023 TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN IN LAKE COUNTY.

Friends of the Community

Anschutz Family Foundation
Boettcher Foundation
City of Leadville
Climax Molybdenum Company
Colorado Grand Foundation
Colorado Health Foundation
Colorado Mountain College
Colorado Department of Local Affairs
Colorado Gives Foundation
Community Banks of Colorado
Copper Mountain Resort
Denver Foundation
Eagle Valley Community Foundation
El Pomar Foundation
Freeport-McMoRan Foundation
Freight
Friends of Twin Lakes
Harper Rose Studios
High Country Developers
Herald Democrat
Melanzana
Lake County Government
Lake County Tourism Panel
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
Leadville Chamber of Commerce
Parkville Water District
POWDR
Summit Foundation
Vail Valley Foundation
Xcel Energy



FISCAL SPONSORED FUNDS

The Lake County Community Fund (LCCF) serves as the fiscal sponsor for 24 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.

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 provides our community with awareness of and opportunity to embrace our ranching history. These events will give our 4-H youth a place to share their projects with the community and will further teach them leadership and organizational skills.

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 provides innovative wilderness medical training with an emphasis on risk assessment and prevention.

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

Good Natured Learning grows an equitable statewide nature-based learning movement in public K-12 schools across Colorado by building educator capacity and activating nearby nature for teaching and learning.

Greater Good Community Acupuncture provides access to affordable, inclusive, and effective acupuncture treatments in the Lake County region.

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 supports and promotes licensed high-quality early care education programs in Lake County.

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

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Get Outdoors Leadville! Rockies Rock Summer Camp

FISCAL SPONSORED FUNDS

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

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 backcountry surrounding Leadville, Colorado.

Lake County Sherrif's Office and Shield616 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 Collective Lake County's premiere dance school promotes social-emotional development for students of all ages through dance education and performance opportunities.

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.

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

Project Dream Provides after school programs through the Lake County School District serving students K-12.

Sacred Space Films Produced the documentary, "Echoes of the West – A Legacy of Adventure," to explore the thread of tenacity common to the early settlers of the Upper Arkansas River Valley, to the more recent endurance athletes, to the residents who are helping redefine the region while restoring and preserving parts of the past.

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 is dependent on the generosity of Lake County residents, services, and private organizations.



LAKE COUNTY LEADERS

Monica Martinez Ramirez: How It Took a Community to Help Her Achieve Academic Excellence

By Jim Brown, PhD

Meet Monica Martinez Ramirez, AA, BS, MBA. The degrees reflect her love for learning and drive for academic excellence. But her story is about a journey from being a young immigrant to becoming an Academic Coordinator at a respected institution of higher learning.

"I was brought to the U.S at a very young age and as an immigrant from Mexico, there were barriers and obstacles I would need to overcome," says Monica. "I never thought that college would be a possibility for me. To eventually earn an Associate Degree from Colorado Mountain College, a Bachelor of Science from Metropolitan State University of Denver, and a Master of Business Administration from one of the most prestigious business schools in the country (University of Denver) has been the most rewarding thing I have done in my life."

It Takes Support

Monica didn't do it alone. It took a community, starting with her parents. They did not have the privilege of going to high school or college and came to this country to give Monica and her sister, Diana, a better life, better opportunities.

"Many of my peers know the struggles our families had to face coming to a new country — a new language, new culture, a new way of life far from home."

"Whatever I have achieved is because of my family and their support. Everything I do academically and professionally, I do for them because I want to honor all of my parents' sacrifices. My accomplishments are their accomplishments, as well. "



It Takes Schools, Teachers

The public schools of Lake County — from kindergarten all the way through Colorado Mountain College — are also part of Monica's success story. "Spanish was my first language. I remember being in a special kindergarten class to learn English."

