



THE DENVER FOUNDATION

# give

WINTER

2020

INTRODUCING

JAVIER ALBERTO SOTO

P.20

OUR NEW LEADER HAS IDEAS AND ENERGY—AND HE'S EAGER TO HEAR FROM YOU

THE HOUSE THAT LOVE BUILT: INSIDE THE ZINK FAMILY'S HOME,  
DESIGNED TO MEET THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS. P.14

STORIES OF METRO DENVER PHILANTHROPY

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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.

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On the Cover:  
Javier Alberto Soto at  
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Flor Blake.

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JAVIER ALBERTO  
SOTO



## LEARNING TOGETHER

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Dear friends,

I've always believed that the best way to get to know a place is to wander, walk, and move through it, observing, questioning, and most of all, listening. That's why, in my early days with The Denver Foundation, I've ridden my bike all over the Metro Area, meeting folks where they live and work, hearing what is important to them. I want to know about the difficulties they face as well as their aspirations for themselves, their families, and the future of this great city. I want to hear their thoughts on The Denver Foundation itself—what we do well, what we can do better.

So much of what I hear is shared in the form of story. Stories are what make another's experiences come alive. That's why I'm so excited to share this issue of Give Magazine, which is filled with stories that represent the diversity, generosity, and solutions-oriented spirit of this community, as well as the depth and breadth of The Denver Foundation's work.

In our cover story, you can learn a bit about me, including my early life in Miami, where I was introduced to the idea of philanthropy by my generous and faithful parents. Throughout my career in the public sector and the philanthropic arena, my values of humility and service have been my north star. I really mean what I say in the story: Community foundations have a deep responsibility to the people they serve. You can expect me to take that responsibility very seriously every day.

In 2020, The Denver Foundation enters its 95th year. We have always responded to the immediate needs of the community with an eye to the future. I'll need your input to understand those needs as well as what it will mean to take care of the future into the next 95 years. Please let me hear from you. Look for me out and about in our community, and follow me on Twitter at @javiso303. I promise I'll be listening.

Enjoy Give! Sending best wishes for happy holidays and a hopeful new year.

Javier Alberto Soto



## A STEP FORWARD

**"A MILE IN MY SHOES" ENCOURAGED US TO WALK ANOTHER'S PATH.**

In August, a giant shoe box appeared on Denver's 16th Street Mall across from Union Station. Inside were more than 30 pairs of shoes—along with recorded stories from those who walked in them. The project was part of the Biennial of the Americas Festival exhibit "A Mile in My Shoes," which allowed visitors to literally try on someone else's shoes while listening to their story.

The idea for this exhibit—a traveling part of British artist Clare Patey's Empathy Museum—is that listening to someone's story while putting yourself in their place builds empathy and understanding.

If you missed the exhibit, which ran through late September, you can still hear some of the recordings; visit [empathymuseum.com](http://empathymuseum.com) to learn more.





# REACHING OUT



## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY- PUEBLO WELCOMES THE REISHER SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

While many scholarships help students get started on their college journey, the Reisher Scholars Program is uniquely designed to provide students with the financial means to finish and graduate on time. With the expansion of the Reisher Scholars Program to Colorado State University-Pueblo, this life-changing opportunity will extend to hundreds of deserving students in Southern Colorado in the years to come.

CSU-Pueblo will soon join six other public universities in Colorado that currently offer the scholarship, which supports rising sophomores who have completed their first year, or students transferring from a community college to a university. There are more than 300 scholars in the program across Colorado.

The Reisher Scholarship is an “unmet need” award, meaning each scholar’s financial package is taken into consideration. The program fills the remaining gap in the cost of attendance, with gifts ranging from \$4,000-\$11,000.

Colorado State University-Pueblo will introduce its first cohort of Reisher Scholars in the fall of 2020.

— CAM WELCH





# CLEAN AND BRIGHT

**WITH A PUSH FROM THE SUN, COLORADO'S FIRST MOBILE PRESCHOOL KEEPS ROLLING.**

What do you call a preschool in a bus powered by the sun? The Aspen Community Foundation calls it Gus the Bus, the first mobile preschool licensed in Colorado, which serves students in Garfield County. Last year, the Xcel Energy Renewable Energy Trust gave a \$25,000 grant to help fund installation of six 1,680-watt solar panels on the roof of the bus.

Gus the Bus, a mobile classroom space with full lighting, air conditioning, heating, a sound system and internet, swaps solar energy for the heavy diesel generators normally used to power temporary classrooms. Compared to a conventional classroom, the bus uses far less energy and fuel and emits less greenhouse gas. The bus has helped more than 600 students enter kindergarten on the same level as their peers.

"It's satisfying to see the impact of Renewable Energy Trust

grants on the organizations and the broader community," said Kynnie Martin, Senior Foundation Representative of Xcel Energy. "Xcel Energy is pleased to work with our partners to advance renewable energy."

The Renewable Energy Trust is a donor-advised fund administered by The Denver Foundation. Since its founding in 1996, the trust has granted more than \$2 million to more than 70 nonprofits across Colorado. The funds enable organizations and public entities to install renewable energy projects to reduce their carbon footprint and decrease energy costs, which support Xcel Energy's vision to serve customers with 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

To learn more, search "RET" on [denverfoundation.org](http://denverfoundation.org).

— NICOLE BAKER

*Photo by Pat Sudmeier, courtesy of Aspen Community Foundation*

## MAKE IT COUNT

**WHY A SUCCESSFUL 2020 CENSUS IS SO IMPORTANT.**



It's hard to overstate how much is at stake in the 2020 Census: millions of dollars for things like food assistance, basic health services, child care, and education. For every person not counted in Colorado, the state will lose \$2,800 in critical service dollars—not just in 2020, but every year for 10 years.

That's why The Denver Foundation recently pledged \$100,000 to Together We Count, a Denver-based nonprofit that supports on-the-ground outreach and education among historically undercounted populations, including children, rural residents, individuals of color, immigrants, the elderly, and those experiencing homelessness.

This fall, Together We Count will award \$240,000 in mini-grants to organizations across the Metro region. This initiative is also supported by Rose Community Foundation, the Merle Chambers Fund, The Colorado Health Foundation, and others.

"It's a great opportunity for local communities to find creative ways to reach out to neighbors and constituents who would otherwise not fill out the census forms and encourage them to participate," says Dace West, Vice President of Community Impact for The Denver Foundation. "The resources that come to our community through the Census are what make the real difference in the health and well-being of our people. It's essential that we get it right."

