ANNUAL REPORT 2022



HOPE COMMUNITIES



VISION

A community in which everyone has a safe place to call home and the resources they need to thrive.

MISSION

We strengthen communities and provide pathways to economic and personal opportunity through affordable housing, educational programs and support services.



HOME • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY

To our community,

We are pleased to report that Hope Communities has seen substantive growth in the last year and created an incredible impact across the greater metro region. We served 3,235 individuals with housing, programs, and services in 2022 – a 75% increase in clients served compared to 2021. More than 80% of those clients are from the broader community, accessing programs and services for free. For us, it's not the numbers alone that count, but the fact that we meet people where they are - customizing our approach and extent of support to specifically help them address the most urgent needs and move towards stability and economic mobility.

Part of our ability to nuance intervention, training, and resources is the result of the incredible team at Hope Communities. We have staff members who speak 21 languages, have personal experience with many of the hardships and cultural backgrounds of our clients, and are dedicated and highly effective at the holistic model of care adopted by the organization. Here are some of the achievements realized by the Hope team.

- We provided navigation to 921 refugees, with 803 new to the country for five years or less. Most clients were from Afghanistan, Myanmar, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria, and many more refugee, asylee, and immigrant clients from a broad variety of countries.
- Navigators assisted clients with a variety of challenges during the year, including access to healthcare; health and wellness clinics; financial literacy; civic engagement, technology support; basic needs; re-entry after incarceration and education. In response to increasing food insecurity, coupled with the high cost of groceries, Hope served 46,414 fresh, healthy meals.
- Knowing how important meaningful employment is, we hosted employers at 21 events on property in 2022 and worked with 108 employers to help clients find jobs with family-sustaining wages. We placed 79 individuals in better jobs and provided employment support to 187.
- Stable housing is a mainstay of our work, of course. We housed 552 and supported 289 individuals who received

direct assistance. We also leverage internal and external sources to get more than \$442,000 in emergency rent assistance to those who most needed it. We provided 66 families with utility assistance.

 Since we approach navigation and support from a holistic family point of view, we provided 315 youth access to programs/activities that strengthened academic accomplishment, social-emotional resilience, and wellness. We offered senior support programs as well.

We have made so many gains as an organization and have assisted some of the most vulnerable people in our community to make tangible and sustainable improvements in their lives. As such, we played an important part in strengthening the community at large. It's been an amazing year. As a result of our work, we've uncovered even more needs, and have more people than ever flocking to our doors to get the help they need. As always, we will do our best to address those challenges for community members in 2023.

With an increase in demand for services, the need for additional space is essential. We'd like to find land to build on or acquire property that would allow us to house more families, and to have space in order to provide programs and services – either on, or very close to, our properties. It goes without saying that we need sustained funding for general operating support. All programs and services are paid for in fundraising dollars, so your help and support have been – and will be greatly appreciated.

We wish you good health and fulfilling opportunities to make a difference in the world. We are all in this together and your contributions to the community are meaningful. Please know that any contribution you make to Hope Communities is leveraged for the greatest possible impact.

All the best,



Kelly Kaminskas 2022 Board Chair



Sharon A. Knight
President & CFO

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We are grateful for all the contributions our board of directors have made over the years and were thrilled to welcome Laurie Zeller to the board in 2022. Ms. Zeller is a community activist who has dedicated so much of her time advocating for and welcoming refugees to the United States and Colorado, ensuring that everyone, regardless of where they come from, has the tools and skills necessary for a hopeful and successful future.

ABOUT OUR WORK

For 43 years, Hope Communities has answered the call to build a community where everyone has a safe place to call home and the resources they need not just to survive, but to thrive. In addition to providing 278 units of affordable housing in one of the most challenging real estate markets in the country, Hope provides programs and support services that help residents and clients obtain employment, critical resources, quality education, and strengthen their families and social networks.

HOUSING STABILITY

Hope ramped up its housing stability program in 2022, working with more clients who were unhoused, supporting clients at risk of losing their housing and helping families to move from transition to permanent locations. As with all our interventions, navigators worked with whole families affected by housing instability – not just the initial clients.