"Teachers, mentors, and friends have helped shape who I am today," says Monica. "They supported and gave me the advice I needed when I wanted to give up on finishing school. Their words of encouragement helped me finish my college education. It takes an entire village to get you across that stage. Their belief in my potential has been invaluable, and I am grateful for their influence.

"I always liked learning and going to school. I was a good student — not straight A's — but pretty good.

In high school I was very involved in clubs, Student Council, National Honor Society, and sports (volleyball, basketball, soccer). I don't consider myself an athlete by any means , but playing sports was a way to hang out with my friends after school."

It Takes Perseverance

"I wasn't sure how I would be able to attain a college education. Because neither of my parents went to college, they had no idea how to help me enroll. I had to navigate that system alone, and it wasn't easy."

"I needed guidance on what to study, what scholarships I could apply for, how to get tutoring. My first year of college was difficult. I was falling behind in many of my classes. I didn't know what I was doing wrong and felt that while my peers were succeeding, I was failing.

"It wasn't until my second year that I finally went to the Student Resource Center at CMC and asked for help. Our community is extremely fortunate to have an institution that provides so many opportunities. CMC has been a symbol of hope and empowerment for me, just like many of the first-generation students that walk through our doors."



'Tree of Sharing,' a holiday tradition. Monica with her CMC associates Leslie Gamez and Paloma Gethzemani Hammond.

It took Monica seven years after she graduated from CMC to get her BS. She worked at coffee shops in Denver and took classes when she could. "I always made sure to apply for scholarships and work part time so I could help fund my education. My parents helped as much as they could, but they had other expenses.

The scholarships at CMC and MSU Denver made it a bit easier because I had out-of-pocket expenses. I was willing to take as long as I needed to finish my degrees, but it was worth It. No loans, no debts."

Monica chose the University of Denver for her MBA because it was a great university and had the nationally-recognized Daniels College of Business. She was able to earn the degree while working full time and by taking classes in Denver and online, as well as hybrid courses that combined in-person instruction and remote learning.

It Takes Opportunities

When Monica was about to finish her BS degree, she moved back to Leadville and got a parttime job at CMC as an Accuplacer Proctor. She monitored students taking placement tests that helped academic advisors recommend courses needed to help them reach their educational goals.

Next, a fulltime position as Financial Aid Specialist was posted online. She applied, was hired, and began her experience in financial aid.

"Almost every day I worked with first-generation college students—some documented, some undocumented, some DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Being bilingual helped me build trust and relationships with students and families. During my time in Financial Aid, I saw myself many times in the students I would meet who were navigating the college system for the very first time.

The federal and state financial aid application forms can be confusing, especially if you are the first person in your family to attend college."

I made it my mission to find funding for every single student who walked through my door, no matter their status in this country. My goal was to maximize students funding. I understand the struggles many first-generation students face; it can be a very lonely and confusing journey. When I would meet with students, I would explain the difference between loans, grants, and scholarships. I wanted to be a person who would remove barriers for students, and this helped when I needed to communicate with families and students in Spanish."

Monica's next opportunity also appeared online. Her new responsibilities in the Office of Academic Affairs involve supporting and coordinating a wide variety of campus academic processes, such as year-end budgets and purchasing for credit and/or non-credit instruction. This position also coordinates programs and events in support of student learning and experiences.

It Takes a Break

Monica's life is not all work. Her interests include world history, government, and museums. In Washington, she went to the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument; took a picture of the White House; visited the United States Holocaust Museum and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Monica has found time to take up cross-country skiing. "There's a trail behind CMC, so I try to get in some cross-country time during my lunch breaks," Monica explains.

It Takes Helping Others

Monica's friend, co-worker, and mentor, Leslie Gamez, told her about volunteering opportunities in the community and in programs supported by the Lake County Community Fund. She eventually approached Monica about the possibility of joining the LCCF Board of Directors. She was introduced to John McMurtry, executive director, and Mellissa Kendrick, president of the board, then asked to join the board earlier this year. She now serves on the finance and grants committees.