To learn how you can support the 2020 Census, please visit [togetherwecount.org](http://togetherwecount.org) and [2020census.gov](http://2020census.gov).





# MOVING MOUNTAINS

BRIEFS

"I wish the play would go on forever.  
May I come back again?"

That's what one audience member said after seeing "Mountains Made for Us," a Bollywood-style musical that played to sold-out crowds at Aurora's Vintage Theatre in August. A true community effort, the production featured a cast of nearly two dozen performers, including many who have come to the Denver area from Nepal, Ethiopia, and Burma. The production drew people from across Metro Denver, including many new

Americans, for whom it was their first time seeing a play in the United States.

"Mountains Made for Us" was created by Roshni, a theater group for "those at the margins." Roshni founder Deepali Lindblom was born in India and lived in Sweden and Canada before coming to the U.S. She uses dance, story, and other arts to build community, share cultural traditions, and provide a welcoming and fun experience for those who are navigating new lives in a new place.

Roshni is supported by The Denver Foundation's Strengthening Neighborhoods program. The group is currently developing a new work, "Bridging with Bollywood," which will be shaped by the experiences of immigrant, refugee, and American women who come together to create art and friendships. Roshni also offers community dance classes that are open to the public.

For more information, please visit [roshniislight.org](http://roshniislight.org).



METRO  
DENVER  
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**A VISIONARY  
MODEL OF COMMUNITY  
INVESTMENT,  
TRANSFORMING SAFETY  
PUTS RESOURCES  
INTO PEOPLE, NOT  
PRISONS.**





*Rega, Krista, Amee, and Edward are students of the Mobile Culinary Classroom, a Work Options for Women program funded with a grant from Transforming Safety.*

I was born and raised in McDowell County, West Virginia, a community affected by mass incarceration, poverty, and crime. There was no funding for services or supports; the county resorted to opening more prisons to stay afloat economically. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, McDowell County has only 18,000 people but three prisons. Two of those prisons opened in the 2000s.

Some of my friends and family are prison guards. Some of my friends and family are prisoners. That fact saddens both sets of people because we know outcomes could have been different if our community had resources to prevent crime.

I've seen on this micro-scale what opening more prisons does to a community. It was true in West Virginia, and it's true in Colorado, which is home to 25 prisons that house more than 20,000 people. That's why I wanted to learn more about Transforming Safety.

Transforming Safety is a visionary approach to public safety that invests in strategies that strengthen communities to prevent crime in the first place. Instead of opening more jails and prisons, Transforming Safety is built on the

understanding that communities themselves know what they need better than any outside entity does—and that those communities should have the power to put resources where they will be most beneficial to the people who live there.

"Transforming Safety is not about courts, cops, and cages," said Christie Donner, Executive Director of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition (CCJRC), which led the Transforming Safety initiative through a community planning process and to the Colorado State Legislature. "The philosophy is pretty simple: Communities within themselves have the capacity to solve problems and create opportunity. What's always missing are the resources.

"On a bigger-picture level, we're hoping it actually transforms how we think about safety," added Donner. "We've assumed that the criminal justice system is the best place to look for public safety. The truth of the matter is, it's the community. It's in our families, it's in our schools, it's in our faith entities. That's where you build safety."

Transforming Safety reinvests \$4 million annually in savings from parole reforms into pilot programs in North Aurora and Southeast Colorado Springs. The programs were designed



## METRO DENVER GIVES

with heavy input from residents of both communities. They include small-business loans to entrepreneurs and grants and technical assistance for community organizations. For comparison, \$4 million in community reinvestment is equivalent to only 39 hours of the Colorado Department of Corrections' annual budget. The Denver Foundation, which manages Transforming Safety's community grants process, has distributed \$7.8 million to 46 organizations to date.

"Folks from the neighborhoods set the grant boundaries, reviewed crime data, pored over statistics on school performance and out-of-school suspensions, interviewed their neighbors, and crafted the grant priorities that guide the grantmaking in both communities," said Patrick Horvath, Director of Economic Opportunity for The Denver Foundation. Horvath noted that Transforming Safety has invested in small grassroots organizations that do not have access to typical state-run grants programs, which operate on a reimbursement basis.

"Both Transforming Safety communities have deeply connected and passionate community leaders who do amazing work but who could never compete for funds in a complicated state reimbursement-based grant program," Horvath continued. "The genius of Transforming Safety is that the Department of Corrections Funds are transferred to the Department of Local Affairs, which then grants them

*Above: Christie Donner, far left, with staff from the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, which led a broad community planning process to develop Transforming Safety. Opposite: Rega and Edward practice culinary skills in the Mobile Culinary Classroom.*



directly to The Denver Foundation to distribute. This has allowed many small groups to get their first grant and to strengthen the impact they've been having in their own neighborhoods for years, often as volunteers."

## BEGINNING THE TRANSFORMATION

Transforming Safety began with CCJRC, which was founded in 1999 to advance community health and safety and decrease the presence of the criminal justice system in Colorado. Led by people convicted of crime and survivors of crime as well as their families and allies, CCJRC exists to advocate for the incarcerated—and prevent others from being lost to the system of mass incarceration. To shape the legislation that would become Transforming Safety, CCJRC sought direct input from

communities and neighborhoods most impacted by over-policing, mass incarceration, and crime. They learned that community investment in the form of support for nonprofit organizations and small businesses was a major need.

"This was designed for sustainable impact in community, and we're presenting it to people that way, and telling them, 'This is not like something else, this is not like someone parachuting into a community and saying, 'We're gonna rescue you. We're gonna save you.' We know exactly what you need,'" said Hassan Latif, Executive Director of the Second Chance Center in Aurora, a Transforming Safety partner and grantee that helps formerly incarcerated people transition into society.

"This is a group of community members deciding what's important and resources being directed into



those areas,” he added. “That’s unique, when it comes to solutions-focused approaches to community problems.”

Transforming Safety passed the Colorado State Legislature in 2017 with bipartisan support. Colorado became the only state in the U.S. to reinvest money from the Department of Corrections directly into communities.

“We can take credit for some things, but this is really about what the community has done,” said Donner. “We put words on paper; we don’t make it come to life.”

With Donner’s words in my ear, I sought out two examples of how

the community has lifted the Transforming Safety vision off the paper and brought it to life.

