CONTENTS

04 TDF in Brief
Three Storytellers broaden their audience, Yo-Yo gets active in Denver, Mile High Connects receives an honor, and more.

08 A Deep Red Line
A new exhibition maps the history of racial segregation in Denver and across the country.

14 Faith With Works
How do you solve the local housing crisis? The Congregation Land Campaign is an inspired answer.

20 A Gift of Love
Why Jim and Janice Campbell gave $1 million to help Denver Public Schools care for kids.

WHY I GIVE

26 Why We Give: Mary and Warren Washington

28 Why We Give: The Deane Family

30 Why I Give: Generous, Environmentally Minded, Anonymous

GIVE WELL

31 Three Questions for Rob Kellogg, SVP’s New Leader

CHARITABLE ADVICE

32 Understanding the Child Care Contribution Tax Credit

GALLERY

34 In the Field
WHO WE ARE

I’m continually amazed and inspired when I meet people who choose to work together to solve a problem. As Charlie Brown (or Charles Schulz) said, “In life, it’s not where you go—it’s who you travel with.” And so it is in philanthropy, community leadership, and strengthening neighborhoods. We’re in this together.

You’ll see this simple theme throughout this issue of Give, especially in our cover story on Jim and Janice Campbell. Throughout more than 60 years of marriage, this magnificent couple has incorporated generosity into every aspect of their lives. Through The Campbell Foundation, a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation, they recently donated $1 million to support trauma-informed education in Denver Public Schools. We were honored to join Jim and Janice on the journey of discovery that led to this gift, and to see up close how much they personify “engaged philanthropy.”

Over the many years I’ve been involved with the Foundation, I’ve learned how important it is to be aware of who is being included, and who is not. If we are going to travel forward together, we must look back and acknowledge when people were intentionally left behind.

That’s why I’m so excited that The Denver Foundation is sponsoring “Undesign the Redline,” an important and eye-opening multimedia exhibition on display through January 2. The interactive exhibit traces the history and legacy of housing discrimination and segregation across the United States, including stories and artifacts of racial inequality in Metro Denver. We hope you’ll read the feature “The Deep Red Line” and invite a friend to visit the exhibit with you this winter.

In “Faith With Works,” you’ll meet faith leaders who are inspiring their congregations to confront the growing housing crisis in Metro Denver. Through the Congregation Land Campaign, which the Foundation and a number of our fundholders support, faith communities are exploring how to dedicate their unused and underused land to innovative housing options. We are delighted to highlight the collective promise of this idea.

On behalf of The Denver Foundation, we are so happy to travel with you! We wish you a peaceful winter and a hopeful new year.

Sincerely,

Virginia B. Bayless
PERSON TO PERSON

THREE STORYTELLERS RECEIVE GRANTS TO BRING HOME THE REALITIES OF HOMELESSNESS.

Three members of the Close to Home Storytellers Network recently received a grant to strengthen the voices and leadership roles of people who have experienced homelessness. Jen McDonald, Theda Bruns, and Dee Clark will use the funds, respectively, to develop a storytelling podcast, find new ways to inspire residents to take action, and mentor people on how to share their stories.

The Storytellers Network is a diverse group of people with lived experiences of homelessness who share their stories with groups and organizations across Metro Denver. The Storytellers shed light on the realities of life without a safe place to call home, allowing audiences to see the human side of the experience. The network is part of The Denver Foundation’s Close to Home Campaign, which launched in 2015.

“Since Close to Home began, we have recognized and prioritized the importance of individuals who have personally experienced homelessness to inform and lead change,” said M. Julie Patiño, The Denver Foundation’s Director of Basic Human Needs.

“We need to bring more residents who have experienced homelessness into the conversation,” says McDonald, a mother of two who experienced homelessness when a life circumstance changed without much warning: “There are compelling stories not being told that could help to move people to support change.

“I have hope that we can create a tidal wave of sorts,” adds McDonald, “and a movement that leads to meaningful conversation and increased public support that sparks sustainable change.”

For more information on Close to Home, please visit closeshomeco.org.

— BRANDON ELLIS

KUDOS FOR MILE HIGH CONNECTS
COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE HONORED WITH MAYOR’S DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD.

Denver Foundation partner Mile High Connects is a proud recipient of the 2018 Mayor’s Diversity and Inclusion Award. Mile High Connects was selected by the City of Denver’s Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships as part of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.

Mile High Connects works to advance racial, economic, environmental, and health equity and to address the most critical daily challenges faced by low-income communities and communities of color.

In an award ceremony held October 3 at the DaVita Marketplace, Mayor Michael B. Hancock recognized MHC’s significant victory when RTD approved the discount program for riders with low incomes.

“Mile High Connects is a collaborative of organizations across sectors that represents the confluence of needs and ideas that are driven by the community, for the community,” he said.

“Mile High Connects’ work embodies exemplary commitment to diversity and inclusion,” Hancock continued. “This equity movement that we, the people are creating together will lift up all of our neighborhoods, providing that equity for all.”

— STEPHANIE SEIFRIED
In August, Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) and The North Face unveiled a new climbing boulder in Montbello Open Space Park, a five-acre development in a former grassland that aims to draw youth from northeast Denver and their families. ELK, which has received funding from Denver Foundation fundholders, develops leadership skills among young people through science education and outdoor experiences. The wall was built with input from local youth, reminding us that those most affected by an issue, including kids, often have the best ideas about what they want and need in their communities.

Also in August, a clever coalition of artists and community leaders came together to build This Machine Has a Soul, which brought a seemingly drab topic—the City of Denver’s budgeting process—to life through art, sculpture, video, and installation. The brainchild of Warm Cookies of the Revolution and Buntport Theater, the project illustrated the challenges of growth in Denver and the role of art in bringing people together to protect vulnerable communities. This Machine Has a Soul was funded in part by the Foundation’s Arts Affinity Group.
In early August, world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma captivated nearly 10,000 people with a sold-out, solo performance at Red Rocks Amphitheatre. But to many in the community, his true star turn came the following day. During “A Denver Day of Community in Action,” he visited community groups across Metro Denver that use culture to address challenges including refugee integration, food security, homelessness, urban growth, and displacement.