A condition of fiscal support for housing matters is participation in sustained sessions with navigators to ensure that the myriad of factors relating to housing instability are addressed, and the family has access to basic needs, healthcare and other resources to help them to thrive.



Basic Needs





People Received Housing Stability Support



People Provided
Resource Navigation



147
People Received
Financial Literacy
Coaching

RESOURCE NAVIGATION

Coffee talks with adults at Hidden Brook

In 2022, Community Navigator Yemi started an adult's social program to help residents and community members get to know each other and share some of their cultural specialties. They shared recipes from their home countries, learned sewing skills, self-care, stress management, coping skills & healthy eating. Participants also learned and practiced leadership skills so they could take those skills back to their community and be a resource for others.

Participants came from several countries, including Burma (Myanmar), Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Democratic Republic of Congo.





FOOD DISTRIBUTION



In 2022, we gave out 46,414 healthy meals to people in the community! Just as we did in 2021, the food distributions were open to anyone in the community, and throughout the year we saw an increasing number of individuals and families come to us

because of food insecurity. We stayed with our commitment to provide fresh, culturally appropriate food that we sourced from either using our own monetary resources procured through several grants, or through partnerships with We Don't Waste and Aurora Interfaith.

One of the continued challenges of food distribution is the fact that we don't actually have the infrastructure to be able to store food (walk-in freezer, cabinets, refrigerator, etc.). Everything that we get is either purchased or delivered the day of food distribution, which usually means all-handson-deck for the staff at both Hidden Brook & The Gardens.

All staff enjoy the days, and are able to foster meaningful relationships with community members & residents.



Ms. Gaither has been a resident at The Gardens for nearly a decade. She's the primary care giver for her



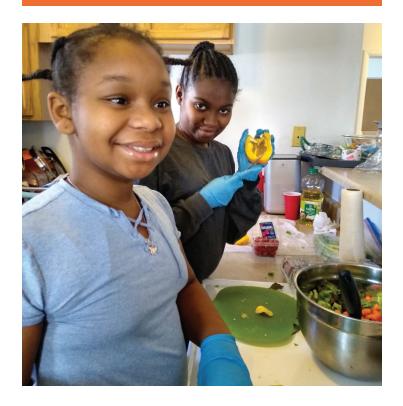
adult son who has special needs, and like many people, her income just doesn't cover all the bills – with everything, including food, escalating in price. She has been incredibly grateful for Hope's bi-weekly food distribution as it allows her to ensure she and her son are eating fresh, healthy food while also being able to afford other of life's necessities. She was all smiles one day as she was picking up eggs, telling staff that because Hope is providing them, she and her son are getting an important source of protein.

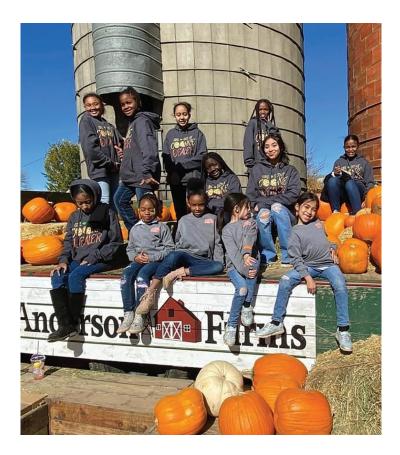
YOUTH PROGRAMMING

In alignment with our model of care, youth programming is customized by property and informed by resident voices. At Hidden Brook, where the families are diverse and represent cultures from across the globe, staff integrated opportunities for parents to learn how to interact and support their children into the regular activities planned for youth. One way to help parents of toddlers was through a program called Ready Tots. Staff used one area of program space to add books, educational materials, and toys that would assist in meaningful interaction and learning between parents and children. Staff, in partnership with team members from Spring Institute, helped adults gain the skills they needed to be better parents and understand the social norms for child raising in Colorado.

A "Youth Day" was organized to play games and enjoy the outdoors with each other. 35 teens & tweens participated in these workshops & activities, and everyone reported learning more about themselves & each other, and look forward to the programming continuing! There is an ongoing Girls' Empowerment Program for teen refugee girls and a new Scout troop, which includes boys and girls.

"Educational Enrichment Program (EEP)
which provides academic support, physical
exercise, healthy snacks and activities for personal
enrichment and social-emotional strength."