## WORK OPTIONS FOR WOMEN'S MOBILE CULINARY CLASSROOM

Work Options for Women (WOW) is a workforce training program that received a Transforming Safety grant to help formerly incarcerated people transitioning from halfway houses overcome barriers to sustainable employment. WOW ensures that its graduates have culinary and job-readiness skills and ongoing support to pursue sustainable careers in food service. Since 1997, WOW has trained and employed over 3,000 people in Metro Denver. Julie Stone, WOW’s Executive Director, and

Bailey Denmark, the organization’s Development Director, explained the reality for people living in halfway houses as one example of the challenges that await a person newly released from prison. Halfway houses are privately owned, for-profit businesses that charge their residents rent. In Denver, that rent ranges from \$20-\$25 per day (\$620-\$775 per month). So residents accrue daily debt while transitioning from incarceration. Plus living with the fear of not being employable. Plus other logistical, emotional, and societal barriers that make reentry difficult.

These factors make people want to find work wherever they can, so they can leave halfway houses as soon as possible. But that work may not always be sustainable. One way that WOW has helped fill that unforgiving gap in the system is through the Mobile Culinary Classroom (MCC), a fast-track training program that reduces

The philosophy is pretty simple:  
Communities within themselves  
have the capacity to solve  
problems and create opportunity.







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barriers like transportation that can lead some to drop out of training programs run out of WOW's central office. Students leave the program with Prep Cook Certification and two cognitive behavior classes under their belts. After the four-week training, they move on to job searches.

In 2018, WOW received a \$70,000 grant for the MCC from Transforming Safety, which was renewed in 2019. Stone and Denmark note that before they had the Mobile Culinary Classroom, they would enroll 150 students and 50—or 33%—would become sustainably employed, which was still above the national average of 20% for similar programs. In 2018, after starting the MCC with support from Transforming Safety, WOW enrolled 199 students, and 101 became sustainably employed (50%). This year, every one of the 33 students enrolled in the MCC is employed (100%).

— “ —

**This is a group of community members deciding what's important, and resources being directed into those areas.**

— ” —

“This population is very serious about becoming a part of our workforce,” says Stone.

### **BREAKING CHAINS, BUILDING BONDS AT THE ROCK CENTER**

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My next visit was to see Pastor Corbin Tobey-Davis and Aubrey Valencia, who run Breaking Chains, Building Bonds at the Rock Center, housed in Parkview Church in Aurora. This transformational healing program uses storytelling and the arts to help parents learn new coping skills to handle the trauma that caused them to

get involved in the justice system. The ultimate goal is to help parents rebuild and maintain strong family bonds.

In 2018, the Rock Center received a \$25,000 grant from Transforming Safety to support the program. The grant was renewed in 2019.

While I sat with Pastor Tobey-Davis, Valencia walked in, flustered. A few blocks away, she'd seen uniformed men with assault rifles walking in the road, peering into parked cars. She couldn't tell what enforcement agency they belonged to, but guessed maybe ICE. Pastor Davis and Valencia were both





*Pastor Corbin Tobey-Davis (far left), Ronnie Harvey, and Aubrey Valencia of the Breaking Chains, Building Bonds program, also supported by a Transforming Safety grant.*

concerned about how that would affect the community and what, if anything, could be done about it. I mention this because this type of holistic awareness and concern for the individual to the larger community is the essence of Breaking Chains, Building Blocks.

Valencia talked about not using dehumanizing labels such as “felon” or “ex-con” because people are more than that. She recalled leading a workshop called Parenting with PTSD, when one of the men came in feeling guilty because he had a rough week. She told him, “This is the first time in your life that you recognized you were triggered. This is the first step toward healing PTSD.”

A couple of the men in the program have since reunited with their children, Valencia noted. She met with them a couple of weeks ago, and they brought their kids. “It was so cool to see how happy they were,” she said. Those men will be coming back to the program this year as paid peer mentors.

Pastor Tobey-Davis pointed to a candleholder on the shelf. “That’s a

circle of people with their arms around each other. The Rock Center logo is also that,” he said. “One of the key pieces of this program is this circle model. We start each session in a circle. Some of the feedback that we got is that so many of these men received workshops where they were talked at, but we said, ‘We are part of this journey together.’ We created a culture of ‘We’re gonna learn from each other in this circle. We’re gonna be part of this circle.’”

Before Transforming Safety, Pastor Tobey-Davis added, the question was always, “We’re doing the work; now how do we begin to access resources to allow us to expand the work?”

Transforming Safety, and its continued funding, is the “how.” It was originally slated to sunset in 2020, but in 2019, the Legislature passed a three-year extension (Senate Bill 19-064) that earned Gov. Jared Polis’ signature in May. The Legislature will conduct a sunset review in 2023. Through a competitive grants process, The Denver Foundation will continue to distribute \$2.6 million annually in community

grants to organizations like WOW and The Rock Center, which are serving the unique needs of the community in holistic, collaborative ways.

The more I learned and met people who are doing the real and necessary work, I could see what Transforming Safety is about: collaboration, care, and commitment to community.



*Steven Dunn is the author of the novels Potted Meat and water & power. He was born and raised in West Virginia, and after 10 years in the Navy, he earned a bachelor’s degree in creative writing from the University of Denver.*









GIVING IN ACTION

# HOUSE LOVE BUILT

PHOTOS BY FLOR BLAKE  
WORDS BY LAURA BOND





The Zink Family designed a home  
to meet their family's unique needs.  
Through their giving, they help meet  
the needs of a special community.

**L**ee and Kiera Zink knew the new house had to be perfect. Not just functional for a busy family of four, not just comfortable, not just beautiful. Their first home, an historic bungalow in Washington Park, was beautiful, even once featured in the pages of a Colorado design magazine. But it was cramped, and climbing up and down the stairs was exhausting, especially with their young children in their arms. The

space didn't work for Kiera, Lee, or their son Nico. And it especially didn't work for their daughter Jordan.

Jordan, who is four, was born with a rare genetic disorder called Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome. Though her eyes are large, bright, and distinct, the disease has caused her blindness as well as deafness and global delays. According to Kiera, the crowded bungalow was just too much for Jordan to navigate.

"We loved that house, but life happens, and things change," she says. "There was stuff everywhere. We were always running into everything, bumping into things. We realized it was time to find something that fit us better, where Jordan could move around the house with some independence and some freedom."

In 2018, after two years of careful planning, design, building, and fine-tuning, the Zinks moved into a large ranch house in a Denver suburb. It's the family's dream house, but not because of its chic urban farmhouse style or the kid-friendly lake that sits a few hundred feet from the back door. It's a dream because it was built to suit them perfectly.

