



## The Place for Inspired Giving

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**The Community Foundation**  
BOULDER COUNTY

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**The Community Foundation**  
BOULDER COUNTY

# Voice

## of inspired giving

SPRING 2013

### Love of Life and the Arts Leads to Inspired Giving



Martha Kate Thomas

Most people remember where they were on September 11, 2001. Martha Kate Thomas was in Santa Fe, NM.

“The following day she was walking the Plaza and saw a lot of the sidewalk artists talking and looking fearful. They shared with her how worried they were about their livelihoods if people stopped

vacationing or collecting art,” recalled Jamie Sladky, who was like a daughter to Martha Kate. “She bought several small pieces she hadn’t intended to, merely to somehow try to reassure them that all was not yet lost.”

“In a time when none of us knew what was going on, she reached out to the most fragile of the art community, the artists who don’t have a gallery or a catalog or a show, merely a blanket on a sidewalk with some pieces to sell, and gave them her support emotionally and financially,” Jamie said.

Even during one of the most tragic, unsettled times in our country, Martha Kate was thinking of others and how she could help make their lives a little better.

Whether in Santa Fe or in Boulder, Martha Kate avidly supported the arts community. She didn’t just buy art, she invested her time and committed to a piece by discovering the history of it and getting to know the artist. She fully embraced the arts community, and it embraced her back.

Martha Kate’s passion for life and the arts was contagious, and those who knew her could not help but feel inspired, which makes her bequest gift to The Community Foundation so fitting. Through the Martha Kate Thomas

Fund for Artists, created when she passed away in 2012, Martha Kate’s spirit of giving and love of life will continue by providing artists with the resources they need to create and excite others with their work.

Marie Fagan was also a lover of the arts and the type of person who, according to those who knew her, left this world a better place than she found it.

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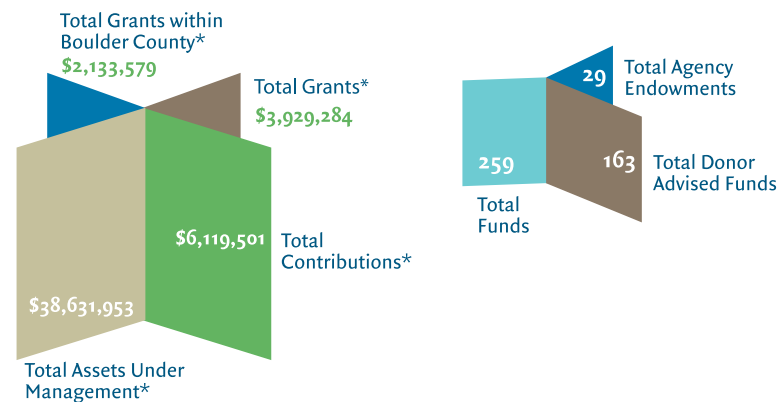
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Stefan Reyes, Grants Administrator

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## 2012 by the Numbers

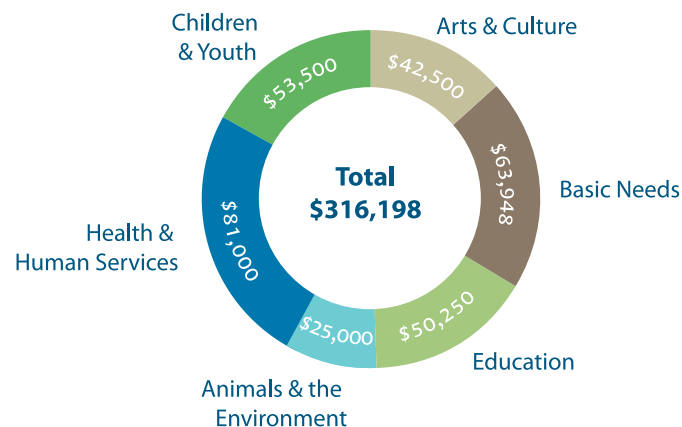
The Community Foundation hit two important milestones in 2012: we granted our \$50 millionth grant dollar and successfully completed our four-year \$4 million Community Trust Campaign. Thanks to everyone who made 2012 a successful year!



\*The numbers above are as of 12/31/12 and are unaudited. To see a copy of The Community Foundation's most recent audited financials, please visit [www.commfound.org](http://www.commfound.org).

## Community Trust Grants 2012-2013

The Community Trust is The Community Foundation's most responsive fund supporting Boulder County non-profit organizations in the areas of Arts & Culture, Animals & Environment, Basic Needs, Health & Human Services, Education, and Children & Youth. Between September 2008 and September 2012, The Community Foundation successfully raised \$4 million to both support the Foundation's work in the area of early childhood education and to permanently double available grant funding from The Community Trust. The below chart shows the distribution of the 2012-2013 Community Trust grants by topic area. For a complete list of grantees, please visit [www.commfound.org](http://www.commfound.org).



## School Readiness Initiative Gains Momentum County-wide



State Sen. Rollie Heath, explains the Colorado Legislature's latest school finance reform efforts as St. Vrain Valley Schools Superintendent, Don Haddad, listens during a Community Leadership Forum on Early Learning at St Julien Hotel.