At the Gardens of Hope Communities in NE Park Hill, youth meet after school throughout the year in an Educational Enrichment Program (EEP) which provides academic support, physical exercise, healthy snacks and activities for personal enrichment and social-emotional strength. There are mini-camps planned for out-of-school times, such as summer and winter break.

25 youth participated in a 6-week summer camp. Staff planned a unique theme for curriculum each week, offering programming to further learning, physical activities, relationship-building, creative expression, problem-solving; volunteering, and exploration of the community. With foundation funding and generous donations from other organizations, kids were able to participate in field trips as a culmination event of each week of camp.

To keep school-aged children engaged over winter break, we hosted a Winter camp at The Gardens. Similar to our summer camp series, we put a focus on STEM activities, but also incorporated a cooking element using ingredients from food distributions. Exposing children to different ingredients can help foster a life-long habit of healthy and adventurous eating, contributing to a healthy mind, body & spirit. The winter camp participants also expressed a desire to help their parents or caregivers prepare meals and try new flavors.

"The group has been designed to support young men of color to realize their potential..."

BOYZ in the Gardens meets regularly throughout the year. The group has been designed to support young men of color to realize their potential, learn coping and resiliency skills and experience opportunities for advancement that they might not otherwise learn. Staff and the community facilitator for the group see this as a meaningful way to interrupt the cycle of gang involvement, which has been predominant in the community. Twenty young men have been meeting regularly.

There is a Girl Scout troop that meets on property every Saturday. A broad spectrum of girls, from Brownies to Seniors, participate in a variety of activities throughout the year. And yes, they are masterful at selling cookies!





SUCCESS STORY

Mr. Aslami & His Family

Mr. Aslami and his wife and 4 children came to the United States in late 2020 from Afghanistan as Special Immigrant Visa holders.

Mr. Aslami and his wife were lucky: they already had a basic understanding of English, and both had finished school up to the equivalency of 12th grade.

Upon arriving in the US, the family had no money, no jobs, no place to live, and no idea what to do about any of it. Their resettlement agency got them a safe place to live and the basics for survival, but they knew they needed some additional help. They turned to our Afghan Navigator, Lailey. In working with the family, Lailey could tell they were determined for a better life in the United States. The resettlement agency helped to get Mr. Aslami a position at WalMart, while Lailey worked with Ms. Aslami. Lailey spent time going over the importance of establishing credit in the United States and explained that so much of what they expressed as their goals would hinge on having good credit. The three of them went to the bank, opened an account, opened a secured credit card, and talked budgets. They worked hard throughout 2021 and 2022, saving every penny, constantly going over budgets, using their credit card and then paying it off.

In March 2023 less than 3 years from arriving on American soil, the family called Lailey completely ecstatic: they had just been approved for a home loan! They thanked Lailey profusely and said there was no way they could have made it to where they are if they hadn't met her, learned about finances in the United States and followed her advice.

TASTE OF HIDDEN BROOK

Going back many years, A Taste of Hidden Brook was an annual tradition that residents looked forward to: they cooked dishes from their home countries to share with neighbors and were able to visit with each other and learn about the food and cultures from around the world. The COVID pandemic meant, of course, this annual event had to be put on hold for a couple years, but by the time we could gather, everyone was more than ready!

On a windy September day in 2022, Hope turned Hidden Brook into a carnival for the come-back of A Taste of Hidden Brook! We had food delivered from refugee-owned restaurants, attendees wore their traditional clothing, we created a bazaar where residents and community members decorated tents with special things from their home countries to share with participants. We had a DJ, who is also a refugee, play music from around the world as people got up on stage as a "show & tell" about their country. We had 2



residents perform a traditional Karen (a subsect of Burmese) song, and the kids had a dance party while adults enjoyed a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony.



"Being able to celebrate diversity in such a rich, vibrant atmosphere is truly what makes

Hope Communities unique"

Being able to celebrate diversity in such a rich, vibrant atmosphere is truly what makes Hope Communities unique: knowing your neighbors and caring for your neighbors even if you don't speak the same language or come from the same background, has created incredibly strong community ties. We look forward to continuing our Taste of Hidden Brook tradition for many, many years to come.