The house is fully accessible, built according to the principles of universal design, which are meant to improve a space for anyone and everyone who might use it. It has an open-concept floor plan, and every doorway is flush to the ground and wide enough to comfortably accommodate Jordan in her walker and wheelchair, which she pilots expertly. Pocket doors slide into walls, rather than opening in or out of a room. The main floor contains most of the family living space, including Jordan's bedroom. She can roll easily into her shower, and her bathroom sink is at a wheelchair-friendly height. Her racks of clothes, her swing, her stuffed animals—everything is within reach.



Jordan's bed, which can be raised and lowered, is undeniably cool, as is the automatic faucet that turns water on and off. But the real piece de resistance of the house is the sensory-friendly room just off the main entrance. Lit by floor-to-ceiling tubes filled with bubbles, it glows green, blue, and pink. There are three types of swings and a LiteBrite-style table; the floor is covered with mats and balls of all sizes.

Nico, three, knows it as a kind of fantasy romper room, filled with objects any child would find irresistible. For Jordan, it's a place for learning and exploration. The LED lights from the tubes, set against dark walls, stimulate her vision; the velocity and motion of the swing make her smile.

"She is a thrill-seeker—swinging, anything to do with motion," says Kiera. "We chose items for the room that she can grow into. We wanted a space where she could explore without us always being behind her. She isn't mobile yet, but we're hopeful that one day she will walk and be able to interact with things in the room in a new way."

The Zinks consulted with experts in universal and accessible design (see sidebar on page 19) to determine what would make their home truly

**"She is a  
thrill-seeker—  
swinging, anything  
to do with motion."**

accessible for Jordan, both now and later in life. They also sought support from a local network of parents with uniquely challenged children.

"The term 'it takes a village' of people around us that

project on. She did so much research and spoke with other parents about what would they add, what would they change about their current living situations. She became the expert," says Lee. "We learned early on that the information we were seeking was not easily accessible. We had to reach out to figure out how to build a house that meets all of the needs for now, when Jordan is a four-year-old, as well as whatever comes up in the future."

Lee and Kiera also got lots of advice and support from the community and staff of

families per year. "And not just for the children. They provide so many things for parents—trainings, educators who come in when your child is there to make sure you are getting the best support, and connection to resources. They help you feel that you're not alone, that there are people there who understand you and your child."

"Every parent wants to be able to provide their child with tools for success," says Lee, holding Jordan, pushing her ash-blond curls off of her face. "By



support not only her but our whole family is an understatement," says Kiera. "It's an amazing community of people who are willing to reach out. That has been a huge source of encouragement."

"Kiera really took this

the Anchor Center for Blind Children, which has been a grounding force for the family since the early days of Jordan's diagnosis. "It's impossible to express how amazing of a place it is," says Kiera of the Center, which serves about 175 infants, children, and their

doing this, we give every opportunity for Jordan to meet her needs and live a more fulfilling life. It gives us a place where we can see growth and her developmental paths. And for all of us, as an environment, we feel like we have a safe space for



## GIVING IN ACTION

everyone. It's a sanctuary feeling for us as a family." Lee and Kiera know they are fortunate to have the resources to provide whatever will help their daughter become as successful as possible. A former professional lacrosse player, Lee is a vice president of a prominent oil and gas corporation based in Colorado. Kiera was a successful sales executive before she became a full-time caretaker and advocate for children and families with special challenges. They're able to provide for Jordan at a high level.

And they also share some of those resources to help other families. The Zinks have seen

what a difference skilled specialists and educators, especially teachers of the visually impaired, have made for Jordan and children with similar challenges.

**"We all have needs.  
These children just  
have different needs."**

They've also become aware that there's a significant shortage of these types of educators working in the field. That's why, with support from their extended family, they established the Zink Family Scholarship Fund at The

Denver Foundation, which provides financial support for the advanced study of special education.

"We wanted to create more opportunities for individuals interested in going into these fields of expertise," says Kiera. "It really has to be someone who is passionate about working with kids who have challenges. If you find someone like that, you want to give them as much support as possible.

"We are inspired every day by not only Jordan's resilience but all children with special needs," she continues. "With more interventions, teachers, therapists, special educators, and supports set up for these

children to thrive, the more successful they can become."

So far, the Zinks have awarded eight scholarships and plan to continue their giving. The idea for the fund was planted when the whole Zink family financially supported the advanced education of their former nanny, Caroline Calabrese, who completed her master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education and now teaches at the Anchor Center. They saw what a difference their help made.

"When she worked for us, she was a great, fast learner, and she fell in love with Jordan and the whole field," says Kiera. "We as a family funded



*The family at home:  
(clockwise from left) Lee,  
Nico, Kiera, and Jordan  
Zink in the backyard of their  
custom house.*



“

Every parent wants to be able to provide their child with tools for success.

”



her degree, and through this process became very inspired by her story, her success, and how she found her way through our family. She found her path while working alongside us.”

In their own home and in the special community they’re part of, Kiera and Lee are working toward a future where more people understand children like Jordan, and have skills, empathy, and passion to help them thrive.

“We all have needs,” says Kiera. “These children just have different needs. For

us, it’s about finding the ability, not the disability, and supporting them to create success in their lives, be part of society, and be included in the community.”

In their large, grassy backyard, Jordan sits in a tree swing as brother Nico pushes her, laughing. As she sways from side to side, her fist are tightly clutched around the rope that tethers the swing to the tree.

Beneath the thick lenses of glasses, her eyes are bright and wide open. As Jordan twirls, surrounded by her family, she smiles.

## BUILDING A FULLY ACCESSIBLE HOME

### SOME RESOURCES

#### ASSIST COMMUNITY DESIGN CENTER

<https://assistutah.org/home-repair/aging-in-place-initiative>

For guidance on building their home, Kiera and Lee Zink turned to Assist Community Design Center in Salt Lake City. The organization’s Aging in Place Initiative provided a helpful framework that the Zinks adapted to fit their family’s needs. “They offer consulting services to work with your architectural firm to look over plans, answer any questions, or just provide input to you prior to building an accessible home,” says Kiera.

#### UNDERSTANDING UNIVERSAL DESIGN

<https://www.accessiblemed.com/universal-design-vs-accessible-design-what-is-the-difference>

The Zinks wanted their home to be welcoming to anyone who might visit, not just their family members. They found it helpful to understand the difference between “accessible” design, which focuses on making a space for people with disabilities, and “universal” design, which follows principles that make space available to everyone.