You know your audience is engaged when a congressman's explanation of how sequestration could impact Head Start funding draws gasps from the crowd.

More than 100 highly committed guests listened from the edge of their seats after braving a Boulder snowstorm earlier this spring to hear an update on current efforts in early education from three major leaders, sponsored by Wells Fargo Advisors.

U.S. Rep. Jared Polis explained President Obama's latest universal preschool proposal, as well as the threats inherent in the fiscal crisis known as sequestration. State Sen. Rollie Heath walked us through the first major overhaul of the School Finance Act since 1994. And St. Vrain Valley Schools Superintendent Don Haddad described how the upstream investment his Boulder County district has made on students in their earliest years has begun to yield impressive results.

Community Foundation Board Chair Richard Garcia moderated the evening and also provided an update on Boulder Valley's recently accelerated efforts to boost early learning opportunities for all children.

Momentum is building locally for a more focused effort on early learning opportunities, especially for children in poverty and English language learners. And it's riding a tailwind of federal and state-level work, as the public servants at our recent forum showcased.

A recent Boulder County-wide convening of about 40 leaders across the sectors of education, government, business, faith and nonprofit organizations provided further proof of this momentum. The leaders heard a presentation from The Community Foundation's Civic Forum on trends that concern us in education—chiefly that even as we pull out of the Great Recession, our child poverty rate is rising, and so is the number of children arriving at Kindergarten without the preparation necessary to succeed. The leaders discussed the issue and then unanimously agreed to commit to increasing the number of children in our county ready for Kindergarten and reading by 3rd grade.

We have committed collectively to improving these outcomes. Stay tuned for updates on where this exciting and important collaboration will lead.

Visit [www.commfound.org](http://www.commfound.org) or [www.facebook.com/Commfound](http://www.facebook.com/Commfound).



# Message from Richard Garcia, Chair

## Dear Friends,

2012 was a great year for The Community Foundation. We successfully completed our \$4 million Community Trust campaign! Reaching this milestone greatly enhances the Foundation's ability to support many nonprofits in Boulder County, as well as our special focus area of school readiness.

In 2012, trustees and staff stepped up to assist St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD). With the combined efforts of many, The Community Foundation helped pass the \$14.8 million mill levy override allowing SVVSD to expand its early learning opportunities to the tune of \$1 million. Furthermore, after that financial success, the SVVSD Board set a new goal of providing preschool to an additional 400 four-year-olds growing up in poverty, to keep pace with a child poverty boom in greater Longmont.

The Community Foundation also hired a full-time school readiness director to continue efforts so that every Boulder county child will be reading by third grade.

And that's not all.

Nearly \$4 million was granted to more than 1,000 local non-profits. Our community-based grant-making process works, because of the extraordinary support of approximately 100 volunteers and our trustees. Thank you!

Last but not least, I want to thank the community, the trustees, and the staff for making my tenure as chair of The Community Foundation an experience that I will forever appreciate. You all made this experience fun and productive. I look forward to supporting our new chair, Rhonda Wallen, as we transition later this month.

Thank you!



Richard Garcia, Chair of the Board of Trustees



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## The Conversation Project in Boulder County

The Community Foundation is sponsoring an important new endeavor we want you to know about.

Health care professionals who work with seriously ill patients can give testament to the fact that end-of-life decision-making, while always challenging, is much less difficult when patients have done advance care planning and have then discussed their wishes with their families. The Institute for Health Care Improvement (IHI) and The Conversation Project, under the leadership of Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Ellen Goodman, are dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes. Boulder County health care professionals and concerned citizens have developed The Conversation Project in Boulder County, with the goal of fostering effective and meaningful conversations about end-of-life care.

The Conversation Project invites you to join a community-wide discussion, led by Ellen Goodman, on May 8, 7:00 pm. Cost will be \$10/person. Registration, location, and other event details are available at [www.regonline.com/conversationproject](http://www.regonline.com/conversationproject).

Love of Life

continued from front page

"Marie was an artist of life," friend Mary Beth wrote about Marie on a memorial website. "Her curiosity and enthusiasm for beauty, potential projects, and interesting ideas made her a wonderful friend and companion."

Marie was a skilled artist in many mediums, including painting, metal work, glass blowing and fine photography.

She was also a lover of animals and the environment, and a skilled psychologist who worked with Boulder Valley School District students, teachers, and families for over 30 years. Marie encouraged, mentored, and influenced many throughout her career.

Marie designated The Community Foundation as a beneficiary of an annuity. She did not restrict her gift, so it will support the Foundation's transformational leadership work in Boulder County. A large piece of that work focuses on closing the achievement gap in Boulder County, which is unfortunately one of the widest in the state. More than one in three low-income third-graders in Boulder County can't read at grade level, roughly half can't do math at grade level, and nearly two-thirds aren't proficient in writing. Marie's legacy gift will provide resources to help us continue our work in education—something close to her heart.