VOLUNTEER DAY

Charles Schwab employees, from all across the country, spend one day each year with a charity of their choosing, spending time helping complete tasks that might otherwise be too expensive, too taxing, or too difficult for staff to complete. In 2022, 20 Schwabies chose Hope Communities to spend their day with! They painted the entire interior courtyard walls of Hidden Brook apartments (7 floors!) and beautified the 2 sign areas as well as the resident garden areas to get it ready for planting. The garden area was even built by Schwabies nearly a decade ago!

This long relationship has been truly incredible, and every year we see new faces as well as those who are returning for their 6th, 7th, or even 10th time. We look forward to working with them each year, and that our special relationship endures for many more years to come!



HEALTH & WELLNESS



Clinics

We had several COVID and flu vaccine clinics throughout 2022, with the help of 365Health. Residents and neighbors were grateful to have access to these vaccines, and happily there were no reports of either a COVID or flu outbreak in our communities. Denver Health provided some wellness clinics to check blood pressure and advise clients on how to properly take their medications, and if there were other medications they should avoid, to prevent contraindications related to their prescriptions.

Trauma

Many of our clients have experienced sustained trauma due to their life circumstances. People experiencing homelessness, long-term poverty and lack of resources, incarceration or forcible displacement all must learn to work through the ramifications of trauma in their path to wellness, family stability and economic mobility.

"Life in the United States is not always an easy one to navigate, and people are often retraumatized because of crime and violence that is pervasive in some of the neighborhoods..." Trauma is particularly resonant for refugee clients. Each person has fled from their homeland due to war, famine, political corruption, environmental catastrophe, among many other reasons – fearing for their survival. Life in the United States is not always an easy one to navigate, and people are often retraumatized because of crime and violence that is pervasive in some of the neighborhoods refugees and their families can find housing.

In July 2022, one of our long-time residents, Ma Kaing, was killed when a stray bullet was fired from the park next to her apartment. The mother of 4, Board Member of East Colfax Community Collective, and restaurant owner was bringing home catered desserts with her eldest son when shots rang out. Ma was hit as she was exiting her car at the front of the building and was killed almost instantly. As a Burmese refugee who ushered her family out of the war-torn country to live in a refugee camp in Thailand before coming to the US, she had created a community at Hidden Brook of people from all over the world who could understand the type of trauma she experienced, but who were hopeful for a new life in the United States.

"As news of her passing spread throughout the community, the past scars of trauma began to resurface..."

They helped each other with raising kids, learning English, supporting career endeavors and making sure everyone was healthy and fed. As news of her passing spread throughout the community, the past scars of trauma began to resurface, and the general atmosphere in the community was palpable with unease, anxiety, fear, and heartache. Hope staff also experienced these same feelings, but addressing them looks very different for the refugee community of which Ma was so intertwined. She was well loved by the community, and her death critically affected residents, neighbors and staff. Hope brought in trauma support specialists to help during group discussions, organized field trips for equine therapy, brought in counselors to have 1:1 meetings, and took action to help the community find their voice and bring up concerns to the people who could make a change: DPD, the Denver Sheriff, and 911.

2022 BY THE NUMBERS





66 Events



3,235





98
People Supported with Technology Support





People Supported with Rental Assistance for total of \$52,512 Internal Grant Support



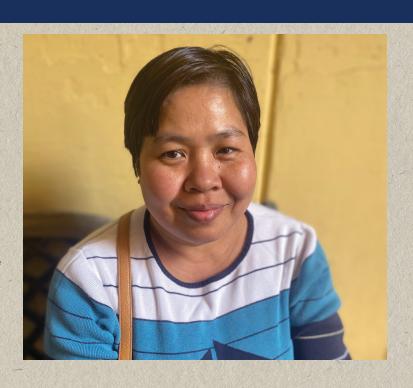
Charles Schwab Volunteer Day

SUCCESS STORY

Htwe Htwe

Htwe Htwe, a refugee from Burma, needed housing, a supportive navigation team, and ready resources to help her and her family to achieve success in Denver.

