



THE DENVER FOUNDATION

give

SUMMER
2019

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

P.14

ACROSS DENVER, FOOD BUILDS COMMUNITY AND BRIGHT FUTURES

HOPE AND HEALING: TWENTY YEARS AFTER TRAGEDY CHANGED THEIR LIVES, FOUR COLUMBINE SURVIVORS FIND COMFORT IN GIVING P.20

STORIES OF METRO DENVER PHILANTHROPY

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CONTENTS

04 TDF in Brief

Warren Washington earns top science prize, Lighthouse Writers grows community and expression through *Hard Times*, author Edgar Villanueva reframes wealth and philanthropy, and more.



14 A Place at the Table

For many of Denver's enterprising cooks, food is the pathway to success.



WHY I GIVE

26 Why We Give: The Eulipions Fund

28 Why I Give: Renée Brinkerhoff

30 Why We Give: The Recovery Foundation

08 The People and The Neighborhood

By helping others connect to resources, services, and one another, navigators are the heart and soul of many communities.



20 Hope and Healing

Twenty years after tragedy changed their lives, four Columbine survivors find comfort in giving.



THREE QUESTIONS

31 Aaron Miripol, Urban Land Conservancy

GIVE WELL

32 Ask TDF: Questions and Answers About Philanthropy, Giving, and Community

GALLERY

34 In the Field

GIVE SUMMER 2019

A Magazine for
Friends of The
Denver Foundation

ABOUT GIVE

Give is published twice a year by The Denver Foundation, the largest and most experienced community foundation in Colorado. Our mission is to inspire people and mobilize resources to strengthen our community.



On the Cover:
Chef Ruben Valentin with
friend Atreo Rodriguez
at Sun Valley Kitchen
& Community Center,
February 2019.
Photo by Flor Blake.

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#Give #TDFCommunity

VIRGINIA B.
BAYLESS

ONE COMMUNITY, MANY STORIES

In my time as the interim President and CEO of The Denver Foundation, the word I've heard more than any other is "community."

Most people get connected to the Foundation because they care deeply about our community. People of all backgrounds, including nonprofit and faith leaders, business people, generous donors, volunteers, and neighbors pitch in to make our community welcoming, to address challenges, and to create opportunities for everyone who shares our home.

Community takes many forms, as you can see throughout this issue of Give. In "The People and the Neighborhood," we learn how "community navigators" connect people to resources and services in a very personal way. For the past five years, the Foundation has worked to build up a network and pipeline for community navigators, built on our firm belief that solutions to community challenges are best addressed by those directly involved.

In "A Place at the Table," we introduce six local entrepreneurs who have created food businesses in Metro Denver, some with support from Denver Foundation partners. This photo essay captures some of the delicious ways that food brings people together—and can be an engine of community wealth building. Some members of The Denver Foundation staff went along for photo shoots at Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center and Food Bridge International Marketplace. I highly recommend you visit these wonderful community hubs, too!

In our third feature, we see the absolutely vital role that community can play in times of crisis. "Hope and Healing" offers a glimpse of how community engagement and giving have helped four survivors of the Columbine High School tragedy cope with loss and trauma. I was so heartened to learn that the Lauren Townsend Memorial Wildlife Fund has contributed more than \$300,000 to organizations that reflect Lauren's open heart and bright spirit. And that every year more than 1,000 young people participate in a Day of Service in honor of the 13 souls who were lost that day. Even under the most difficult circumstances, community helps us heal.

I hope this issue of Give inspires you to reflect on what "community" means in your life. Whether you've been with us for years or are just learning about The Denver Foundation, thank you for reading, and for being part of the community we all share.

From all of us at The Denver Foundation, wishing you a happy and safe summer,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia B. Bayless".

Virginia B. Bayless

SONGS OF THEMSELVES

Lighthouse Writers Workshop wants to get everyone in the city writing. The nonprofit literary center (and Denver Foundation grantee) has recently amped up efforts to engage writers of color, those in the LGBTQ+ community, seniors, immigrants and refugees, people transitioning out of incarceration—and everybody else. Through the Hard Times Writing Workshop, people who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, or other difficulties come together to express themselves and tap into the restorative power of creativity. The weekly workshops normally take place at public libraries, but the group sometimes seeks inspiration elsewhere. A recent visit to Denver Botanic Gardens sparked ruminations on nature, as we see in this beautiful piece from local poet Fran Ford, pictured.

To learn more, visit lighthousewriters.org.

The One with the Problem by Fran Ford

*Leaning over the bridge at Speer and 6th
gets me sunlight riding slow current
rain-sated, sleepy, cool, and limpid
as a spill of hueless jelly on a long slide*

*among islets of prairie grass,
and it gives me a look at large gray rats
glad on the glide from frowsy fronds,
algae-frocked rocks and soggy shreds*

*of floating fast-food sacks.
Too, it offers plastic bottles a-bobble
and soda cans sunk in nooks of sunshine,
a recycler's ready hoard of hap.*

*The creek returns my frown, my looking down.
Guess I'm the one with the problem.*





Photo by Amanda Tipton

THE ART OF SCIENCE

BRIEFS



DENVER FOUNDATION DONOR AND FRIEND WARREN WASHINGTON WINS TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE.

In the last issue of Give, we introduced you to Mary and Warren Washington, who support the community through a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation. Now we're pleased to share that in February, Warren received the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement, often referred to as the "Nobel Prize for the environment."

Warren, 82, recently retired from a 54-year-long distinguished and decorated career with the National Center for Atmospheric Research. In 2010, he received the National Medal of Science from President Obama. He won the Tyler Prize for his work as a pioneer of climate modeling. In the early 1960s, he worked with Japanese scientists to build computer atmospheric

models using the laws of physics to predict future atmospheric conditions.

Recipients of the Tyler Prize are recognized for work across the spectrum of environmental concerns, including the protection, maintenance, improvement, or understanding of an environmental condition anywhere in the world.