Ma visited organizations in the Five Points, Westwood, and Mariposa neighborhoods of Denver, including Denver Foundation grantees RedLine Contemporary Arts Center, PlatteForum, Westwood Unidos, and Re:Vision. He also met with a crowd of more than 200 people, including many refugees and new Americans, at The People’s Building in Aurora.

The day of performance and action reached its apex with “This is Home,” a block party hosted by Youth on Record that featured performances from many members of Denver’s artist-activist community. The party included conversations about how we can all help our fellow Denverites in a time of uncertainty and change.

The day closed with a moment of symphonic delight from local youth orchestra El Sistema Colorado. Backing them on the cello? Their new friend Yo-Yo, of course.

—DELE JOHNSON

Yo-Yo Ma performed with members of El Sistema Colorado during “This is Home,” a community block party at Youth on Record in August.
ON THE AIR
THE DENVER FOUNDATION AND THE OPEN MEDIA FOUNDATION SHINE A LIGHT ON LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

WITH PROBATE POWER, COLORADO CROSS-DISABILITY COALITION HELPS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

People who live with disabilities, and their families, now have one more resource in the community, thanks to a new program from Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition (CCDC). Probate Power is a new service that provides special needs planning, estate planning, and probate administration services directly to the Colorado disability community and non-disabled individuals in need of such services.

Probate Power is CCDC’s social enterprise legal program, developed with support from the Colorado Nonprofit Social Enterprise Exchange. Probate Power was founded on the premise that everyone, especially the Colorado disability community, deserves high-quality, pragmatic, and affordable legal representation.

“The goal of Probate Power, first and foremost, is to always make sure our clients know they have a voice,” says Chris Brock, Managing Attorney of Probate Power. “Having a legal team that knows the questions to ask, the nuances, and how the system works—specific to the disability community—is crucial.”

Probate Power is committed to providing culturally competent and personalized legal guidance that helps individuals and families protect their assets and their loved ones. For more information, please visit the Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition website, cedcoonline.org.

Chris Brock, pictured in the first row, second from right, is Managing Attorney for Probate Power, a new social enterprise from Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition.

The Denver Foundation has plugged in to a new multimedia partnership with the Open Media Foundation (OMF), an innovative media and technology nonprofit in the Santa Fe Arts District. OMF puts the power of media in the hands of the people, and sees media as a tool that allows people to engage in their community and bring about the change they wish to see in the world.

OMF’s Open Music Sessions television series highlights musicians and other creative artists who are doing inspiring work in Denver. This summer, The Denver Foundation began curating the show’s “Community Spotlight” segment, which features interviews between Denver Foundation grantees and staffer Dele Johnson. So far, Chicano Humanities and Arts Council, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, and Close to Home have appeared on the show, which is recorded live during each Santa Fe First Friday artwalk.

Open Music Sessions airs live on Comcast channels 57 (SD)/881 (HD) and CenturyLink channels 8008 (SD)/8508 (HD) on the first Friday of every month at 8 pm. Previously aired episodes are available on the OMF’s YouTube channel.

Every community spotlight interviewee receives a free membership to OMF. If you’re a Denver Foundation grantee and think your organization is a good fit for “Community Spotlight,” please email djohnson@denverfoundation.org.
“UNDESIGN THE REDLINE”
examines the history and legacy of segregation in America.

BY ALFONZO PORTER

HOW YOU EXPERIENCE DENVER DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU LIVE.

Where you live is in part determined by housing policies that were enacted 85 years ago, prohibited 50 years ago, yet persist in practice to this day.

That’s largely due to the historical legacy of redlining, which drove a system of de jure then de facto segregation in housing based on race. Redlining created two realities: One lived by white people, and one lived by African Americans, Latinos, and other people of color. One reality fueled the possibility of future affluence and prosperity. The other led to generations of poverty and inequity that many still fight against today.

How did this happen? It was designed to.

When the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) was created in 1934, as part of President Roosevelt’s New Deal, it made credit more available to lenders. Ostensibly, the FHA existed to make housing more accessible to lower- and middle-class families. But those loans were accessible only to white homebuyers.

That’s because the FHA endorsed a practice of color-coding neighborhood maps by race. African American neighborhoods, and even those close to African American neighborhoods, were drawn in red; hence the term “redlining.” The maps were then used by banks and mortgage companies to refuse loans to projects with “incompatible racial elements.”

By 1945, redlining was common practice at the FHA. White families were incentivized to move to the growing suburbs, while African Americans were kept in urban areas. Housing
projects, another product of the New Deal, further segregated neighborhoods that had once been integrated.

"This exhibition is designed to spotlight the government’s role in maintaining segregation through law, policy, and practice."

In Denver, Five Points, Park Hill, Montbello, Globeville, Barnum, and many other neighborhoods were redlined, which meant individuals and families who lived within their boundaries were unable to build wealth through real estate.

In the United States, “wealth and financial stability are inextricably linked to housing opportunity and homeownership,” Lisa Rice, Executive Vice President of the National Fair Housing Alliance, told the Chicago Tribune. “For a typical family, the largest share of their wealth emanates from homeownership and home equity.”

The racial divide in home ownership grew significantly wider after the passage of the Housing Act of 1949, which was designed to address a severe housing shortage caused by waves of veterans returning home from WWII. Through the GI Bill, white veterans were able to access low-interest, FHA-insured mortgages to buy houses. African American veterans were not. Those who did purchase homes were preyed upon by greedy and abusive loan companies.

According to Charleszine Nelson, Senior Special Collection and Community Resources Manager at the Bair-Caldwell African American Research Library, the greatest impact on the viability of the African American community in Denver (and throughout the country) was the government’s denial of full benefits to African American veterans, which devastated the economic health of African American communities.

“The GI Bill made it possible for white veterans to buy homes, participate in training programs, go to college, and begin to build wealth,” says Nelson. “African American soldiers were denied access to money that had been promised to all veterans. That is why we see such economic disparities between white and African American communities around this nation today.”