#### HOME BUILDERS FOUNDATION

<https://hbfdenver.org>

Home Builders Foundation is a Centennial-based nonprofit that helps people with modifications, remodels, and other projects that make homes more accessible to people with disabilities. Volunteers from the construction industry and other fields donate their time and resources to build ramps, wheelchair-friendly staircases, and other life-changing supports. Visit their website to learn about applying for assistance and/or volunteering on a project.





**JAVIER ALBERTO SOTO, PRESIDENT  
AND CEO OF THE DENVER FOUNDATION,  
WITH DACE WEST, VICE PRESIDENT  
OF COMMUNITY IMPACT**





# INTRODUCING JAVIER ALBERTO SOTO

## THE DENVER FOUNDATION'S NEW LEADER HAS IDEAS AND ENERGY—AND HE'S EAGER TO HEAR FROM YOU.

**A**s a child in Miami, Javier Alberto Soto grew up in a philanthropic home. Not a wealthy one: At night, his Cuban-born parents cleaned an office building together. Cleaning was a second job for both of them, and they sometimes brought Javier along. From their earnings, they gave all they could to their neighbors and community, in keeping with their Catholic faith.

Javier's father always paid the charitable "bills," sending checks to every organization that sent letters in the mail. To him, it was a responsibility and a regular part of life, like paying the electric company or the rent.

Their example of sharing and service rooted in responsibility followed Javier into his career. He spent many years in the public sector, including as a litigator in the Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office and as Chief of Staff to the Miami-Dade County Mayor.

But it was as the President and CEO of The Miami Foundation that he embraced what felt like a calling. Over the next 10 years, Javier emerged as an innovative and influential leader in the philanthropic arena, guiding The Miami Foundation through a significant period of growth and positioning the organization at the center of civic and philanthropic life in the Greater Miami area.

Javier was born in Madrid, where his parents settled after leaving Cuba. The family moved to Miami when Javier was three. Apart from time away for college (he has a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Florida State University) and law school (he earned his law degree from Georgetown Law), he has spent his whole life in that vibrant, complex, coastal city.

It took a special opportunity to draw him away, one that aligned with his personal commitment to improve the lives of the most vulnerable, a value modeled by his parents and informed by his faith. It had to feel like the next step toward living his calling.





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**Any conversation that is centered on the future of the Denver region must include The Denver Foundation.**

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That opportunity, it turned out, was in Denver. In June, after much consultation with his family, Javier accepted the position of President and CEO of The Denver Foundation. The cross-sector committee that chose Javier from more than 350 applicants recognized him as someone uniquely qualified to steer the Foundation through the coming years, which will bring the development of a new strategic framework, one shaped by actively listening and deepening our roots in the community. Javier is the sixth President and CEO in the Foundation's 94-year history.

When we sat down to talk to Javier exactly one month into the job, he had already experienced a couple of firsts, including an early-season snowstorm and an icy drive to Denver International Airport. He had met dozens of people, including philanthropists, fellow foundation heads, business leaders, community organizers, and residents of neighborhoods where Denver Foundation programs and grantmaking are concentrated. He'd encountered some surprises, too.

“Denver is a lot smaller than I expected, and I don't mean that in terms of the size of the place or the number of people,” he said. “There is a closeness of connection here; it feels like there are, at most, two degrees of separation. That's incredibly helpful to someone coming in as a newcomer.”

Most important, he'd begun to formulate a clearer sense of The Denver Foundation's role in Metro Denver and the lives of people who live here—and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

“As a community foundation, we absolutely have an obligation to everyone in the community, especially those who are the most vulnerable,” he said. “And we should be leading in a way that folks want to be a part of and contribute to because they see that, if we work together, we have the potential to solve real problems.”

#### **MIAMI TO DENVER IS A BIG MOVE. WHAT CONVINCED YOU TO UPROOT FROM THE CITY WHERE YOU'VE SPENT YOUR WHOLE LIFE?**

There were many things. I have a close friend in Boulder and have been coming out here for years; I've always loved hiking and running and cycling, which are all big attractions here. The parks here were also a big draw. Parks play such a vital role in the life of a family and the life of a community, in



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bringing diverse people together, and parks are a huge part of what Denver offers. As the father of two daughters, I also wanted to be in a place that empowers and lifts up young women, in a way that I think Denver absolutely does. I asked my 12-year-old daughter to write a list of things that she would want if we were to move someplace new. The number one thing was “nice people,” and Denver surely checked the box. She also wanted a place with people from different countries, one that celebrates diversity, which Denver also has. Those were things I wanted, too, somewhere that we would all want to be as a family.

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**COMING INTO A NEW COMMUNITY IS CHALLENGING; COMING IN AS A LEADER IS THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. WHAT IS YOUR STRATEGY FOR GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEW HOME?**

One of my primary responsibilities as head of The Denver Foundation is to understand this community deeply. When I’m traveling, the way that I get to know a city is to run or bike through that place. So starting this fall and continuing next year, I’ve begun a listening tour on my bike. I plan to visit all 78 neighborhoods, to get to know the people who are the boots on the ground, the organizations doing important work, etc.

I’m also really interested in learning as much about Denver history as possible. It’s important not just to understand where Denver is today but to learn the road that it has traveled. I’ll do a lot of wandering, taking the time to understand how the different parts of Denver work and being an observer.

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**WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING FOR, ON THESE TOURS?**

My goal is to understand what the folks in this community view as our most pressing challenges. I also want to hear what their aspirations are for this community, for their families. I don’t just want to paint a picture of what’s going wrong. I want to understand what a bright future looks like in the minds of people in Denver.

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**SO YOU ARE SOMEONE WHO LISTENS TO LEAD. WHAT ARE SOME OTHER TRAITS OF YOUR LEADERSHIP STYLE?**

I consider myself to be a values-focused leader. That’s always

a continuous work in progress, to be grounded in values while you’re making decisions. That absolutely is my north star and my approach to leadership. My parents have always lived a life centered around core values, particularly faith and family, and that has shaped my approach to leadership. Humility is one of the core values I always try to be guided by. And that doesn’t mean that you can’t be confident as a leader or confident as an organization. You can be humble and still be confident in the direction you’re going and the results you’re aiming toward.