Climate scientist Michael Mann was honored to receive the Tyler Prize alongside Warren, whom he has admired for decades.

"I used to read his papers when I was a graduate student, and he is a real hero of mine," Mann says. "He is such a great role model, who speaks to the fundamentally important contribution that diversity plays in advancing science."

On behalf of The Denver Foundation (and the planet), congratulations, Warren!

— DELE JOHNSON



BALANCING ACT

IN "DECOLONIZING WEALTH,"
EDGAR VILLANUEVA CALLS FOR
A SHIFT IN PHILANTHROPY.

In March the Foundation had the opportunity to host Edgar Villanueva, author of the book, "Decolonizing Wealth," and Vice President of Programs and Advocacy at the Schott Foundation for Public Education.

Villanueva spent the morning in conversation with Foundation staff, trustees, and donors, discussing reactions to his book, which he says is "for those who direct the flow of money." Villanueva calls for an ideological revolution in philanthropy rooted in the concept of "decolonization." The book is deeply informed by his background and upbringing as a member of the

Lumbee Nation of North Carolina and his experiences as a person of color navigating a career in philanthropy.

Prior to Villanueva's visit, Foundation Trustee Harold Fields and fundholder Katherine White found the book so thought-provoking that they combined their resources to purchase copies for each member of the Foundation's governing body. The Foundation's Internal Inclusiveness and Equity Committee also made copies of the book available to staff, creating the environment for an informed audience eager to engage the topic.

A resonant theme from our time with Villanueva and a key lesson from his book is that "money can be used as medicine." Acknowledging the origins of generational wealth, and those who were damaged in its creation, is a painful but necessary step toward reconciliation. Sharing control and management of philanthropic wealth invites communities in pain to design their own healing. As Villanueva asks, "What if we could be unencumbered by 'the way it's done' and liberated to design ourselves from scratch? What if we could liberate money to be used as a tool of love?"

— DELE JOHNSON

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Social Venture Partners (SVP) Denver is fueled by engaged philanthropists who provide pro bono capacity-building services to local nonprofits. The Denver Foundation partner recently found a kindred spirit in Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute (RMMFI), which is the only Community Development Financial Institution in Metro Denver that serves low-income entrepreneurs. Together, they developed an economic development model that is the first of its kind in the U.S.

In 2017, RMMFI approached SVP Denver with the idea of increasing the size of the loans they provide to their business program graduates from \$5,000 to up to \$75,000. RMMFI staff and SVP volunteers then created an underwriting process that leverages RMMFI's unique assets: its deep relationship with entrepreneurs, its graduates' commitment to loan repayment, and the support of business mentors.

As a result of this new underwriting process, RMMFI expects to grow its loan size over the next two years. The goal is to raise \$500,000 in 2019, which will allow RMMFI to be a much more powerful source of capital for its client entrepreneurs.

— MAGGIE LEA

To learn more, please visit SVP Denver at svpdenver.org and RMMFI at rmmfi.org. Photo of Pearl Street Lights, an RMMFI-affiliated business, by From the Hip Photo.

BRIEFS

MAKING AN IMPRESSION

MORE THAN 7,000 EXPERIENCE DENVER'S REDLINING HISTORY THROUGH EXHIBIT.

Over the last two months of 2018, more than 7,000 people explored the country's—and Denver's—history of redlining at two Denver locations on the nationally traveling tour of “Undesign the Redline” from NYC-based Designing the We.

The exhibit, which started its Denver run at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, explores how an FHA effort to insure mortgages and prevent family home foreclosures after the Great Depression resulted in “red lines” being drawn around areas where mostly African Americans and immigrants lived. These boundaries produced the deep segregation, and some of the current political and social issues, plaguing America's cities today.

Exhibit host Enterprise Community Partners worked

with The Denver Foundation, Colorado Housing Finance Authority, Shift Research Labs, Wells Fargo, Denver Public Library, and the City & County of Denver to build the city's redlining history into a local experience with research and photos as well as residents locating themselves on Denver's redlining map.

Among the several tours and programs offered, the city welcomed Denver residents to share their personal redlining stories at an #IAMDenver Storytelling Lab, a pilot for a new citywide community-storytelling project launched across Denver in March. With a little inspiration and instruction, residents recounted their stories on video, in writing, and with photos. Participants, including Mayor Michael B. Hancock, presented some of those stories to welcome the exhibit into the Webb building in December. The exhibit remains on display through July.

— ROWENA ALEGRIA



GEORGETTE KAPUKI MABI
& LYDIA DUMAM

THE



PEOPLE

AND THE

NEIGHBORHOOD



By helping others connect to resources, services, and one another, navigators are the heart and soul of many communities.

WORDS BY LAURA BOND - IMAGES BY FLOR BLAKE

When Lydia Dumam faced the first major change of her life—leaving her native Eritrea for a refugee camp in northern Ethiopia—she coped, in part, by helping others.

“I had always dreamed of doing social work,” she says. “In the camp, we would always wait. There were no resources. Thinking back, there were so many cases where I was doing community work, like with domestic violence and things between wife and husband. It helped me find my own place.”

After four years, Dumam resettled in Denver, where she has lived since 2011. She now serves as Co-Director of Programs at the Colorado African Organization, which helps people who come to Metro Denver as immigrants and refugees get settled. In spirit, her work is similar to what she did in the camp: She helps people move through and survive a new, foreign environment.

“Myself, I came as a newcomer here, and it was really hard when there was not someone there to help me,” she says. “When you have someone new, you have to support



Community navigators gather
at *Una Mano Una Esperanza*
in Westwood.



them, to help them see how they are going to integrate into this system. When I see them walking in, I put myself in those shoes; when I see their problems, it's like my problem. It gives me peace of mind to help them."