Redlining reinforced a belief, held by many white people, that when people of color moved into a community, the value of the property in the area was compromised. Some white people were convinced that the presence of African Americans in particular would place their loans—and their ability to insure their loans—in jeopardy.

That fear was at the root of redlining as well as the early
housing discrimination that first took root in cities including St. Louis, Baltimore, and Louisville, where restrictive ordinances prevented black residents from buying houses on streets where whites lived. The ordinances followed the so-called “one family rule” that suggested that if one black family lived on a block, it was at risk.

Sadly and ironically, the opposite was actually true. Discriminatory housing practices required African Americans to spend more money than their white counterparts for comparable property. As a result, property values and stability increased when blacks were allowed to buy.

The history and impact of redlining and other discriminatory housing policies are explored in depth in “Undesign the Redline,” an interactive exhibition that helps audiences of all backgrounds understand the impact of housing discrimination. Presented by The Denver Foundation and Enterprise Community Partners, “Undesign the Redline” combines historical artifacts, storytelling, photographs, and interactive displays that illustrate redlining’s roots and lasting repercussions. As the exhibition makes clear, redlining’s long-term influence on minority communities was deep and wide. It encouraged racial segregation in housing, increased group tribalism, destroyed community cohesion, and obstructed the economic and educational opportunities of millions of Americans.

“Our goal is to provide a tool through which we help community members understand how our living and residential patterns developed over time,” says LaDawn Sullivan, The Denver Foundation’s Director of Leadership & Equity. “It is designed to spotlight the government’s role in maintaining segregation through law, policy, and practice.”

“Undesign the Redline” was created by the New York-based firm Designing the WE and has been presented throughout the nation, with stops in New York, Chicago, and Baltimore, among others. Throughout its two-month run in Denver, The Denver Foundation and Enterprise will present programming that explores the past, present, and future reach of redlining. The Foundation will also share how it seeks to counteract that legacy through grantmaking and programs in basic human needs, economic opportunity education, and leadership and equity.

“We are working with all of our nonprofit partners, local communities, community leaders, and constituencies on developing actionable steps to dismantle these long-standing systems of discrimination,” says Sullivan. “We must work at all levels to deconstruct policies that perpetuate segregation.”

“Undesign the Redline,” presented by The Denver Foundation and Enterprise Community Partners, will be on display at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library from November 15 to December 15, and at the Webb Municipal Building from December 18 to January 2. For more information, including a list of related community events and programs, visit enterprisecommunity.org.
IN THE COMMUNITY

THE DEEP RED LINE CONT’N

A CITY DIVIDED

“THE COLOR OF LAW” EXAMINES HOW REDLINING FUELED INEQUALITY IN DENVER AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

BY NICOLE BAKER

In his latest book, “The Color of Law,” Richard Rothstein builds a compelling case against the myth of de facto segregation—the idea that communities are segregated by race because of individual preferences. In reality, Rothstein argues, racial segregation in housing happened directly as a result of federal and local laws and policies.

“The myth justifies doing nothing, while the segregation of housing is just as unconstitutional as the segregation of schools,” Rothstein told a crowd at STEAM on the Platte in March.
Rothstein is a research associate of the Economic Policy Institute, and a fellow at the Thurgood Marshall Institute of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Haas Institute at the University of California, Berkeley. The Denver Foundation and Urban Land Conservancy brought him to Denver for several events this spring. At each, he outlined the history of neighborhood segregation and explored the ways that housing is inextricably connected to education, employment, health, and many other social issues and the inequities that still manifest today.

During one of Rothstein’s stops, he appeared with leaders of local organizations working to address the long-term consequences of redlining.

Enterprise Community Partners is educating people about the history of neighborhood segregation in Denver and inviting them into a dialogue. A community organizer with 9to5 Colorado talked about their efforts to improve tenants’ rights and protect the communities of color that are once again being displaced.

Another local organization, United for a New Economy (UNE), is organizing communities adversely affected by gentrification and transit development to advocate for funding and legal aid. UNE reported that in 2017, one elementary school in Westminster had 80 students leave mid-year, primarily because their families could no longer afford to live in the area. Such stories will become more common as vulnerable communities are displaced by gentrification, another force driving neighborhood segregation.

An enlightening and thorough history and analysis, “The Color of Law” is a timely book with the power to educate, build understanding, and create change.

Opposite and above, left: Denver protesters march against a Federal Housing Administration practice that assigned “grades” of safety to Denver’s neighborhoods. Above, right: Neighborhoods with lower grades housed many of Denver’s African American and Latino residents. Below, right: Segregation in housing enlivened activism in Denver. Photos courtesy of Denver Public Library, Western History Collection.
HOW DO YOU SOLVE THE LOCAL HOUSING CRISIS? THE CONGREGATION LAND CAMPAIGN IS AN INSPIRED ANSWER.

WORDS BY LAURA BOND • PHOTOS BY FLOR BLAKE
hat would Jesus do?

That’s a question Pastor Steve Cuss asked himself every time he thought about the housing crisis that was squeezing families in Metro Denver. He knew it was getting worse, and not just downtown but across the city and into the suburbs. He prayed about it.

Eventually, Pastor Cuss brought his concerns to the members of Discovery Church, a large evangelical house of worship in Broomfield. Many were aware of the problem. As prices and development along the corridor that connects Denver and Boulder exploded, many low-income Broomfield families had been forced out. Meanwhile, supports for housing and other human services in unincorporated Adams County were underfunded and inadequate.

Pastor Cuss kept it simple. He relied on the Bible and its unambiguous messages about love and compassion, especially for the poor.

“The Bible has a lot to say about the welfare of the marginalized,” says Pastor Cuss, who studied chronic systemic poverty while in theological school and as a graduate student. “It’s been a strategy with my congregation: ‘If it’s in the Bible, we’ll do it.’ We really feel that God has called us to do this.”

Not long after he took the helm five years ago, Pastor Cuss challenged the Discovery community to tackle the issue of affordable housing. Despite the complexity and political volatility of the issue—and over the objections of some residents of the upscale neighborhood that surrounds the church—the congregation embraced Pastor Cuss’ vision.