"I am grateful for the opportunity collaborate with so many leaders in our community who are passionate about creating a sustainable future for Lake County residents. I believe in the mission of helping local organizations expand their resources. Through LCCF's work, we can reduce barriers and inequities that people in our community face."

It Takes Courage

"As an immigrant in the U.S.," says Monica, "I felt like I had to be in the shadows. We've been told that we are not worthy of being here because of our status. Regardless of what we do, whether it's in education or not, we are worthy. We just want to live and work and be part of a community like everyone else. We continue to have hope, move forward, and follow our dream.

Jim Brown, PhD, 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.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Investments in Lake County

Affordable Housing

In a collaborative effort between Lake County, the City of Leadville, the Lake County Housing Coalition, and Lake County School District, the multi-jurisdictional Leadville Lake County Regional Housing Authority (LLCRHA) 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 on three parcels.

Early Child Care and Education



In Lake County, there are 421 children ages five and under. For those kids, there are only three licensed providers for children ages one to five and no licensed providers for infant care, a number that has been the same for the past decade.

The Lake County Early Care and Education Fund was created as a new fiscal fund designed to support licensed childcare providers, families and improve the overall early childhood education (ECE) system in Lake County. During 2023, Lake County Government, the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation contributed $165,000 to support the effort of the Early Care and Education Fund

Nonprofit Capacity Building

The Colorado Health Foundation has awarded a three-year $300,000 grant to Lideres Latinx Leadville to support community advocacy efforts, leadership development, and capacity building.

Lideres Latinx Leadville 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.

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: *Leadville Herald Democrat*



Grants: In 2024, the Lake County Community Fund Board awarded 29 grants totaling $76,540 as part of the Community and Copper Mountain Resort grants program.

Regional Champion: During Colorado Gives Day, 2020 - 2024, 4,628 contributions, $899,220 to Lake County nonprofit organizations.



Photo Courtesy: *Leadville Herald Democrat*



State of the Community at Freight: Nine organizations updated the community on early childhood education and affordable housing, April 30,2024

We ❤ Lake County Community Dinner: More than 400 community members participated Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, in the fifth annual dinner at Ice Palace Park.

2017 - 2024, 147 GRANTS, $446,000 AWARDED TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

True to its mission, the Lake County Community Fund provides a means to expand the capacity of local organizations, promote and facilitate giving opportunities, and inspire investment in Lake County.

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 that the grants will highlight community buy-in for valuable local endeavors.

Community and Copper Mountain Resort Grant Awards

In 2024, the Board awarded $51,040 to 22 Lake County nonprofit organizations as part of the Community Grants and $25,500 to seven nonprofits under the Copper Mountain Resort grant program .



Photo Courtesy: *Herald Democrat*

"Thank you for the good news of this grant award, and thanks to the Lake County Community Fund and the POWDR and Copper Mountain team for making this opportunity possible - Colorado Outward Bound School is grateful for the support!

Scott Farley,
Development Director,
Colorado Outward Bound School

2024 GRANTS AWARDED

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



Photo Courtesy: *Herald Democrat*

Copper Mountain Resort Grant

In 2019, thanks to a $200,000 gift from Copper Mountain Resort and POWDR, a new 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 Community Awards

Advocates of Lake County: Awarded $4,000 to be used for the operations and to keep the facilities up to date, clean, and comfortable for clients.

Bright Start Learning Center: Awarded $4,500 to improving classroom knowledge to keep providing high-quality care using Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment tools with appropriate technological and classroom equipment. Bright Start is also striving to support teachers by providing continuing education opportunities, as well as classroom tools and materials.

CASA of the Continental Divide: Awarded $3,500 to serve child victims of abuse and neglect in the Dependency and Neglect program and students who are experiencing barriers to their education in the Truancy program.



Cloud City Curling Club: Awarded $1,500 to fund equipment purchases and replacements to continue the sport of curling in Lake County.