In Ethiopia, Dumam was known as a community leader. Today, she calls herself a community navigator (or "CN" for short). At the Colorado African Organization, she leads a team of seven navigators, men and women from around the world who speak more than 20 languages, collectively. They guide clients through the intersecting mazes of social services, health care, and immigration systems, and connect them to agencies that can help them learn English

and train for jobs. They show newcomers how to take the bus and where to shop for groceries. And they listen.

"Even if you are from the United States, you move to a new state, it's different," says Georgette Kapuki Mabi, a community navigator who went to work for Colorado African Organization soon after arriving from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2013. "Now imagine someone doesn't speak the language, how different it is for them. How difficult to understand education, job, housing, food, transportation.

"I came here as a refugee as a single mom with a baby of five months," she continues. "You have to have empathy to help somebody. Today, I give back as a CN."

If every community has its own energy—its own assets and challenges—navigators are its channelers. They are those who can almost instinctively draw lines of connection between people, tracking relationships and resources and drawing from their own experiences, earned wisdom, and skills to solve problems.

For Reyna Zarate-Cruz, being a navigator means visiting schools and churches in her West Denver neighborhood, making herself available to families, especially women who may be experiencing domestic violence at home. She invites them on a path that may include legal interventions and support for trauma and depression. By coming to them, she puts help within

their reach in a way that feels familiar.

"I have credibility, a lot of trust within the community," says Zarate-Cruz, founder of Camino a la Esperanza, a navigation-based referral agency. "The system is not necessarily comfortable for a lot of people. People are scared of it. So there are a lot of gaps.

"A lot of times people come tell me what they feel, their deepest secrets, and soon I'm able to direct them to resources, like a psychologist or a lawyer. They need that intermediary, some help to get to a better point," she continues. "When they start moving forward and doing well in the community, I feel happy, like I did my job."



REYNA
ZARATE-CRUZ

Many people who practice navigation don't think of themselves as doing so. But in recent years, navigators' often invisible labor has come more clearly into the light. A growing number of nonprofit organizations and service agencies now employ navigators to help vulnerable people overcome obstacles—including language, culture, bureaucracy, transportation, and a lack of trust in institutions—that put resources out of reach. As one high-profile example, the Denver Public Library now employs two peer navigators who, alongside four social workers, help people experiencing homelessness access low-income housing and other services.

The Denver Foundation has long played an important role in building a field and support system for community navigators. For more than 20 years, the grassroots Strengthening Neighborhoods program has helped community leaders take action on issues and opportunities at the local level. Through relationships with these leaders, the Foundation has gained a deeper understanding of the vital role that navigators play in connecting people to resources that improve individual lives as well as communities.

In 2014, the Foundation launched the Basic Human Needs Navigator Learning Community (NLC). Every month for five years, the NLC brought navigators who work independently in the community and those employed by nonprofit organizations together to share experiences and resources, build skills, and establish a network.

When the NLC's pilot wrapped up last November, it had helped build the capacity of 15 community members and 13 organizations, with a focus on those that help people of color, immigrants, and refugees access food, shelter, behavioral healthcare, and safety from domestic violence.

"It was very helpful to see other people like me who serve the community, that I'm not alone," says Colorado African Organization's Dumam, who participated in the NLC alongside Kapuki Mabi. "You learn different things from group discussion and from others' work—what services they have, how they know the problems of the client. And they learned from us, culturally."

"In some ways, I learned how to support a client through partnering with the other people," Dumam continues. "If the services are not here, I can bridge the gap, call somebody from the Learning Community, so that we can help."

Rosa Marie Vergil Velasquez was part of the NLC from start to finish. As the co-founder of Una Mano Una Esperanza in Westwood, Vergil Velasquez works with men and women who have experienced domestic violence and a host of related stressors. She helps clients deal with some of the most trying, vulnerable moments of their lives with a level of personal attention that is unthinkable in traditional social-service systems.

"We're talking about domestic violence, and they ask me things like, 'Why do I have to report it to the police? Why do I have to go to the court, which for an immigrant person is a scary thing? Who is going to help me to pass my next level in my life? Who is going to be my support when I need help?'"

“It was very helpful to see other people like me who serve the community, that I'm not alone.”

LYDIA DUMAM

Who is going to help my family? Where I can get some food?"
You have to go to that level with them.

"I just start with my heart. I have to see the person and try to find the right question. Sometimes I just have to say, 'Hi. How are you?' and the woman, that person I never met before, starts crying. I just say, 'How are you? I'm here to hear you and to help you.'"

Navigation is intense work that requires a level of trust that is earned through real, one-on-one relationships. Vergil Velasquez says that being part of the NLC helped her expand the resources she can now share with clients: new contacts, new friendly faces, new insights on which agencies treat non-English speakers well (and not so well). Trainings offered through the NLC helped her better understand how to help clients deal with trauma and to practice self-care, among other skills. They also inspired her to develop a training program for would-be navigators in Westwood.

"Navigators have always been in the community, but they haven't been recognized, and they haven't been trained," she said. "If we have more navigators, we're going to have more people who are able to help and support families in their own needs, especially people who are afraid to go to the systems to ask for help. We need this type of help in the community."

Veronica Jimenez agrees that navigators can help people overcome the fears that prevent them from seeking help; she's seen it over and over again through her work with Latinxs, many of them Spanish speakers, who are in recovery from substance use disorders.

"A lot of people contact me, because they want to change their lives, but they don't yet know there is a different way of living," she says. "I go to them one by one. When I talk to them, I just listen, I don't judge them. I try to understand. I tell them, 'Yes, you can change. There is an opportunity.'"

As an independent navigator, Jimenez travels around the state, connecting people to 12-step recovery programs as well as a network of healthcare clinics and service providers.

The Navigators Learning Community helped her believe in the value of her work and personal mission. Being a navigator is not just a calling, it's a profession, she says.

"They told me, 'If you create a model that you think the community would benefit from, just do it, because you can have a great influence and help other people,'" she says. "They believed in me, that I could help a lot of people. And that helped me to find myself, my essence."