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**AT THE MIAMI FOUNDATION, YOU WERE KNOWN FOR YOUR ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICY ISSUES. HOW DO YOU PLAN TO APPROACH ADVOCACY IN YOUR NEW ROLE WITH THE DENVER FOUNDATION?**

Staying with humility for a moment, I don’t think we should assume that we can solve every single problem in this town. But I think we need to understand what the challenges are and then identify where we can lean into, identify and push for policy solutions. I don’t think community foundations can influence meaningful change through grantmaking alone. It should be paired with policy solutions and partnerships with the public sector to drive real, meaningful change.

You have to be thoughtful whenever you step into the public affairs arena. Part of the work is bringing diverse views to the table, and trying to understand if there is a consensus path forward that helps us create the greatest possible community that we can. That may look different depending on where you sit, what your lens is, and what your experience in this community.



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## LIKE DENVER, MIAMI IS FACING CHALLENGES FROM GROWTH, SUCH AS GENTRIFICATION AND DISPLACEMENT. HOW SIMILAR ARE THE TWO CITIES?

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Miami is struggling with some challenges that wouldn't be quite as monumental if there had been more foresight when the pace of change accelerated dramatically. I think that's the point that Denver finds itself in now. We still have the ability to make those decisions that will help guide this growth and this transformation in positive ways so that the challenges don't become quite so huge down the road, whether that means investing in infrastructure; whether it means investing in social capital and building bridges between different peoples in this region; whether it means paying close attention to how climate change is going to impact this region. Solving for these things today will make them much more easy to manage in the future.



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## WHERE DO YOU SEE THE DENVER FOUNDATION IN ALL OF THAT?

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The Denver Foundation has a critical role to play in all of those conversations. Any conversation that is centered on the future of the Denver region must include The Denver Foundation. This organization was established to be mindful of the future of this community. And so being involved in decisions that have such a great impact on the future of this area is essential.

*Clockwise from top: Javier with Denver Foundation Trustee Myra Donovan. On the trail with Denver Foundation colleagues. Young Javier with his parents Ysis and Alberto Soto in Madrid, where he was born. Previous page: Javier with his family, Sofia Isabel (12), Alessandra Isabel (3), and Belissa Alvarez, Director, The Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation.*



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## FROM MIAMI TO DENVER

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Javier Alberto Soto led many initiatives during his 10 years with The Miami Foundation, including the launch of Give Miami Day, which has generated \$47 million in donations since 2012. In 2016, Javier convened Miami, Miami Beach, and Miami-Dade County to submit a successful joint application to The Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Program, which focuses on urbanization, globalization, and climate change in major urban centers. This collaboration resulted in the rollout of the Resilient305 Strategy, a blueprint for a more resilient future for the region. He also led the development of key projects including the "Our Miami Report," a biannual overview of issues that shape the experiences of people in Greater Miami. In 2013, Javier was awarded the prestigious Henry Crown Fellowship by the Aspen Institute. For two years, he served as Board Chair of the Council on Foundations, and also sat on the Knight Foundation's Miami Community Advisory Committee. Upon news of Javier's departure for Denver, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez shared a common sentiment: "Our loss is Denver's gain," he wrote.





*Javier Alberto Soto meets with members of the Montbello Organizing Community and other leaders in far northeast Denver in October.*

## GETTING ROLLING

### THE DENVER FOUNDATION'S LISTENING TOUR ON WHEELS IS UNDERWAY.

**O**n a crisp fall day in October, Javier Alberto Soto embarked on the first in a series of bike tours through each of Metro Denver's 78 neighborhoods. Winding along surface streets and bike paths from Cherry Creek to far northeast Denver, the 25-mile round-trip ride provided a glimpse of the area's economic and cultural diversity.

In Montbello, Javier stopped to meet with leaders of the Montbello Organizing Committee and other community groups. As will be true for every stop to come on the bike tour, his goal was to listen as residents shared their challenges and hopes for their neighborhood. They explained that Montbello, which has long been a hub for Denver's African American community, is feeling tension from rapid change, growth, and gentrification. At the end of the discussion, the group expressed gratitude for the visit.

"The Denver Foundation has been there with us since the beginning, and we know they will be with us in the future," said Khadija Haynes, a longtime Montbello advocate. "They are there not just when and where we need them, but *how* we need them, and that is very important."

The following week, Javier rode to Globeville to meet with women from the Globeville Elyria Swansea Coalition who are fighting for health and housing equity in one of Denver's most vulnerable communities. Over plates of homemade pupusas, Javier addressed the group in Spanish, telling them he was there to understand their day-to-day lives. The women spoke passionately about how development, displacement, and pollution are constant struggles.

"We are facing all that, but we are still fighting for justice at the community level," said one of the women. "We are figuring out how we're going to fix tomorrow. We need support and more strong allies, like you."

Javier's listening bike tour will continue through November and resume in the spring of 2020. What he sees, hears, and learns will inform his understanding of the Metro area as well as his role as the leader of the largest and most experienced community foundation in Colorado.

*For updates on the bike tour and how you can be involved, follow @TDFcommunity on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and Javier Alberto Soto on Twitter at @javisoto303. #javiermeetsdenver #TDFlistens*





## L.I.F.T. GIVING

## CIRCLE



**THE DENVER FOUNDATION'S NEWEST GIVING CIRCLE ELEVATES THE MULTIGENERATIONAL PHILANTHROPY OF LATINO MEN.**

BY DELE JOHNSON

**O**n a midsummer afternoon in a North Denver cafe, coffee isn't the only thing that's brewing. Today, a group of local community leaders can be found pouring themselves into planning the public launch of a collective philanthropic venture to lift up Denver's Latinx community.

In partnership with The Denver Foundation's EPIC (Elevating Philanthropy in Communities of Color) initiative, local leaders from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors in Metro Denver have joined together to create an opportunity for giving back to the community. Latinos Impacting Our Future Together (L.I.F.T.) is a men's giving circle that elevates identity, awareness, and culture through philanthropy.

"I definitely see a need for it in our Hispanic and Latinx community. I see this as very important to building authentic community," says L.I.F.T. co-chair Danny Martinez.

L.I.F.T. is open to all Latino-identifying men aged 18 and up, spanning from established community members to the next generation of young professionals. Martinez and his fellow co-chairs Anthony Aragon and Fermin Chavarria are adamant about young men's involvement in the giving circle.

"One of our leading priorities is that we have young people at the table—they will have a voice, and when we distribute grants this year they will have a pool of resources to direct back to the community through their own vision of philanthropy," says Aragon.

For Chavarria, the ability to make a dual impact has driven his involvement.