Cloud City High School: Awarded $1,500 to fund Workforce Bootcamp Days which, empowers students to explore diverse career pathways and opportunities. Students participate in internships, jobs, and work-based learning to support and prepare them for the workforce.



Photo: *Herald Democrat*

Greater Good Acupuncture: Awarded $1,000 to provide seed funding for the development of no-cost, Five Needle Protocol clinics in Lake County. This provides community members access to acupuncture in an accessible, safe, and supportive setting to support their healing process.

Lake County Build a Generation: Awarded $1,500 to support the Fair Housing Fair, a low-barrier way for community members to learn about the housing crisis in Lake County, engage in the work of the Housing Coalition, and understand other ways they can support work for affordable housing.

Lake County Open Space Initiative: Awarded $2,500 to fund the creation of a pubic-accessible digital archive of more than a quarter century of records that include the preservation and enhancement of open space, wildlife habitat, historic resources, outdoor recreation, public education, and community sustainability.

Leadville Dance Collective: Awarded $2,500 to fund the acquisition of new portable mirrors to use for classes and support trauma-informed training.

Lake County Civic Center Association: Awarded $1,000 to fund a project to move the current theatrical lighting controls to a more user-friendly location of the Old Church facility. This project requires an up-grade of the electrical subpanel.

Lake County Search and Rescue: Awarded $1,100 to fund the 'Know Before You Go' educational event. For the past two years, Lake County Search and Rescue and Colorado Avalanche Information Center have organized this educational program to inform residents of Lake County about traveling safely in avalanche terrain.

Lake County Public Library: Awarded $1,500 to provide funding to purchase an e-bike which will be used with the mobile library or book bike (a.k.a. Bibliobicicleta) that will allow the library to increase the amount of outreach involving books and mobile checkout services.

2024 GRANTS AWARDED

Leadville Imagination Library: Awarded $2,000 to fund Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Lake County. This program provides at no cost to families an age-appropriate book monthly to each pre-school child (0 5 years of age) enrolled in the program to promote early childhood literacy.



Leadville Mainstreet: Awarded $2,000 to fund in collaboration with the Leadville Historic Preservation Commission the development of the Leadville Historic Walking Tour.

Lideres Latinx: Awarded $2,500 to support the Posadas event, a cherished holiday tradition across Latin America. Posadas is a tapestry of experiences that unite the Lake County community.

National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum: Awarded $500 to help fund the re-branding of the Museum's website. The Museum will collaborate with a web designer and a branding firm to drive more traffic to the Museum and Leadville.

Planned Pethood Assistance: Awarded $1,500 to support Planned Pethood Leadville's efforts to offer reasonable, affordable options and access to pet healthcare for all Lake County community members.

Smart Bellies: Awarded $5,000 to fund Smart Bellies efforts to fill the gap of food insecurity in Lake County by providing bags of nutritious food to school aged children, allowing them to get the full benefit of their education and development.



St. George Episcopal Mission: Awarded $3,940 to fund the Mobile Food Pantry which proved easy access to healthy, culturally relevant food for those who are unable to come to the St. George Food Pantry.

Tabor Opera House Preservation Foundation: Awarded $3,000 to provide the funding to acquire high-quality wireless/cordless headset microphones and all necessary electronic/tech supplies and training for local youth and community technicians.

St. Vincent General Hospital District: Awarded $2,500 to support the annual one-day 2024 Health Fair in Lake County in September.

Summit Community Care Clinic: Awarded $2,000 to fund advertising services to 'get the word out' to the community that the Care Clinic is now open at Lake County Public Health, as well as the School-Based Health Center located in Lake County High School.

Copper Mountain Resort Grant

Blue Elements: Awarded $4,000 to fund one AmeriCorps member devoted to water education, stewardship, and water quality initiatives in Lake County.