The Denver Foundation's Navigator Learning Community was the subject of an article in The Foundation Review, a leading, peer-reviewed journal about philanthropy. To read the article, please visit floodlight.denverfoundation.org.



ROSA MARIE
VERGIL VELASQUEZ

“
They told me, 'If you create a model that you think the community would benefit from, just do it, because you can have a great influence and help other people.'
”

VERONICA JIMENEZ



VERONICA
JIMENEZ



THE DENVER FOUNDATION



**Dick Winton cared
about this city.**

**So he gave to protect its
most vulnerable**

Richard “Dick” Winton was quiet about his philanthropy. When he learned about hunger in his community, he responded with a generous lifetime gift to the Critical Needs Fund at The Denver Foundation. He also quietly made arrangements to give through his estate to ensure that future community needs would be met. Since Dick’s passing, his generous bequest has fed the hungry and housed the homeless. It continues to provide a safety net for whatever challenges the city’s residents may face next.

That is quite a legacy.

**We can help you create your
charitable legacy.**

**Contact Kelly Purdy at 303.300.1790
kpurdy@denverfoundation.org**



A PLACE
AT THE TABLE

**FOR MANY
OF DENVER'S
ENTERPRISING
COOKS, FOOD IS
THE PATHWAY
TO SUCCESS.**

**A PHOTO ESSAY BY
FLOR BLAKE**



In Denver's thriving culinary scene, foodies can sample flavors and dishes from all over the world every day and night of the week. The offerings are even more delicious when they're served up by talented chefs who use food to build community and drive economic opportunity at the local level.

With support from the nonprofit community, food-based micro-enterprises have sprouted across the city in recent years. Here's a look at two of our favorite spots for mission-minded munching: Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center, a cafe and popular prep spot for many independent caterers, and Food Bridge International Marketplace, a food-business incubator in the La Alma neighborhood.

We guarantee these gathering places will satisfy your spirit as well as your appetite.





SUN VALLEY KITCHEN & COMMUNITY CENTER

JayLynn and Marquies Whisenton of Feeding the Multitudes (previous page) get ready to cook at Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center.

Irma Diaz (above) and Maria Guadalupe Rubio (opposite, lower left) of Mujeres Emprendedoras Cooperative.

A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Ruben Valentin (opposite, middle, with Drea Wiese) helms Sun Valley Kitchen's cafe. Valentin also operates his own catering company, Alma Kitchen and Catering, out of the center.







FOOD BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

Food Bridge International Market opened last year in the La Alma neighborhood. Cornelia Gamboa (left) of Dolce Nelly serves food and desserts from Peru and Chile at Food Bridge International Market every Thursday.



Asnake Deferse (below) carries staples from his native Ethiopia and other countries in the Sun Valley International Market. Sara Gebre (opposite) performs a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony for Food Bridge guests.





WHERE TO FIND THEM

FOOD BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL MARKETPLACE

998 Navajo Street, Denver
foodbridgedenver.com

Food Bridge International Marketplace provides a place for graduates of La Receta, a business accelerator for food entrepreneurs, to market and sell their food. La Receta is a program of Mi Casa Resource Center, a Denver Foundation grantee. Pop-up lunches are served every Tuesday and Thursday, 11 am-3 pm. All dishes are \$10 and under. Ethiopian coffee ceremonies are held every Saturday at 11 am.

SUN VALLEY KITCHEN & COMMUNITY CENTER

1260 Decatur Street, Denver
feedingsunvalley.com

The nonprofit Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center offers breakfast and lunch weekdays from 6:30 am-1:30 pm. Every Thursday, the menu features a special "Local Chef Highlight," prepared by a Sun Valley resident; the "Local Chef" program is a partnership between Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center and Mi Casa Resource Center. All dishes are under \$10.

ALMA KITCHEN AND CATERING

cateringbyalma.com

Ruben Valentin spent 10 years cooking in New York before taking over as chef at Sun Valley Kitchen & Community Center, where he oversees daily meals and the "Local Chef" program. His catering company, Alma Kitchen and Catering, specializes in modern, creative fare tailored to any occasion.

FEEDING THE MULTITUDES CATERING

ftmcatering.com

JayLynn Whisenton is a graduate of the Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Business Bootcamp Accelerator, which is supported by The Denver Foundation's Strengthening Neighborhoods program. Her dream is to make catering affordable for nonprofits and families that might not otherwise be able to afford it.

MUJERES EMPRENDEDORAS COOPERATIVE

colorado.coop/co-op/mujeres-emprendedoras-cooperative/

A woman-owned catering company based in Westwood, Mujeres Emprendedoras Cooperative is known for its healthy take on traditional Italian and Mexican foods, including the company's trademark tamales, which can be made for vegetarian and vegan diets.

1999

METRO
DENVER
GIVES

2019

HOPE AND

HEALING

**TWENTY YEARS AFTER TRAGEDY
CHANGED THEIR LIVES, FOUR COLUMBINE
SURVIVORS FIND COMFORT IN GIVING.**

WORDS BY ANGELLE C. FOUTHER
PHOTOS BY FLOR BLAKE



ELISA
KRAPCHA



Elisa Krapcha wanted to live out of state. For college. For a change of pace. For some distance.

Elisa was a sophomore at Columbine High School in 1999. In one day, her school and the community where she grew up transformed from a “dot on the map” to a “place the world descended upon,” she recalls. That horrifying day was incredibly difficult for Elisa, her parents, and her three brothers. But they were determined not to allow it to define them.

In 2001, Elisa was among the first group of 13 students to receive the Never Forgotten Scholarship, which is managed by The Denver Foundation. The scholarship made it possible for her to attend the University of Kansas.

After graduating, she stayed in Lawrence, where she worked at the university as an admissions counselor. Eventually, she felt the pull of home; Elisa moved back to Colorado five years ago.

“I loved my job, but when I visited home and saw friends and teachers still connected to the community and the high school, something tugged at me. I wanted to get involved,” she says.