They got housing from Hope, got basic needs and other resources from staff, took English classes, and eventually got small business support from the Hope team. She started a small business at Mango House, an incubator for ethnic restaurants, right before the pandemic, but Navigators from Hope helped her to access pandemic-related benefits, and advertise her business throughout the community, which helped her to make it through the direst times. Throughout 2021 & 2022, her business had not only thrived, but she purchased a home to move in to - one of at least 12 families to do so in 2022, which is the dream of many of our hardworking families.



DEI WORK

Hope Communities takes our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion very seriously. Staff have been engaged in sustained training and consultation; we represent and honor the communities we serve; we've started an equity fund for those who may not have had opportunities for access to opportunity in the past; advocate for our diverse and marginalized communities; and provide platforms for our residents' voices to be heard.

"We are committed to language justice and allowing people to participate in a language they are most comfortable with..."

We are committed to language justice and allowing people to participate in a language they are most comfortable with. Documents, announcements & general information are routinely translated into at least 6 languages, and during our community meetings, we brought in outside interpreters to allow participants not only to receive the information being shared, but also be able to provide feedback. This allowed for a truly comprehensive process, which in turn meant goals that were set during meetings were worked on collaboratively, and had a much better chance of success.



Groups broke-out by language at this community safety meeting, and were able to offer suggestions and pose questions to city officials using interpreters.



As one example, the last half of 2022 saw not just improvements to 911 response in Denver, but forced a mobile provider to address issues nationwide in which wrong cell towers were pinged and a caller was sent to the incorrect police dispatch. 911 systems had inadvertently directed calls to the wrong police department. Years of complaints from residents went unheard until the tragic death of Ma Kaing put the issue front and center.

The community meetings allowed people to express their frustration with the system directly to the 911 director, in their own language. Within a week the cell tower closest to the property was reprogrammed and within a month, the 911 director reported back that the cell provider had not just fixed the issue in the East Colfax neighborhood, but had made a commitment to address the issue in neighborhoods all across the United States by the end of 2023.

"One of our senators also sponsored work to address the process of 911 calls and response across Colorado."

One of our senators also sponsored work to address the process of 911 calls and response across Colorado. Many small voices can make a huge difference, if given the opportunity to be heard.

THANK YOU TO THE DENVER SHERIFF'S OFFICE!



The Denver Sheriff's Office has continued to be an amazing partner with our communities. They came out to nearly every food distribution at both our East Colfax neighborhood as well as our NE Park Hill neighborhood, making sure to interact with the community and offer to help. Fostering relationships with communities that have for so long felt either ignored or scrutinized by law enforcement will (and has) gone a long way in building trust.

The Sheriffs also adopted Hope Communities ahead of our annual Treasure Store to make sure that no kid would be empty handed for the holidays! They went above and beyond, and while we usually can only give each individual 2 gifts, they were able to get 3 this year! In addition, they made sure our senior residents weren't forgotten, and collected items like books, soft socks, hats, activity books, hygiene products, and house shoes for our seniors to feel special and cared for over the holiday season.

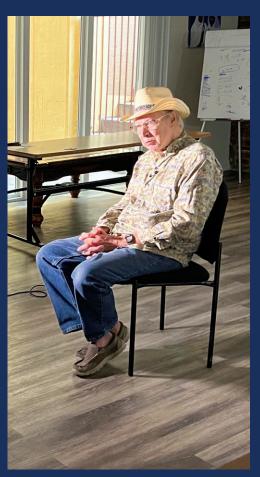
TELEMUNDO STORY

In mid-2022, as our Hidden Brook property became the gathering place for community members from all over to discuss their frustrations, fears, and hopes for a better relationship with DPD & 911, one reporter from Telemundo commented to our community manager, Sandra Ortega, how diverse the crowd was. She asked, "How many languages are spoken here?" When Sandra answered, "more than 20," Stephanie Rodriguez' eyes got wide, and the wheels started turning for how she could tell a story about this wonderful community that has come together and supported each other, despite language barriers. That September & October, Stephanie & her photojournalist spent nearly 3 full days at Hidden Brook, taking in the vibes, interviewing residents and staff, and putting together what would be a 3-part series for sweeps week highlighting the special relationship that exists in East Colfax.