Cloud City Wheelers: Awarded $500 to fund operational expenses to support year-round efforts to increase organizational capacity. The Cloud City Wheelers exists to create, enhance, and promote trail opportunities in Leadville and Lake County.

Cloud City Conservation Center: Awarded $5,000 to support Nature-Based Learning programming with Lake County School District and to engage all Lake County students in transformative outdoor learning experiences that support their academic success and overall well-being.



Photo: *Herald Democrat*

Cloud City Mountain Sports: Awarded $3,500 to fund scholarships that provide access to outdoor recreation programs including mountain biking, nordic skiing, snowboarding, and alpine skiing.

Colorado Outward Bound School: Awarded $2,000 to fund outdoor education programming with the Lake County School District and Get Outside Leadville! Through this partnership Lake County youth (6th graders) will experience life-changing Outward-Bound adventures through a two-day overnight group program at Colorado Outward Bound School's Leadville basecamp.



Photo: *Herald Democrat*

Desert Mountain Medicine: Awarded $3,000 to fund the translation of materials for the Wilderness Medicine Education Initiative. Desert Mountain Medicine will offer Spanish language courses to the Lake County community to learn basic first aid, CPR, and wilderness preparedness.

Project Dream: Awarded $7,500 to fund after school outdoor clubs on Fridays in Spring and Fall of 2024. Project Dream provides free after school and Friday programs which serve students K-12.

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 5
COLORADO GIVES DAY
ColoradoGivesDay.org

December 5th, 2023, 950 donors contributed $163,423 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
PB Swims
Planned Pethood Leadville
Project Dream
St. George Episcopal Church
Tabor Opera House Preservation Foundation, Inc.
Tree of Sharing

Community Champion, 2020 - 2024

4,628 gifts, $899,220 raised for Lake County nonprofit organizations



Photo Courtesy: *Herald Democrat*

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

Early childhood education and affordable housing agencies updated the community on 2023 accomplishments and 2024 goals April 30th at Freight

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 wonderful Lake County agencies working on affordable housing, early childhood education, and their vision for 2024 and beyond*," Leadville Mayor Dana Greene said.

The event provided these businesses and agencies with an opportunity to update community members on past and current projects, roadblocks and successes, as well as future plans. Nine businesses and agencies made presentations at this year’s State of the Community:

- Lake County Childcare Coalition
- Lake County Housing Coalition
- Chaffee Housing Trust
- Lake County Leadville Regional Housing Authority
- Cloud City Conservation Center
- Full Circle of Lake County
- Advocates of Lake County
- Lake County Government
- City of Leadville



Leadville City Administrator, Laurie Simonson, addressing the State of the Community.

Photo: *Leadville Herald Democrat*

WE ❤ LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY DINNER

Following a beautiful Fall afternoon, the Community Dinner, September 9, sponsored by the *Herald Democrat* and the Lake County Community Fund, went off even better than planned. The sun shone down brightly on our Lake County as we came together to share friendships, some great food, prizes, and entertainment. More than 50 table sponsors and 400 community members participated in the fourth annual event.



In addition to good company and delicious food, the evening featured live music by Leadville musician and songwriter Carey Nall and games for kids. The theme for this year was *Home on the Range* which has its roots in Leadville.

> "*We Love Lake County Community Dinner was a time to celebrate this special community and the personal relationships that make us strong,*" said Leadville former Mayor Greg Labbe, who volunteered to coordinate the dinner with the host Lake County Community Fund.