Today, Elisa serves on the selection committee of the Never Forgotten Scholarship Fund, which convenes every year to decide who should receive the scholarship.

“I thought: This scholarship funded my education and allowed me to work for 14 years helping other students through the admissions process,” she says. “What other things has it made possible? Medical school? Post-secondary education?”

“Giving helps ensure those who are no longer here are not forgotten,” she continues. “Think about it: 13 people lost their lives, but every year 13, in their names, get an opportunity to live into their purpose. That comforts me.”



**TOM
TONELLI**

The Never Forgotten Fund is one example of how giving helps to ensure that Columbine's legacy is about more than tragedy. It's also about coming together in a community, building hope for the future, and honoring what might have been.

"What's really special is that the scholarships are given in the names of students who lost their lives," says Tom Tonelli, who honors the memory of the students who perished as well as the promise of current students by serving on the Never Forgotten Scholarship Committee. "I've nominated kids who remind me of Lauren Townsend and Isaiah Shoels and who emulate what they stood for."

Tom has a long history with Columbine High School. He graduated from the

school in 1988 and returned after college, in 1994, to teach social studies. Tom's wife is also a Columbine graduate, as are two of his four kids; the other two will attend when they're old enough. He loves the school, the community where it sits, and the young people who give him hope by giving of themselves.

Every year, Columbine students participate in a Day of Service on April 20; this year, more than 1,000 young people participated.

"What's interesting is none of the current students were even alive in 1999, yet they feel an incredible obligation and sense of gratitude for where they go to school," Tom says.

"Even before, this was a strong community," he adds. "But the students

have led the way. They have stepped out of their shells to help others."

Giving, community, and action have also been paths to healing for Dawn Anna, who lost her daughter, Lauren Townsend, in the shooting. When the family began receiving money as a gesture of condolence, they decided to put it to good use. They established the Lauren Townsend Memorial Wildlife Fund to honor Lauren and her love of animals; she worked at a veterinary hospital and was known to take extra care of the animals there.

Since 2002, the fund, which is managed by The Denver Foundation, has awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships and grants to organizations in Colorado and beyond, including Bluff Lake Nature Center, Butterfly Pavilion, and the Wild Animal



Sanctuary in Keenesburg, where a memorial plaque in Lauren's honor greets visitors.

"She always wanted to bring home dogs from the kennel," says Dawn. "Even at the ripe old age of seven, Lauren formed her own neighborhood recycling group. She used the money earned from recycling to donate to a wolf conservation organization.

"This is what Lauren would be doing if she were here," Dawn reflects. "She's making this happen."

Dawn wants to expand the Day of Service into a National Day of Recommitment. So far, Columbine's current Principal, Scott Christy, is on

board, and many other schools have expressed interest in joining in.

"I want people to remember how they felt when they got up after they fell down on their knees—how they wanted to recommit to being a better spouse, partner, mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, or friend," Dawn says.


Lauren's father, Rick Townsend, has made sure that good has come out of the tragedy. For the past eight years, he has served on the selection committee of the Never Forgotten Scholarship Fund.

"I love to see the applications and the incredible things the kids are doing," he says. "One young woman started an

initiative to provide shoes to kids in Africa. By the time she graduated, she had given away 50,000 pairs of shoes. This is just one example of the kind of students the scholarship has supported.


"The way the community handled the hurt was by giving back," he says. "A tremendous amount has come out of this: school safety measures, scholarships, Lauren's fund that supports animals. Several families even adopted other children after losing a child at Columbine."

Rick reflects on the fact that Lauren would have been 38 on January 17 of this year.



“This is what Lauren would be doing if she were here. She's making this happen.”

DAWN ANNA



Butterfly Pavilion is one of dozens of organizations that have received support from the Lauren Townsend Memorial Wildlife Fund, established to honor Lauren's love of animals. Photograph by Camila Bruce.

Rick reflects on the fact that Lauren would have been 38 on January 17 of this year.

"We traditionally have gotten together with some of Lauren's friends and their families on her birthday," he says. "Many of her friends have stayed in contact with us. We've taken care of their babies and gone to weddings. My wife Sue made the brides' veils. Some of our kids and grandkids also celebrate with us. It's total chaos, but it's a great way to remember Lauren and keep her spirit alive."



**RICK
TOWNSEND**

“
I love to see the incredible things
the kids are doing.”

RICK TOWNSEND

A CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

"Those we've lost can never be replaced," says Sharon Harper, Director of Scholarship Programs for The Denver Foundation. "But over the years I've seen the intentions and dreams of those students and that teacher carried forward in many ways by students who've been given a chance to attend college through scholarships."

In the wake of the Columbine shootings, many sought ways to help. People from across the state, and the globe, offered financial contributions to affected families and to the high school. The Denver Foundation was enlisted to help manage two

scholarship funds that were established as memorials.

The Never Forgotten Fund was established in 2001 by iHeartMedia, Inc. (formerly Clear Channel). Every year, the fund awards 13 scholarships, each named for one of the victims. To date, 241 recipients have received scholarships from this fund, with more than \$1.1 million granted.

The Columbine Memorial Scholarship Fund was founded by the now-defunct Rocky Mountain News and the Jeffco Schools Foundation using contributions from individuals, families, and businesses. The goal of the scholarship is to support students who will carry on the legacy of those lost by making a positive and lasting impact in the world. To date, 283 recipients of this scholarship have received a total of \$520,000.

Carol Cline, Administrative and Events Manager for The Denver Post Community Foundation, has served on the Columbine Memorial Fund Scholarship Committee for five years.

"I like to think that even though the tragedy at Columbine is something that has affected us all, something good has come out of it," she says. "The kids we've given scholarships to are just phenomenal."



**CAROL
CLINE**



THE DENVER FOUNDATION



Gwen Bowen loved to dance

**So she gave.
And keeps giving.**

As a beloved dance instructor, Gwen Bowen, known as "Miss B," touched thousands of young lives during her lifetime. Over a fifty year career, she taught in Denver Public Schools, at Metropolitan State University, and in her own studio, the Gwen Bowen School of Dance Arts. Because of her bequest to The Denver Foundation, Miss B and the Bowen Family Fund will connect generations of young people with limited resources to the joys of the performing arts.