Please consider creating your own legacy by making a planned gift. To leave a bequest in your will, other estate-planning document, or retirement plan document, you and your attorney may find the following sample language useful: I give to The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County, a Colorado non-profit corporation, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert dollar amount, percentage of estate, or exact description of property).

The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization. The foundation's federal tax ID number is #84-1171836.

“  
**Marie was an artist of life. Her curiosity and enthusiasm for beauty, potential projects, and interesting ideas made her a wonderful friend and companion.**  
—Mary Beth”



## TRENDS is Coming!



Look for the next edition of TRENDS in September 2013. We'll bring you information on demographics, education, the economy, housing, the environment, civic engagement, and philanthropy, as well as a special section on Boulder County's growing Latino

community. Below are some highlights:

- Our 65+ population continues to grow seven times as fast as our overall population and is on track to triple between 2000 and 2030.
- People of color make up 21% of our community and more than 30% of kids under the age of 18.
- The Boulder County metropolitan statistical area ranked 13th in the country for per capita personal income in 2011. In 2001, we ranked 7th.
- Roughly one in four students in Boulder County qualifies for free and reduced lunch.
- Low-income students in the county continue to lag their wealthier peers, with just three out of five economically disadvantaged third graders reading at grade level last year.
- Despite that gap, both districts improved their on-time graduation rates and saw a greater number of students enroll in Advanced Placement classes.
- Foreclosures fell for the third consecutive year in 2012, and housing prices rose over 2011 levels.

To schedule a TRENDS presentation for your organization, call Barbara Green at 303.442.0436 x130 or email [Barbara@commfound.org](mailto:Barbara@commfound.org).

## A Little Q & A

### Q: What is the Boulder County Health Improvement Collaborative?

A: BCHIC is a program of The Community Foundation that began more than five years ago to improve health care for all Boulder County residents. While our initial focus was to establish a Health Information Exchange enabling medical providers to exchange relevant patient data in a timely and secure manner, we've since expanded our work to look at strengthening care coordination between health and human service providers.

### Q: Who else is involved?

A: We're proud of the robust group of community leaders who have committed many hours to this effort. Our members include all four Boulder County hospitals, our community health centers, public health, mental health, public safety, private physicians, hospice providers, and others.

### Q: What is BCHIC doing to improve care coordination?

A: We have two projects running right now. One is a data sharing agreement between providers that would take de-identified data (meaning no patient information is revealed) and aggregate it at a community level so we can get a more accurate picture of some of our chronic health needs in Boulder County. The other is a series of patient interviews that ask about individual experiences navigating the health care system and where patients perceive improvements or extra support is needed. We're hoping the information they provide will help direct our efforts.

### Q: How do I learn more?

A: You can call or email Morgan Rogers to learn more about BCHIC's work: 303.442.0436 x115 or [morgan@commfound.org](mailto:morgan@commfound.org).

## Q & A with Tim Enwall, CEO of Mobiplug, an EFCO Partner



### Q: Tell us about you and your company.

A: Mobiplug unifies your smart home on your smart phone or tablet. We build solutions that deliver the simplest and most affordable smart home experience. We're a TechStarsBoulder 2012 graduate (TechStars is the #1 "startup accelerator" in the country according to the Wall Street Journal) and funded by The Foundry Group, a top-10 national investor.

I, myself, am a technology industry veteran—having spent my whole career in the computing industry starting at Apple Computer in the mid-80s. In the mid-90s I began my entrepreneurial efforts. In 2004 I started Tendril, which is a profitable company in Boulder that employed 175 people when I left last May. I met the Mobiplug founders (I am not a company founder) during TechStars and was smitten with their concept and agreed to join last fall. I'm very passionate about building great businesses and helping others do so.

### Q: Why did your company join the Entrepreneurs Foundation of Colorado (EFCO)?

A: The more appropriate question is, "Why wouldn't we?" Tendril was an inaugural member of EFCO for the same reasons Mobiplug is a new member: this community enables entrepreneurs to flourish, and it's a small thing—1% of the initial stock of the company—to give back to the community. It's perfectly aligned. If the company does well, the community does well. If not, it did no harm. The other very significant factor is that the EFCO relationship takes community philanthropy from being a personal effort for the key shareholders to being a company effort. If we succeed and the community succeeds, it won't be any individual at Mobiplug who created that success—it will be the entire company and every employee. That creates an element of pride that is hard to create by other methods. I just wish it had been around when I started my first business in the mid-90s.

### Q: What's your favorite community cause?

A: Mobiplug doesn't have a favorite cause—other than the community itself. We were very committed to the idea that The Community Foundation knows the most important and effective areas in which to invest. Those areas change in nature and scope each year, and we couldn't possibly keep up with it.

Learn more about EFCO at [www.efcolorado.com](http://www.efcolorado.com).



With you, The Community Foundation can continue to make an inspiring impact in Boulder County! Will you please make a gift today using the enclosed envelope, by donating online at [www.commfund.org](http://www.commfund.org), or with this QR code?

The Community Foundation wants to thank our Community Partners for their generous support to our operations. We couldn't do what we do without them!

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