Discovery has a history of providing temporary shelter to individuals and families. Pastor Cuss pushed to make those resources permanent. Church elders voted to commit 50 percent of the buildings and land on Discovery’s 12-acre campus to community use. The plan includes permanent affordable housing for 12 families as well as a community garden and therapy facilities.

“The church has been truly amazing,” says Pastor Cuss. “We really didn’t have any resistance to it at all. Most followers of Jesus nowadays are looking for guidance on how to make a difference. We’re helping them to be a part of it.”
Discovery Church is among a growing number of faith-based institutions that have stepped up to solve Metro Denver’s affordable housing crisis, which is now ranked one of the worst in the nation. In Broomfield alone, Pastor Cuss notes, two more churches—one Lutheran, one Episcopalian—are developing affordable housing on their property. When Discovery hosted a housing conference last year, Pastor Cuss hoped that 15 people would attend. More than 150 faith leaders from all over the state showed up.

Faith groups own more than 5,000 acres of undeveloped land in Metro Denver. From suburban campuses to prime downtown parcels, the holdings span Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. Combined, they add up to an area approximately five times the size of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, or five football fields.

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado aims to develop some of that acreage for affordable housing. In March, the organization launched the Congregation Land Campaign (CLC), an initiative that invites leaders of churches, mosques, synagogues, and other faith communities to explore how to use their real-world real estate assets to advance bedrock spiritual values, and to answer the call to care for those in need.

“The hope is to help people see opportunity in crisis, and to provide faith communities with a chance to look deeper into their missions,” says Rev. Amanda Henderson, Executive Director of Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. “When we ask congregations to think about how to use resources to engage in solving the housing crisis, the work becomes transformational even in the early stages. We want to bring people of all backgrounds together to create change through action.”

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado has found a model for the CLC in the Saint Francis Apartments at Cathedral Square, which opened last year as a collaboration between St. John’s Episcopal Church and the Saint Francis Center one of the city’s largest providers of services to those experiencing homelessness. The church donated the land. Saint Francis brokered the financing and now runs the on-site services.

The six-story Saint Francis Apartments sit on a compact parcel that used to be a 12-car parking lot; it’s easy to miss, squeezed in next to Argonaut Liquors at 14th and Washington in Capitol Hill. But inside, it’s like a small village, home to more than 50 men and women as well as a few children.

There’s a computer lab on the first floor. Flyers for events and services are taped up in the hallways. On the top floor, there’s a large community kitchen and
gathering space and a rooftop garden, with beautiful views of the State Capitol and the mountains. Residents have access to case management and a range of supports to help them adjust to having a home after years of homelessness. A small team of social workers, led by Kathy Carafe, are on-site to help with everything from job training to home decoration.

Since the Saint Francis Apartments opened in 2017, it has been home to all of its original residents but one, a man who died in July.

The Very Rev. Richard Lawson of St. John’s says the project perfectly married the spiritual needs of his congregation with the more immediate social need for safe, stable housing.

“From a justice perspective, the Saint Francis Apartments are deeply connected to the moral vision and DNA of our parish,” he says. “It’s an outward and visible sign that we really do care. It shows that questions of, ‘What does community look like, and who belongs?’ are among our top priorities.”

St. John’s parishioners attend monthly community dinners on-site, help tutor children who live in the building, and tend the garden. Fran Trujillo coordinates volunteers from the parish, being careful not to impose on the lives of the residents.

“We want to create a highly connected community and a neighborhood environment,” says Trujillo, herself a volunteer. “The monthly meal provides a reason for people to come together. But we are conscious of it not sending a message that, ‘We are able, and you’re not.’ The residents are folks who are smart and capable, and thrilled to have a place to sleep and call home. We’re there to do things with them, not for them.”

Interfaith Alliance of Colorado sees the developments at Discovery Church and St. John’s and a project at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Denver as encouraging glimpses of a future with less housing insecurity. Nathan Davis Hunt, the organization’s Director of Economic Justice, says the vision is to adopt the collaborative approach that made the Saint Francis development possible, and then scale it to help as many people as possible.

“It’s estimated that the Saint Francis Apartments will end 100 years of homelessness, just by taking 50 people off the street now,” he says. “As people of faith, we have an opportunity to bring our assets to bear to help solve a real problem.”

With support from donors, The Denver Foundation is helping to fund the first phase of the CLC, which is currently underway. In partnership with Radian Group, a Denver-based nonprofit architecture firm, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado is working with five faith groups to assess each congregation’s particular assets and interests and figure out what’s possible.

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In the Jewish tradition, we hear that when exiles showed up at your door, you were obligated to take them in.

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“We are developing actionable plans for responsive, affordable, equitable housing,” says Tim Reinen, Radian’s Executive Director. “The idea is to take land and assets and use them in a way that’s beneficial to the community.”

“We start by asking each congregation: What matters to you?” Reinen continues. “And then we figure out how to take that and translate it into the built environment.”

Through the CLC, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado and Radian Group plan to develop and build five individual affordable housing projects valued at $10 million each over the next five years.

“We’ve seen a real openness to the idea in the faith community,” says Davis Hunt. “There’s a longing to do something meaningful that moves the needle and creates a dent in these big, systemic problems. There’s a feeling that’s in the air, that it’s time for new strategies. We’re here to tell them, ‘You can make an impact in affordable housing, and you don’t have to know how, or have a ton of money. It’s a really welcome message.’”

Interfaith and Radian draw inspiration from the work of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in downtown Denver. Throughout the more than 100 years that St. Andrew’s has occupied the corner of 18th and Glenarm streets, it’s provided shelter to those in need. In the 1940s, the head priest gave neighborhood street children a hot breakfast every morning. In the 1980s, the church was a refuge from those sick or dying from HIV.

The Reverend Elizabeth Garfield of St. Andrew’s says the church’s support for those in need of shelter comes straight from the gospel.