That is quite a legacy.

**We can help you create your
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THE EULIPIONS

FUND

FOSTERING ARTISTIC EXPRESSION THROUGH
COMMUNITY-BASED PHILANTHROPY

BY DELE JOHNSON

The term “eulipion” was coined by jazz musician and virtuoso Rahsaan Roland Kirk: It means “author of love” or “journey agent.” It was a natural fit for a Denver-based nonprofit that places art and expression at the center of its mission. Eulipions, Inc. fosters, promotes, and preserves artistic expression with an emphasis on Colorado’s African-American heritage and lifestyles.

In November 2000, the group opened The Eulipions Fund as a field of interest fund at The Denver Foundation. The fund provides grants to generate, assist, increase, and encourage performing arts in Colorado’s African-American communities. Recognizing an opportunity to fill a need in their community by funding the arts, the Eulipions Board of Directors wanted to create “an endowment to benefit all arts groups,” says Board Member Darrell Nulan.

With this vision as their North Star, Eulipion members have spent nearly two decades focused on supporting local organizations that prioritize the enrichment and expansion of the performing arts and African-American heritage in communities spanning Metro Denver. To date, they have granted close to \$899,000. Acknowledging that there is

more than one way to advance the performing arts in communities of color, Eulipions has directed its philanthropy in a multitude of meaningful ways.



We dream of inspiring others to
follow in our footsteps.



It provides general operating support to organizations working to increase exposure to the performing arts within their community. It has supported institutions that provide education and training to performers at all levels of ability—novice, intermediate, and expert alike.

Eulipions has also funded organizations that offer historical reenactment, a form that harmoniously combines art and education, as an opportunity to underscore African-American heritage and lifestyles through performance.

Among those funded by Eulipions, you'll find what Board Member Venita Vinson deems "community-based and arts-driven" staples of Metro Denver's communities of color including Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, the Colorado Black Arts Festival, the Black American West Museum, and Su Teatro's Wordfest.

As Eulipions continues its philanthropic support of self-expression, social activism, and education through the performing arts, the group hopes to one day "expand beyond Metro Denver and fund organizations and institutions in other parts of the state," according to Board Member Wayne Cauthen. The goal is to "dream of inspiring others to follow in our footsteps" by supporting performing arts in the community with their time, talent, testimony, and treasure.

Opposite and right: Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is one of many arts organizations to receive support from The Eulipions Fund. Photos by Jerry Mettelus.



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YOUR PERSONAL IMPACT**



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THE DENVER FOUNDATION

→ RENÉE

BRINKERHOFF →

INSPIRING AND GIVING,
FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT

BY NICOLE BAKER

In 2013, Renée Brinkerhoff found herself behind the wheel of a 1956 Porsche 356 at the start of La Carrera Panamericana, a rally race across Mexico. She was shaking uncontrollably, but she pushed herself and eventually crossed the finish line. When she did, a first place award was waiting for her. Since that race, Renée has finished La Carrera Panamericana three more times.

For Renée, racing was a dream she had to pursue. Years ago, after meeting her husband while in college in Colorado, she set aside plans to study medicine to raise a growing family. Renée homeschooled the couple's four children, taking great joy in shaping them as people. After they left for college, Renée realized she could no longer quiet the voice in her head that had been saying, "One day, I'm going to race a car."

And she did. Renée founded Valkyrie Racing with a vision of inspiring other women to pursue their dreams regardless of whatever obstacles they may face. The team is currently in the middle of the Project 356 World Rally Tour, with the goal of racing one car on all seven continents, something no race team has ever done.

"As a female rally racer, I represent who we are as women," she says. "We can be gracious and tough competitors."

Renée's early life as the child of a foreign servant and businessman helped prepare her for racing. Her family moved often and embraced adventure, living abroad during periods of intense conflict. "I had to be flexible, learn to survive, and find strength within myself," Renée recalls. Learning to constantly adapt to new realities and discovering a love for exploring served her well decades later.

With her children grown, Renée found herself again through racing. It also gave her a platform for philanthropy, which she uses to inspire others to give. Through Valkyrie Gives, a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation, she finds a way to give back to communities in each country the team races in, with an emphasis on organizations that fight against child trafficking. She also invites others to join in the effort.

"When you hear people say 'I want to give,' it's so rewarding to know that you've moved them," she says. "It doesn't matter what they give. It's about challenging others to see themselves as givers in a new way."