"Not only are we able to have a direct impact with the young men who are involved in the group, but we can also help organizations in our community who will be on the receiving end of our grants process," he says.

While the founding members of L.I.F.T. have made it their goal to impart their own wisdom and resources to the community, they acknowledge they wouldn't be where they are today without help. Leaders from LatinasGive! and DAAP (Denver African American Philanthropists), other giving circles at the Foundation, have offered their support and guidance.

"They have really helped stand us up. Having their knowledge, expertise, understanding, and experience in lessons learned has been key to our founding," says Aragon.





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I see this as very important to building authentic community.

DANNY MARTINEZ

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The founding members are clear about L.I.F.T.'s mission. The group is passionate about supporting young Latinos as they become future professionals and community leaders, and its members are committed to closing the equity gap for Latinx people across all sectors in Metro Denver communities.

*Opposite: L.I.F.T. co-chairs (from left) Anthony Aragon, Fermin Chavaria, Danny Martinez, and LaPhonso Salas. Above: L.I.F.T. members gather at the group's formal launch in August.*



THE DENVER FOUNDATION

You're inspired to give.  
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For more than 90 years, The Denver Foundation has helped generous people like you make a difference. Today, our expert team helps individuals, families, companies, and nonprofits meet their philanthropic and charitable goals. We work side by side with donors to create personalized plans, make smart investments, and create meaningful change in our community and beyond.

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# MICHELE MAJEUNE & RENNY FAGAN

**HELPING COLORADANS  
SUPPORT NONPROFITS WITH  
THEIR TAX REFUNDS**

**BY MAUREEN MAYCHECO**

Growing up in Colorado Springs, Renny Fagan accompanied his father when he delivered local history talks to service groups, and his mother when she taught after-school religion classes. During her childhood in Ohio, Michele Majeune participated with her family in community theater productions and learned from her mother, who was active in civil rights.

They continue to value service to individuals and making a difference for communities. Renny has served as a state legislator, department director, and deputy attorney general. He now leads Colorado Nonprofit Association. Michele's path included public relations work on behalf of parks and air quality agencies, a public works engineering firm, and now the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center.

"We have been involved with nonprofits over the years and established a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation to make select, larger donations," Michele says.

"We are looking for opportunities that create system change and long-term impacts," Renny adds.

This year, they plan to use their fund to support the launch

of Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund, an innovative new system of charitable giving unique to Colorado.

Through this new system, taxpayers will be able to directly donate all or part of their 2019 state refund to eligible Colorado nonprofit of their choice. When income tax filing starts in January 2020, taxpayers can choose to direct funds from a list of 5,000 eligible organizations.

Last year, the state issued \$1 billion in refunds to almost 2 million households. Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund will make it easier for Coloradans to direct some of those

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**How often does a person get to support  
the creation of a game changer?**

**MICHELE MAJEUNE** — ” —



dollars to nonprofits; it will also provide nonprofits with a new fundraising tool during the spring.

Now the challenge is to inform nonprofits and taxpayers statewide. Colorado Nonprofit Association is mounting a public action campaign called ReFUND CO that includes research-tested messages that nonprofits can use when appealing to their donors. The campaign includes paid media advertising directed at taxpayers who receive refunds.

Foundations, nonprofits, and individuals have contributed to ReFUND CO's startup costs, but more funding is needed for a robust campaign. Renny and Michele have decided to help with their fund. "This is an incredible opportunity for individuals to support a community nonprofit that they know and trust," said Renny. "Our research shows taxpayers just need to know about it."

"How often does a person get to support the creation of a game changer?" Michele said. "We see this as a perfect use of our fund to leverage charitable giving and generate community change. We hope other fundholders will join us."

*To learn more and raise awareness about ReFUND CO, visit [coloradononprofits.org/refundwhatmatters](http://coloradononprofits.org/refundwhatmatters).*

**FOR TAXPAYERS** - Whatever cause is important to you, ReFUND CO is an opportunity to directly support any of the 5,000 eligible nonprofits that are doing important work in your community and that you know and trust.

In 2019, Colorado returned more than \$1 billion in refunds to 1.9 million state taxpayers. In 2020, Coloradans who receive a state tax refund will have a chance to donate all or some of it to a local nonprofit they trust.

Imagine if state taxpayers chose to donate a portion of their refunds. This outpouring of support would boost local community causes across Colorado and make a massive positive impact on our state.

**FOR NONPROFITS** - For eligible organizations, ReFUND CO provides a new way to fund important work in the community.

To participate, an organization must be a 501(c)(3), registered under the Colorado Charitable Solicitations Act (CCSA) for at least five years and in good standing as of September 1.

Look for more info on ReFUND CO, including a nonprofit toolkit, in early 2020.



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DAVID

ALLEY

DOING HIS PART TO RIGHT  
WRONGS OF THE PAST

BY DELE JOHNSON

On the surface, David Alley seems like your average 60-something, mild-mannered, retired, white man. As you come to know him, you discover many layers and depths. He is a Buddhist, an entrepreneur, and active in his community. After selling his stake in a successful education company he co-founded in St. Paul, Minnesota, he packed up his things, headed for Denver, and set his mind on finding a new purpose in life.

The seed of David's mission was planted on a weekend-long Buddhist retreat with Ruth King, a meditation teacher, life coach, and author of the book "Mindful of Race," which explores racial equity through a spiritual lens. She exposed David to the concept of white privilege, which led him to reflect on how he could use his privilege in a meaningful way.

"She told us, 'You white guys need to start thinking about your privilege.' That was a very useful beginning point for me," says David.

Shortly after David's move to Denver, he joined the First Unitarian Society of Denver (FUSD), a church with deep roots in social justice. There, he continued to explore and understand his privilege with the help of a workshop facilitated by Rev. Tawana Davis and Rev. Dr. Dawn Riley Duval of Soul 2 Soul Sisters.

"There was a ton of homework, a ton of reading; they had us come up with a work plan for what we individually were going to do," David says. "That was when I actually put down

in writing that because I know my ancestors owned slaves, I need to be involved in reparations."

By the time David opened a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation in 2018, he had a very intentional vision for his reparations: atone for the wrongs of his ancestors by investing in those who have been historically wronged. He decided to channel his resources, time, and talent to support organizations and ideas that help rebalance race-based inequities.

Soon after opening his fund, he made an investment in Achroma, a Denver tech startup working to remove racial bias from the mortgage loan process. The company's goal is to make the American Dream a reality for individuals and communities that have historically been denied its promise. Social Venture Partners Denver and The Denver Foundation also made investments in Achroma.