IMPACT

The Face of Philanthropy

January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

2023 - 2024 OVERVIEW

Total Assets
$1,064,028

Total Liabilities
$17,756

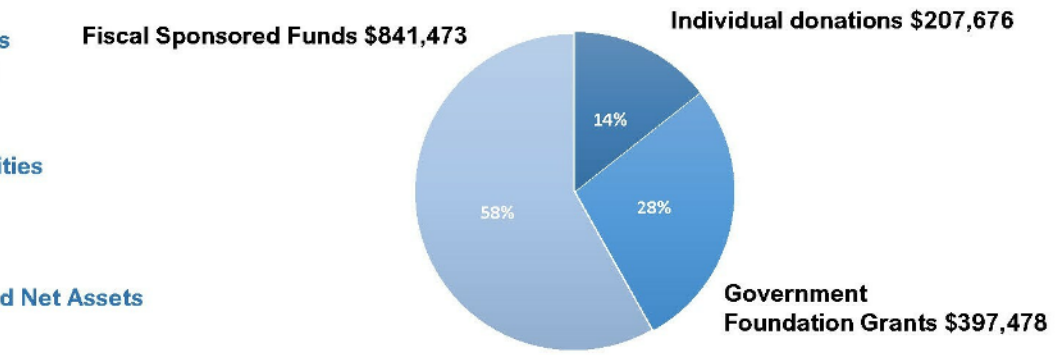
Unrestricted Net Assets
$127,316

Total Change in Net Assets
$209,663

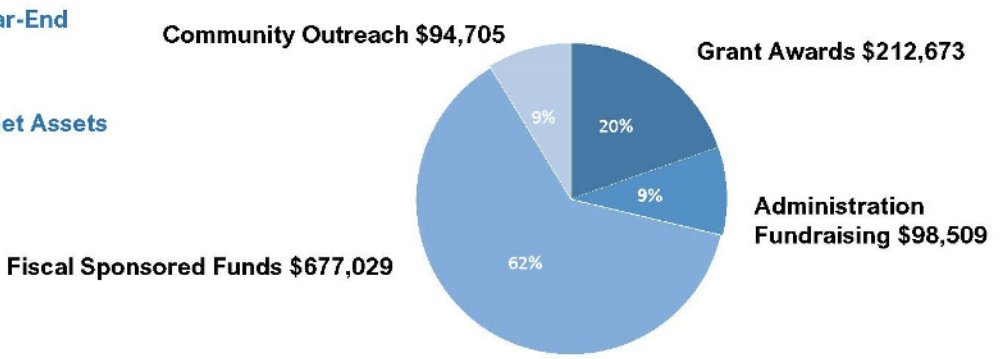
Cash at Year-End
$645,599

Resticted Net Assets
$487,648

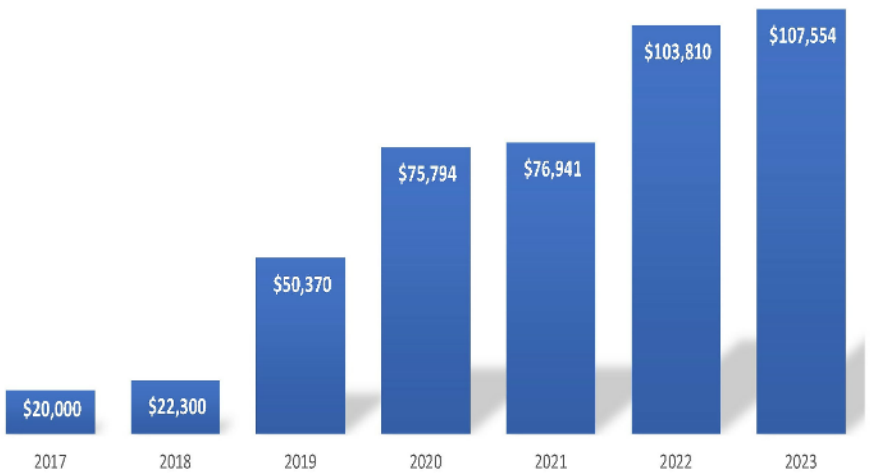
2023 - 2024 INCOME



2023 - 2024 EXPENDITURES



2017 - 2023 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



Photo: Justin Talbot



Thank you for helping us fulfill our Mission:

to expand the capacity of local organizations, promote and facilitate giving opportunities, and inspire investment in Lake County.

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