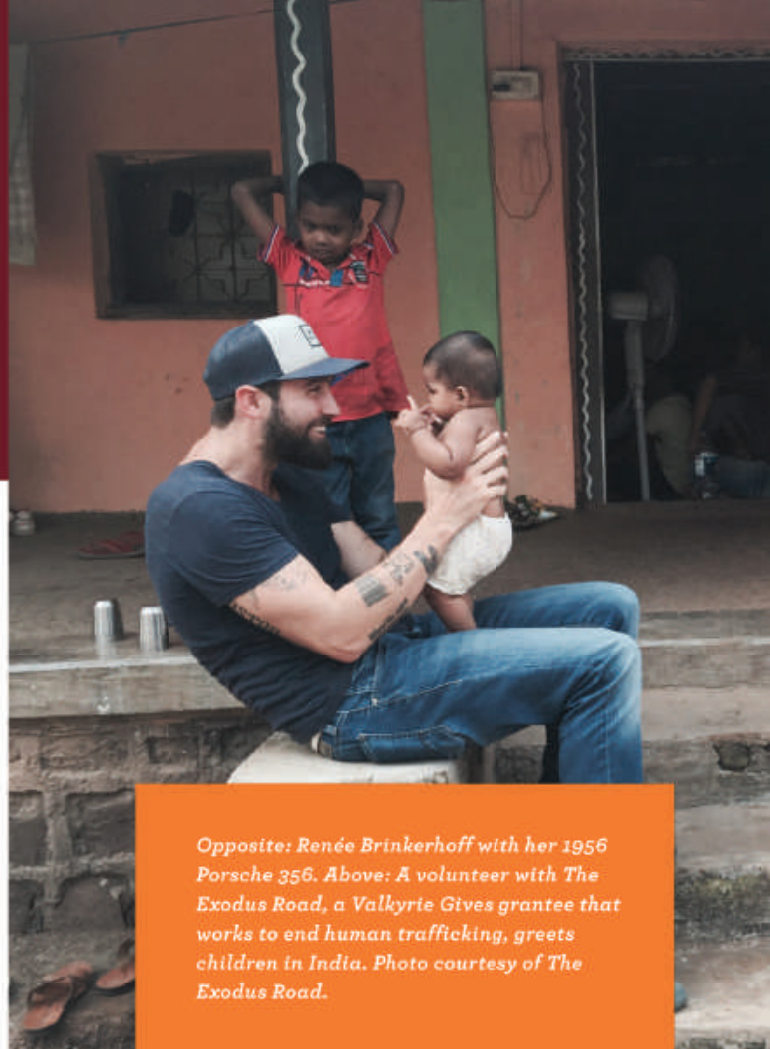
“

I had to be flexible, learn to survive, and find strength within myself.

”

When asked what she loves most about racing, Renée says it's the sensation of being “totally in tune. You're clicking off the turns, the sensation of you, the car, and the navigator being in union—it's exhilarating. When those three things come together perfectly, it's the rally trinity.”

She still gets nervous on race days, but her faith in God, the support of her family, and a sharp focus on the road ahead help her continue to realize her dreams, one turn at a time.



Opposite: Renée Brinkerhoff with her 1956 Porsche 356. Above: A volunteer with The Exodus Road, a Valkyrie Gives grantee that works to end human trafficking, greets children in India. Photo courtesy of The Exodus Road.



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THE RECOVERY FOUNDATION

BY LAURA BOND

STEPPING IN TO HELP
THOSE STRUGGLING WITH
SUBSTANCE USE ILLNESS

For 42 years, Arapahoe House was the go-to provider of detox and intensive inpatient residential treatment in Metro Denver. Every year, more than 5,000 men and women in the throes of addiction went to Arapahoe House to begin the long journey toward recovery. When Arapahoe House closed in January 2018, it created a huge service gap for low-income people in need of interventions for substance use illness.

That's when the members of The Recovery Foundation came together to help ensure vulnerable people struggling with addiction, especially women, were able to access ongoing care. Their mission is to activate and improve spaces that were formerly run by Arapahoe House, with the fewest possible interruptions in service. They have partnered with providers and state and local agencies to keep the doors open on facilities across Metro Denver.

For example, a residential program for women with young children will reopen in Littleton this year after an extensive renovation of the building, and The Recovery Foundation members recently made a grant to help Jefferson Center for Mental Health purchase property for a sober women's home in Arvada.

The Recovery Foundation was originally established by former members of one of Arapahoe House's two governing boards. When Arapahoe House closed, The Recovery Foundation spun off as an independent entity; it joined The

Denver Foundation as a supporting organization in 2018.

The Recovery Foundation's primary activity is investing in quality, residential treatment for substance use illness. This includes ongoing post-rehab supports for men and women adjusting to early sobriety, which can be physically, mentally, and emotionally uncomfortable and disorienting. The Recovery Foundation also exists to address misconceptions about what substance use illness is and whom it affects.

"Substance use illness is a disease, and it's important to erase the stigma that surrounds it," says Board Member Laura Conry, who has lost family members to addiction. "It's at the center of so many social issues—mental health and other co-occurring diseases. It's important to get the message out that it impacts communities in ways that are beyond the personal. It impacts families, communities, employers, and children. People think it's a character flaw. It's absolutely not."

"We all have to pitch in, to help change this," adds Patti Robinson, who joined the Arapahoe House board after her father, the founder of Argonaut Liquors, stepped down after many years. She says her family has long acted on their feeling of responsibility to support the recovery community. "It's all about dialogue and taking the shame away from it."

For support for substance use illness, please contact coloradocrisisservices.org. For information on how to form a supporting organization of The Denver Foundation, please call The Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.

THREE QUESTIONS

FOR AARON MIRIPOL OF
URBAN LAND CONSERVANCY



With 30 years of community development experience and a distinct focus on neighborhood preservation, Aaron Miripol is known for bringing unique, forward-thinking approaches to his work as Executive Director of Urban Land Conservancy (ULC), a Denver Foundation partner that purchases real estate that provides direct benefit to people across Metro Denver. Aaron has led efforts to develop the first tiny home village in Colorado, created national models for keeping real estate permanently affordable, and incorporated community land trusts (CLTs) into small and large-scale developments that ensure permanent affordability. We asked Aaron about what more can be done to make our region an equitable place for all residents.

1 What makes you feel optimistic about the future of affordable housing in our community?

I'm cautiously optimistic that Metro Denver and the state are finally realizing we need significant resources to address our growing housing crisis. We have more than a 130,000-unit shortfall statewide and a 70,000-unit shortfall in Metro Denver, which doubled over the last decade. Denver has led the way in bringing new resources to address the growing displacement of residents. We need to see that same effort in surrounding municipalities and at the state level.

Urban Land Conservancy is an independent 501(c)3 and supporting organization of The Denver Foundation. For more information, visit urbanlandc.org

2 You emphasize the importance of permanently affordable space. Why?

Real estate prices are displacing our nonprofits. Providing affordable space allows them to continue to serve the communities and provides stability in their operations, which also reduces displacement. The rent we charge is far below market, a cost savings that allows organizations to invest more in programming.