This investment is just the beginning for David. He is actively involved in a Racial Justice group at FUSD that meets monthly, and he volunteers as an "Idea Navigator" with the Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute. He is also in talks with The Denver Foundation to organize a Reparations Affinity Group to mobilize donors who share his interest in rectifying wrongs of the past.

***To learn more about Reparations Affinity Group and other Denver Foundation efforts aligned with racial equity and impact investing, please contact the Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.***





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  
charitable legacy.**

**Contact Kelly Purdy at  
303.300.1790  
[kpurdy@denverfoundation.org](mailto:kpurdy@denverfoundation.org)**

**[denverfoundation.org](http://denverfoundation.org)**



# THREE QUESTIONS

FOR DEYANIRA ZAVALA  
OF MILE HIGH CONNECTS



DEYANIRA  
ZAVALA

**D**eyanira Zavala serves as Executive Director with Mile High Connects, a broad partnership of organizations from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors that are committed to increasing access to housing choices, good jobs, quality schools, and essential services via public transit. Deyanira leads Mile High Connect's efforts to involve local business and workforce development with anti-displacement efforts. We asked Deyanira to explain some of the issues that intersect our growing city's challenges—and solutions.

## 1 Transit, housing, and jobs: what's the connection for folks that might not see it?

Whether you live in the heart of Five Points or a quiet suburban neighborhood, each of us is impacted in one form or another by the three elements that make up the work of Mile High Connects. From the moment we walk out our door, the traffic you're sitting in highlights the growing demand for transit options. But as the light rail system expands beyond our Denver borders, our founding partners could almost predict the inequitable impact on vulnerable communities—communities of color, low-income communities, communities I grew up in. Our vision is one that ensures any promising new investment creates an opportunity for everyone to live, work, and thrive.

## 2 What does equitable development mean to me?

Cities are investing unprecedented resources in developments across the region, fueling new private investments in communities where residents are feeling their dollars stretched beyond their limits. Equitable development is more than building housing and paving roads. It means that communities have the necessary tools and resources to determine and own their future. If residents see an opportunity to preserve and create wealth through a community land trust, they then have the choice and clear path to move on their vision. But to achieve this ideal, it also means that we are collaborating to create systems and policies that are accepting of diverse perspectives and inclusive of voices that have been discovered.

## 3 What do you see as the future of collaboration?

The future of collaboration is more than transactional cooperation. It requires stakeholders from across the spectrum bringing their unique perspectives, talents, and voices to the table. I'm reminded of a quote my mentor would end every meeting with "Juntos somos mas," roughly translated to "together we achieve more." If we're going to tackle untangling the complex web that is access to quality, safe housing, we'll need as many folks around the table as the table can fit — and then some!

*To learn more about Mile High Connects, please visit [milehighconnects.org](http://milehighconnects.org).*



# CHARITABLE ADVICE

**IN TIMES OF CRISIS,  
PAIR GENEROSITY  
WITH CAUTION.**

BY MARO CASPARIAN

MARO  
CASPARIAN



Americans are generous and quick to give in times of tragedy and disaster. Unfortunately, during these times when kindness and altruism are at their peak, fraudsters and bogus or ineffective nonprofits can take advantage of our generosity. One of the most prominent examples came after the attacks of 9/11, when one nonprofit raised more than \$700,000 for a memorial quilt. To this day, there is no quilt: One-third of the money raised went to the charity's founder.

How can we be sure that a nonprofit is legitimate—and that the money you give will actually get to the people who need it most?

## ASK QUESTIONS, MAKE USE OF FREE RESOURCES

- What portion of the donation will go directly to the people or service? Generally, nonprofits should spend at least 75 percent of their total budget on program services.
- How much money is spent raising money? As a general principle, nonprofits should spend no more than \$25 to raise \$100.
- Use the websites Charity Navigator, BBB Wise Giving Alliance, or CharityWatch to do research. These organizations provide an enormous amount of information about a nonprofit, including the services it delivers and what percentage of its budget is spent on programs.

## TO KEEP IN MIND

- Fraudulent activity increases during a crisis. Spoofing (engineering emails or websites to look like they come from a legitimate organization) is designed to steal information for identity theft or to take your money. Do not provide any personal or financial information to unknown individuals.
- Do not be fooled by lookalike websites or copycat names. Is it really the Red Cross asking you to give, or is it a scammer misusing the Red Cross' logo? Look at the URL; does it match the name of the nonprofit?
- Social media is fertile ground for scammers. If you come across a nonprofit that piques your interest on social media, look them up in a separate browser window and then give from that website.
- Donate securely. Use a credit card whenever you can and never use a debit card online. If you find make a donation to a fraudulent organization by mistake, your credit card company can assist you in getting that money back.
- Before sending any supplies, contact the nonprofit to find out if your donation is appropriate and useful and how the supplies will get to the end users.

*Maro Casparian is Director of Community Engagement for the Denver District Attorney's Office.*



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Denver Foundation fundholders and friends including 1. (from left) Missy Dorn Warner, John Warner, Cynthia Roberts, Tommy Roberts, and Brett Miller, and 2. (from left) Tony Pigford, Raymael Blackwell, Marlene De la Rosa, Adrienne Mansanares, Benzel Jimmerson, and guest gathered at the Donor Social Hour, held at Walker Fine Art, in July.

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3. Verónica Figoli, President and CEO of the Denver Public Schools Foundation, with Javier Alberto Soto at the Annual Investments Update Luncheon featuring Grady Durham, at the Cable Center on August. 4. The L.I.F.T. Giving Circle launched at Ironworks in August. 5. In July, Dace West, Vice President of Community Impact (second from right), attended the grand opening of The Denver Foundation Behavioral Health Suite at the Children's Hospital Colorado in Colorado Springs.

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Photos 6 and 8. In June, The Denver Foundation and the Metro Mayor's Caucus celebrated the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative, which helps people at risk of homelessness secure housing. 7. Yesenia Bonilla Cadenas, Anna Thielan, and Maria Martinez celebrated the close of the 2019 Nonprofit Internship Program in August. 9. Nancy Benson and Leslie Karotkin enjoy the Annual Investments Update Luncheon featuring Grady Durham.



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.

**The Fund for Denver's goal is to ensure everyone in Metro Denver has opportunity. Here's yours.**

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THE DENVER FOUNDATION