“In the Old Testament, in the Jewish tradition, we hear that when exiles showed up at your door, you were obligated to take them in,” she says. “That is the basis of ‘Love your neighbor.’ It means love for the weakest, the most vulnerable. Jesus was totally into turning society upside-down. He would eat with anyone. He said that those who are the most oppressed, the most burdened, should have a shot at a life in which they can thrive.”

Today, St. Andrew’s is focused on helping people, especially women, who struggle with chronic homelessness. In July, the church lost a bid to build the city’s second tiny home village, modeled on the Beloved Community Village in RiNo, to a “no” vote from Denver’s Landmark Commission. Garfield and the parish are seeking potential new sites for the village.

In the meantime, they’re moving forward with plans to build a 42-unit permanent supportive housing building on St. Andrew’s property, in partnership with Mental Health Center of Denver. The building will be the first in the city to provide case management and wraparound services to families touched by both serious mental illness and homelessness. A substantial portion of funding for the project has come from parishioners.

“It’s been a show of faith that there is an abundance in this world,” says Rev. Garfield, “and that it’s God’s desire for the world that we build community. Nobody should be outside the bounds of community.”

To learn how you can join with The Denver Foundation to support the Congregation Land Campaign, please call the Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790.
Grace Stiles is committed to celebrating her community’s heritage. Now and in the future.

Grace created the Stiles African American Heritage Center to preserve the rich and vital history of Denver’s African American community. Through a designated fund at The Denver Foundation, she will provide the institution she committed her life to with financial support for generations to come.

That’s philanthropy in action.

We can help you create your charitable legacy.

Contact
The Philanthropic Services Group
303.300.1790
denverfoundation.org
A GIFT OF LOVE

WORDS BY LAURA BOND • PHOTOS BY FLOR BLAKE
Why Jim and Janice Campbell Gave $1 Million to Help Denver Public Schools Care for Kids.

In September, when Jim and Janice Campbell gave $1 million to Denver Public Schools, they had already built a meaningful philanthropic legacy. Together they’ve moved through 62 years of marriage with a spirit of generosity, sharing what they have along the way. They’ve always loved finding new ways to help other people.

So when Jim and Janice decided to make a large gift to support K-12 education in Denver, they began by learning. They knew they wanted to make a genuine difference in the lives of children by supporting Denver Public Schools, which has educated several of their grandchildren over the years. But they were open to ideas about what shape and form that should take.

Through The Campbell Foundation, a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation, Jim and Janice originally planned to underwrite DPS’ vocational and career/technical training programs. That idea appealed to Jim, a successful entrepreneur and business owner.

As fundholders, they worked with staff at The Denver Foundation and Denver Public Schools Foundation to determine exactly where their gift should go. They soon learned that the district needed a boost for its work in the growing field of trauma-informed education.

“We’re big believers in the equal opportunity concept, so supporting public schools appeals to us,” says Jim. “We found out early on that DPS was way down the line with the vocational approach. They didn’t really need us for those programs. The people at the Denver Public Schools Foundation said there was a very important program, and they wished they could do it right away, but they needed seed money. They’d been looking for us.”

“They had to teach us all about it,” says Janice. “When we realized we could be part of getting it started, we thought, ‘Wow. This would be great.’”

The couple was familiar with trauma-informed education, which supports the learning and overall wellness of students who have experienced trauma in and outside of school. Their daughter Linda Campbell is a Restorative Practices Coordinator at a DPS elementary school. After studying and reading up, visiting schools, and talking to educators, Jim and Janice decided to put their entire gift into trauma-informed education in DPS.

“The most important thing to my parents is family,” says Linda. “Once they started to learn how many kids and families struggle, in so many ways, that really caught their attention. I think it was really motivating for them to know that their grant might help DPS kids to do better academically and socially. They also liked that their grant would help DPS teachers and staff to better understand their students’ needs and learn new strategies that help them be more resilient.”

Through that exploratory phase, which was facilitated by The Denver Foundation, the Campbells exemplified the term “engaged philanthropy.” So says Verónica Figoli, Executive Director of Denver Public Schools Foundation.

“They became true students of trauma-informed care, and not just givers, but advocates,” says Figoli. “They were willing to be humble and say, ‘I don’t have an answer, but I do have a resource.’”

“The gift itself is all about continuous learning and improvement,” Figoli adds. “From the beginning, the Campbells had very good questions that often made us pause and think about things. About four weeks ago, I sent them a report. I know they’re reading it, because they came back with more great questions. It’s been beautiful to see and be...
a part of, because we are all learning along the way.”

The Campbells announced their gift during an event at Hallett Academy in northeast Denver, which models what a trauma-informed school can look like. Full-time staff support both mental health and restorative justice, which works to repair harm caused by conflict and disruptive behavior. Restorative justice is a key component of trauma-informed practice. The Denver Foundation supports restorative justice work at Hallett through the Common Sense Discipline initiative. Last year, under new Principal Dominique Jefferson, annual suspensions at Hallett declined from 34 to zero.

“It is our responsibility to teach the behavior we want to see,” Jefferson said at the event, noting that her school’s improvements came after her school put resources behind trauma-informed practice.

The Campbells’ gift, said Dr. Eldridge Greer, Associate Chief of Student Equity and Opportunity for DPS, “will not only support the many students who come to us with trauma in their backgrounds, but also students with severe mental health challenges. Those students who often become victims to low expectation and worse outcomes are worth more than that. With this gift, we can go so much further in serving our students.”

Last year, the Denver School Board voted to codify DPS as Colorado’s first trauma-informed district. The Campbell gift will help DPS live up to that designation by training and coaching all staff members—executive-level administrators, school nurses, teachers, bus drivers—to recognize and respond to the signs, symptoms, and impact of trauma.

DPS’ goal is to bring all 200 DPS schools through three phases of trauma-informed training within three years; trainings have already begun in 65 schools. DPS is in the early stages of developing a school for students severely impacted by trauma.

At the time of the announcement, DPS and the entire city were reeling from the death by suicide of a 9-year-old boy; he was in fourth grade. In a district that serves nearly 93,000 young people in grades K-12, more students than ever report mental health challenges. The Campbells hope their gift can catalyze the district’s efforts to address an acute, growing need.