3 How does ULC create partnerships to support community development?

The new \$50 million Metro Denver Impact Facility (MDIF) partnership is very high impact. To address the growing affordable housing and

nonprofit facility shortfall, we needed low-interest capital that can be deployed quickly. The MDIF is the first locally managed resource with FirstBank, and both the senior and junior lenders (including The Denver Foundation) are connected to the real estate ULC is acquiring across the region.

Another example of positive impact: At Holly Square, we worked with The Denver Foundation to determine how to best redevelop the property. The relationships the Foundation has with stakeholders and long-standing residents helped drive an inclusive and community-driven redevelopment that now includes the Vickers Boys and Girls Club and a school facility. ULC owns the land under these buildings, so we ensure that whatever organization is located there over the next 198 years will provide community benefit.



ASK TDF

In every issue, we answer questions about philanthropy, giving, and community. Have a question? Email givelistens@denverfoundation.org.

After I graduated from high school, I received a scholarship that made it possible for me to pursue higher education. Now that I'm doing well, I'd like to pay it forward by establishing a scholarship for others. How do I do that?

— GRATEFUL GRADUATE



We applaud you, Scholar! Opening a scholarship fund is one way to make a meaningful impact in the lives of others. Most often, donors establish funds that assist high school seniors seeking postsecondary education. However, some funds focus on other areas such as tuition for summer camp or support for students attending technical or graduate school. No matter what resonates with you, TDF staff are here to help guide you through the process of creating your own scholarship award.

The first question to ask yourself: What are you passionate about? As you start to think about what type of opportunity you want to create, what is the inspiration behind establishing a scholarship? Whom do you hope will benefit? What impact do you hope your opportunity has in the community? The answers to these questions will help you, and us, figure out what type of fund is right for you.

When you're ready, The Denver Foundation strives to make the process of setting up your scholarship fund simple. We're happy to explore ways to establish funds using complex assets such as real estate or appreciated stock. One popular approach is to leave a testamentary gift to support students after your lifetime. The size and type of your gift may also influence whether your fund is endowed or non-endowed. We recommend you consult with your financial or legal advisor to identify the optimum asset for your personal situation in establishing your fund. We'll walk through the process with you, every step of the way.



So many individuals and families in our community are struggling. How can I help people in need of a little extra cash?

— HOPEFUL HELPER

From the mother standing on a street corner holding a sign to a colleague facing huge medical bills, a lot of people in our community could use a little extra help. At The Denver Foundation, we often receive questions about how to direct philanthropic dollars to help those in urgent need.

The good news is that there is a growing universe of tools that make this type of giving easier. And as with many things, the details are important.

First, while giving to individuals is a very charitable activity, it is not a deductible one. This means that tools of philanthropy such as donor-advised funds cannot be used to support individuals. (Gifts from these funds must be made to nonprofit organizations.) It also means there are different, and potentially important, tax implications for both you and the recipient. Large transfers of cash to people you know might trigger gift tax implications;

there might be income tax considerations on the receiving end, as well.

With that out of the way, what are some of the ways that you can support individuals? Sites like GoFundMe, which allow gifts to be made directly to individuals, are an option. GoFundMe reports that \$650 million per year flows through its site to support health care, and nearly 300,000 campaigns in the United States have been related to homelessness. But there's a significant caveat here: Unlike nonprofit organizations that follow laws and have governing bodies, these sites are largely unregulated and have no oversight ensuring that funds are used legitimately. Also, not all people have access to the technology or networks to fuel this type of giving. Just like supporting nonprofits, helping individuals calls for caution and due diligence.

Another option is to find direct service organizations that work with people in need. There are outstanding local nonprofits that provide food, emergency shelter, rent and mortgage assistance, health care, scholarships, and much more. While you won't be able to specify the individual recipient, you can potentially have a broad impact. Another advantage is that direct service organizations are often able to provide resources at a lower cost, which means your charitable dollars can go further.

The Denver Foundation works with hundreds of nonprofits across Metro Denver; we're happy to help you make a gift to one that fits with how and where you'd like to help others. Please call The Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790, or visit our website, denverfoundation.org.

1



2



1. Melanie Ulle (left) and Julie Fletcher (right) received the 2018 Philanthropic Leadership Award in November. Denver Foundation Trustee L. William Schmidt, Jr. (center) received the Philanthropic Legacy Award. 2. (From left) Charlie Atkins, Bethany Atkins, Carolyn Asher, and Mike Asher at a Community Legacy Society event in April.

3



4



3. Kate Bermingham (left) and Linda Campbell at the Environmental Affinity Group's "Pitch Night," held at Blue Moon Brewery in December. 4. Lizeth Chacón, Executive Director of Colorado People's Alliance, presents at "Pitch Night." 5. LatinasGive! Members Cynthia Gallegos (left), Jessica Rodriguez (center), and Daniela Rivera gathered in November to celebrate the giving circle's 2018 grantees. 6. Community Legacy Society member Barbara Berv tries out virtual reality at a February issue briefing on innovations in mental health, hosted at History Colorado by the Colorado Health Access Fund.

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7. (From left) Panelists Dr. Carl Clark of Mental Health Center of Denver, Peggy Hill of the National Mental Health Innovation Center, Colorado State Representative Leslie Herod, and Mary Horgan discussed the changing landscape of behavioral health care in Colorado at an event for fundholders. 8. The Executive Directors of Color Institute gathered in December to celebrate seven members who completed their two-year journey with the program in 2018. 9. "Decolonizing Wealth" author Edgar Villanueva (left) with Trustee Harold Fields (center) and LaDawn Sullivan, Director of Leadership & Equity, in March.

Look inside this magazine
and you'll see all we've done together.

Look around and
you'll see there's still
plenty we can do.

Since 1925, we've come a long way with the help of many people. But our work is far from over. Make a gift for immediate use in our core areas of focus: Basic Human Needs, Economic Opportunity, Education, and Leadership & Equity. Or, make a gift for tomorrow, so that no matter how Metro Denver's needs grow and change, we'll always be able to meet them.

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