“We feel very fortunate to be part of a plan that is still forming,” says Janice. “But we know they need a lot of money to make it happen. When you consider that one in four kids in DPS is coming to school from a traumatized home or environment, you realize that’s about 25,000 kids. You get the sense that this work is so needed. Our gift is really a drop in the bucket.”
Jim and Janice are the same age: 84. They hold hands when they walk the halls of the light- and art-filled building where they live, near Commons Park. If they part for a moment as one stops to speak to someone or open a door, they come right back together.

That’s the way it’s been for more than six decades.

Jim and Janice first met in the seventh grade, in Evanston, Illinois. They soon had their first date, at the sock hop. And a few years after that, in 1956, they married, a union that eventually produced three daughters and one son. Over the next 12 years, they moved from Evanston to New York, then to Minneapolis, and then Milwaukee, following opportunities with IBM. Jim worked for the company after graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

In 1968, the family moved to Boulder County, which Jim loved from his days as an undergraduate. He started a company called LIFECARE International Inc., which manufactured respiratory and pulmonary equipment. Janice, who graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in journalism, led the company’s marketing and community relations.

As LIFECARE grew, its products included the most successful portable ventilator in the world; at one point, the company had 18 offices around the United States, an assembly plant in Munich, and a sales and service office in Hong Kong. In 1994, LIFECARE was named Colorado’s top exporter of the year by Gov. Roy Romer.

“Our company was recognized for another unique accomplishment, which was that 100 percent of our employees took a payroll deduction to support workplace giving,” says Jim. “We worked with very nice people, and we promoted the idea, let them know how easy it was to give. That was something I first learned when I was at IBM, which was a very giving, community-minded corporation where we were taught and encouraged to do that.”

“We were always aware of what we had, and how fortunate we were to share it with other people,” says Janice.

Jim and Janice extended the care and love they had for their own family to others, says daughter Linda. One Christmas, for example, they rounded up the kids and brought gifts and dinners to families in the community who needed some support and kindness. Jim and Janice also kept busy as volunteers. Jim served as a trustee and Vice Chairman of the University of Colorado Foundation, among many other committees and boards of directors. Janice led a major campaign for Boulder County United Way and was active with Junior Achievement.

Their example stuck with Linda, who has served as a Denver Foundation Trustee. She’s been an active committee member and donor for many years.

“My parents inspired me to get more deeply involved with many organizations and volunteer my own time,” she says. “I discovered that when you give to others, whether it is your time or money, you get so much more back yourself. I’ve met so many great people through the organizations I’ve been involved with. Now I realize that is the beauty of community: Everyone helps out in their own way.”

Opposite: The Campbells’ gift to EPS was announced at Hallett Academy, where trauma-informed practices help to reduce suspensions by 100 percent last year. Left: The Campbells on vacation with some of the 20 members of their immediate family, which includes children and their spouses, and grandchildren.
Jim and Janice Campbell are reflective, strategic, engaged investors in social change. They embody the concept of ‘charitable DNA’ every day.

When Jim and Janice sold LIFECARE in 1996, two years after they moved to Denver, the proceeds enabled them to take their philanthropy to another level. They established The Campbell Foundation at The Denver Foundation in 2004, later converting it to a donor-advised fund.

Every year, Jim and Janice and each of their four children distribute a portion of the funds allocated for granting. Grandchildren sometimes get in on the giving, too, with small funds to distribute to organizations of their choice. Over 20-plus years, the Campbells have given grants to dozens of organizations across Metro Denver, with an emphasis on those that serve families and children.

Working with the family as a partner, The Denver Foundation has helped the Campbells manage their fund and understand the impact of their gifts, including their recent grant to Denver Public Schools. Sarah Harrison, the Foundation’s Vice President of Philanthropic Services, convened the early brainstorm between the family and the Denver Public Schools Foundation.

“The Campbells’ gift will help train teachers in trauma-informed practices for the classroom.

As part of their business, Jim and Janice have visited 60 countries and all 50 states. Travel has continually broadened their worldview and their knowledge of how people of different cultures, places, and backgrounds solve problems.

They like to bring those ideas back home, to add to the long list of things the Campbells offer to the community, and to the students of DPS.
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
The Philanthropic Services Group
303.300.1790
denverfoundation.org
Giving back comes naturally for Mary and Warren Washington. Both dedicated their careers to improving conditions for their communities and the world.

Now 82, Warren recently retired from a distinguished career as an atmospheric scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Among other accolades, he was awarded the 2010 National Medal of Science for his work. Warren mentored and taught many students over the years, building the pipeline of future scientists with his guidance and inspiration.

Mary, also 82, spent most of her career in education. Knowing that access to quality early childhood education has a significant impact on a person’s outcomes later in life, she expanded opportunities for countless children. During her tenure as Administrator of the Denver Preschool Program, the number of students enrolled in early childhood education programs tripled.

Mary learned the ropes of philanthropy in her time as the first Executive Director of the Hunt Alternatives Fund in Denver, which was founded by philanthropist Swanee Hunt. She credits Swanee and that experience with teaching her how to give confidently and effectively as a philanthropist.

“Having the opportunity to run a foundation was an inspiring and educational experience at a pivotal time in my life,” says Mary.

In 2002, Mary’s relationship to giving became deeply personal. When her youngest son, Brian, died, she decided to honor his legacy by opening a donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation with her inheritance from Brian. Over time, the fund’s focus has shifted from women and children experiencing domestic violence to youth who have been underserved and marginalized in Metro Denver, New Orleans, Haiti, and South Sudan.
“Giving enriches my life and has made me more conscious of how I spend my resources. It’s also about giving your time,” says Mary. Before she funds an organization or project, she spends time asking thoughtful questions about impact and overhead expenses, making sure her investments align with her intent.

Looking forward to the future, Mary and Warren are planning to ensure their giving continues beyond their lifetimes. While they believe in enjoying giving while alive, they know the needs will persist, and they want their legacies to live on. Through their estate plan, Warren and Mary are setting up scholarship funds to help African American students pursue careers in atmospheric science. As the second African American scientist to receive a doctorate degree in the field, Warren knows well the challenges students face in academic disciplines where they are historically underrepresented.

For the Washingtons, philanthropy is an extension of a lifetime of service. These collective investments in generations of young people will have a lasting impact. And by sharing their adventures in giving with their friends along the way, they have inspired others to join them.
A love for Denver was one of many things that Dick and Zyla “Ze” Deane shared over more than 60 years of marriage. They also shared a feeling of responsibility to pay forward the privilege and success they enjoyed. During their lifetimes, their generosity touched dozens of organizations in our community.

Dick died in 2016 and Ze just a year later. But through their children and The Deane Family Fund at The Denver Foundation, their philanthropic legacy will continue.

Dick moved to Denver for a job with General Motors in the early 1950s, and Ze joined him a short time later. Both felt there was something special about Denver. Before long, the couple knew it was where they wished to make their home and raise a family.

In 1960, Dick opened Deane Buick, which he ran for the next 30 years. The success of the dealership enabled the Deanes to dive into their passions for giving back and connecting with the community.

As a prolific artist, Ze was drawn to arts and culture organizations.

“She was always the brightest smile and most welcoming person in the room,” says daughter Meg Franko, noting that Ze was more private with both her art and her philanthropy than her husband was.

Dick held a special fondness for organizations that serve children, especially those that provide early childhood education and positive youth development. He felt that high-quality early learning and supportive youth environments could provide children with opportunities that would last a lifetime. He wanted his philanthropy to reflect that.

“He was a skilled businessman, but it was his community work that really drove him,” says Meg.

Dick served on so many boards that his grandchildren fondly referred to him as “GrandChair.” He led boards of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver, Mile High United Way, Denver Metro Chamber, the Clayton Foundation, and many more. He liked to use his business and financial skills to help the nonprofits he supported be financially strong. He led the Clayton Foundation’s efforts to create a sustainable business model and provide support to children of all backgrounds.

Photo by Katy Tartakoff
Their parents’ generosity and their father’s community connections were a constant for Meg, her sister, and her brother throughout their childhood. While Meg says they didn’t often speak directly about philanthropy, they shared their charitable mindset through their actions. “Make the world an even better place” was a regular mantra from Dick.

Dick and Zc’s legacy includes a bequest to their donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation, which is advised by the Deane children.

“They were in love with Denver,” says Meg, “and they saw The Denver Foundation as an important part of sustaining the organizations that make the community vibrant.”

Meg says she and her siblings will continue their parents’ legacy of giving by supporting the causes and the city that their parents cared about so deeply.

Opposite: Dick and Zyla Deane. Right: Dick Deane, standing, photographed at Deane Buick in 1967. Dick donated a car to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver every year.

You’re inspired to give. We’re ready to help.

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.

Your generosity, our expertise. Together, we’re building a better future for everyone.

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Roz Barbaugh, Donor-Advised Fundholder
Five years ago, in partnership with several dedicated fundholders, The Denver Foundation established the Environmental Affinity Group (EAG) as a giving circle. The group had two major goals: to pool resources to support environmental conservation organizations in Colorado, and to connect and expand the network of philanthropists dedicated to that work.

Since then, the group has awarded nearly $80,000 in grants to organizations working to confront climate change, Big City Mountaineers, pictured, is among them. Through events and activities, it has also helped more than 100 individual donors engage with issues and organizations working on water conservation, environmental education, renewable energy, driverless cars, and more.

Until recently, the EAG was a formal but loose group dedicated to the promotion of environmental giving. Then something extraordinary happened. In June, an anonymous donor who had been following the group’s activities through the Foundation contacted the Foundation with a big idea. She was encouraged by the EAG’s commitment to environmental giving at a time when environmental protections were eroding at the national level. To ensure that future generations of philanthropists would have a space to engage, learn, and give together, she wanted to create a permanent endowment for the EAG. To make that happen, she issued a $100,000 challenge match.

“I believe in the power of endowments to create change and direction, and I felt it was important that The Denver Foundation have a dedicated pool of resources for environmental funding into the future,” she said.

The donor’s generosity definitely inspired others. The EAG is attracting more new members, and is organizing a steering committee to oversee the group’s giving, annual programming, and strategies for meeting the match.

“We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the anonymous donor who has jumpstarted our effort to ensure the long-term legacy of the EAG,” says Peter Kirsch, a founding member. “We believe that the new EAG endowment will be the catalyst for increased conservation-directed philanthropy by Denver Foundation donors.”

Added to members’ annual contributions, income from the endowment will increase the EAG’s ability to support diverse groups working on climate and other environmental conservation issues in Colorado. The donor hopes it will allow the group to continually expand its reach, influence, and support of environmental groups. The ultimate goal, she says, is to help slow climate change.

“The EAG’s focus on reaching new audiences to provide education and encourage action on climate change is an innovative approach to expanding philanthropic support,” she says. “The power of the group is greater than what annual donations alone could provide. I’m very happy to help amplify that impact.”
Before Rob Kellogg took over as Executive Director of Social Venture Partners (SVP) Denver in August, following the retirement of longtime leader Pat Landrum, he and his family lived in India for a year doing volunteer work. The experience strengthened Rob’s commitment to a life of service. He’s held positions in international development, market research, corporate governance and financial regulation, and public education. Most recently, he served in a senior management role at the Colorado Education Association. We asked Rob about change in Denver, the power of engaged philanthropy, and how SVP Denver is building a better community.

**1. HOW DOES SVP DENVER BRING VALUE TO OUR COMMUNITY?**

Basically, SVP Denver is a network of impact. We’re a bridge between the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, with a dual mission to empower people and companies to become engaged philanthropists by donating time, talent, and resources at a strategic level to elevate local nonprofit organizations. Our individual and corporate partners join the partnership to have a direct, personal, and measurable impact in the community.

**2. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE IN METRO DENVER?**

Denver is experiencing a period of tremendous growth, providing better jobs and access to resources for many people. At the same time, the city’s growth has intensified challenges faced by many people in our communities, especially people of color and marginalized populations who struggle with rising costs, displacement, gentrification, etc. Homelessness, human trafficking, and high incarceration rates are some of the challenges facing the city, and SVP Denver is currently engaging with nonprofits on each of these important issues, among others.

**3. WHAT MOST EXCITES YOU ABOUT SVP DENVER’S FUTURE?**

SVP Denver is a unique community where the private, government, and nonprofit sectors come together to make our city better. Every day I get to work with a wonderful group of caring, civic-minded people. Our partners are motivated by doing good, and it’s a treat to see them elevate their personal impact in the community as they progress in the partnership. My hope is to harness the city’s energy and ambition to grow the partnership so that it is inclusive of the community and has a powerful impact.

*Social Venture Partners is a field of interest fund of The Denver Foundation. For more information, visit svpdenver.org.*
The Child Care Contribution Tax Credit (the CCTC) provides a valuable tax credit against a taxpayer’s Colorado state income tax. The credit equals 50 percent of the amount of a contribution made to a qualifying Colorado charitable organization that promotes child care. At the end of August, the IRS issued proposed regulations amending Treas. Reg. Section 1.170A-1. The proposed regulations would limit the deductibility for federal purposes of charitable donations that qualify for a state or local tax credit like the CCTC.

While at a glance the proposed regulations seem to have a negative impact, in reality, for most taxpayers who itemize their federal deductions, the CCTC will remain an effective way to make charitable contributions at a substantially reduced net cost.

The CCTC applies to contributions of cash (contributions of stock do not qualify) to Colorado institutions that support child care for children under 12 and to certain approved charities. Under prior law, these contributions were deductible as charitable contributions for federal and state income tax purposes. In addition, a taxpayer could credit 50 percent of the contribution against the taxpayer’s Colorado state income tax liability. These deductions and credits substantially reduced the after-tax cost of such donations to taxpayers. A taxpayer in the 36 percent federal tax bracket and subject to the 4.63 percent Colorado state income tax rate could make a charitable contribution of $30,000 for a net out-of-pocket cost of $8,381.

At the end of 2017, Congress passed Pub. L. 115-97, which made substantial changes to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. One of the changes involved the deductibility of payments made to state and local governments for taxes. Before the 2017 Tax Act, an individual could deduct the full amount of the taxpayer’s state income tax liability from the taxpayer’s gross income for federal income tax purposes.

The 2017 Tax Act capped the deduction of state and local taxes for individuals for federal income tax purposes at $10,000. Because of this cap, the federal government was concerned that some states might try to lessen the impact of the loss of state and local tax deductions by “transforming” state income taxes into charitable deductions.

To combat this, the IRS developed the proposed amendments to Treas. Reg. Section 1.170A-1. These amendments state that a taxpayer must reduce the taxpayer’s federal charitable deduction for donations to charity by the amount of any state or local tax credit that the taxpayer expects to receive. Thus, in the case of the CCTC, a taxpayer’s federal tax charitable deduction for the donation will be reduced by 50 percent of the donation, the amount of the CCTC. There is one exception to the proposed rule. A taxpayer does not have to reduce his federal charitable deduction if the state or local tax credit for the donation does not exceed 15 percent of the taxpayer’s payment.

Although the proposed amendments appear to be reducing a taxpayer’s federal charitable deduction, taxpayers who have already reached the $10,000 maximum deduction for state
and local taxes will not experience any additional negative impact from the proposed regulations. Under the proposed amendments to the Treasury Regulations, the cost of a $30,000 donation eligible for the CCTC for a taxpayer who (a) itemizes his or her federal income tax deductions, (b) is subject to the 35 percent federal tax bracket, and (c) has reached the $10,000 cap on deduction of state and local taxes is $8,361 (slightly less than under prior law) as illustrated below.

Although many taxpayers will not be negatively impacted by the proposed regulations, there are three caveats. First, under the 2017 Tax Act and regardless of the proposed amendments to Treas. Reg. 1.170A-1, the loss of the deduction of paid state and local taxes above the $10,000 cap will require many taxpayers to pay more federal income taxes. Second, taxpayers who itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes and who have not reached the $10,000 cap for payment of state and local taxes will lose some benefit from the CCTC for federal tax purposes due to the new regulations. Finally, for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions for federal income tax purposes, there is no federal income tax benefit related to the CCTC, even though there may be substantial savings for state income tax purposes.

In summary, the CCTC remains a valuable tool for providing large benefits to qualifying charities at a substantially reduced out of pocket cost to most taxpayers. As always, however, donors should consult with their tax professionals to confirm the precise impact of the recent tax law changes to their circumstances.

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<tr>
<th>Illustration of State and Federal Tax Savings from the CCTC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. DONATION AMOUNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. STATE TAX DEDUCTION SAVINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. STATE TAX SAVINGS FROM CREDIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. FEDERAL TAX DEDUCTION SAVINGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET COST TO TAXPAYER</td>
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Contact Chris Anderson, CPA, ABV, Partner
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303.219.7702

adamscapital.com
1. Virginia B. Bayless, Denver Foundation Interim President and CEO, and Noey Congdon in August at the Annual Investments Update Luncheon at the Cable Center. 2. Grady Durham of Monticello Associates addresses donors at the Annual Investments Update Luncheon. 3. In August, The Denver Foundation was honored to sponsor a retrospective and awards ceremony celebrating 66 years of The Denver (CO) Links Incorporated, held at the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. 4. Carol Haas enjoyed a presentation from Helen Thorpe, author of The Newcomers, at History Colorado in September. 5. Maura Ridge of The Denver Foundation’s Philanthropic Services Group with Susanne L. Shier at a seminar on opportunities under the tax overhaul in May.
6. In July, artist Molina Speaks met with members of The Denver Foundation’s Nonprofit Internship Program at Youth on Record.

7. Poet Suzi Q. Smith, activist and scholar Viviana Andazola Marquez, and Warm Cookies of the Revolution founder Evan Weissman were honored during the 2018 Community Leadership Awards in November. Donors gather at the Annual Investments Update Luncheon.
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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