Did you miss the Telemundo story on Hidden Brook?

Scan the QR codes below and enjoy!

PART 1



PART 2



PART 3





ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT! (HOPE FOR THE FUTURE)

Last year Hope Communities had a successful night of fundraising, socializing, and celebrating.

On the evening of August 25th, 2022, a hundred and seventy-five people from around Denver helped Hope Communities celebrate its 42nd year of amazing work empowering people by providing affordable housing, support services, and basic needs. The theme was "Back to the 80s" to honor Sam and Nancy Gary who were extraordinary advocates and supporters of Hope in the early days. The band, "Steve and the Cruisers," provided music of the 80's.

The evening began with an amazing banquet of food from an elegant charcuterie spread to sweet onion-sauced "sliders" that melted in the mouth. Guests enjoyed their refreshing signature drink, "HOPE 42", a light peach nectar mixed with vodka, lime, and Cointreau. People smiled and laughed, happy to be meeting in person after the two-year COVID pandemic. With pens in hand guests began the competition to outbid their companions for items such as a stay at the "Taos House" in Taos, New Mexico, or unique art items. But the bid wars escalated when it came to the various whiskey baskets like "The Bootlegger Special".

After the bidding wars, the silent auction closed and everyone returned to their tables to learn about the struggles of the clients we serve – from marginalized families, to those experiencing homelessness, to the refugees who fled persecution and came to Colorado to rebuild their lives. The speakers made evident the purpose of funding the programs that would help people succeed, and experience what we often thought of as "the American Dream" growing up. All through the night, the music, laughter, food, and fun surrounded the spirit of giving. "Hope for the Future: Back to the 80s" event made the future look bright for clients who need assistance with housing stability and economic mobility programs with the aid of the amazing Hope Communities team. Serendipitously, we raised \$83,000 in funds to sustain Hope's support programs - which are only paid for with fundraising dollars and are integral to the success of its clients.

Many thanks to everyone who participated, and we can't wait to see you again for future Hope For The Future events!



Thanks to the corporate sponsors who have sponsored Hope Communities over the years and helped make HOPE FOR THE FUTURE HAPPEN.





















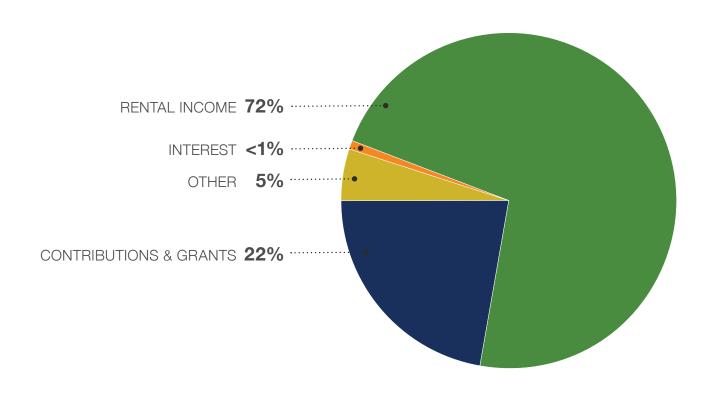






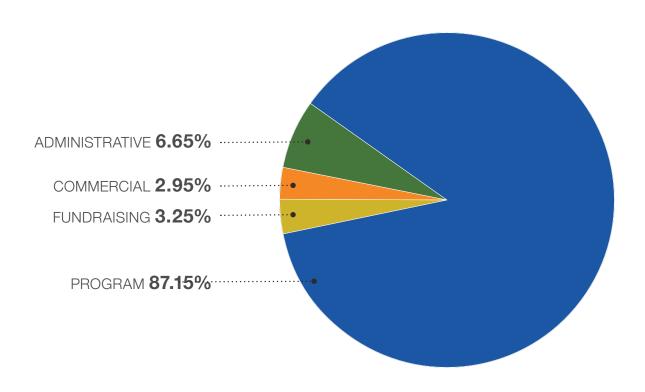


2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS REVENUE



REVENUE	
Rental Income	\$3,077,642.00
Interest Income	\$3,776.00
Contributions and Grants	\$942,271.00
Other Income	\$243,112.00
Total Support	\$4,266,791.00

2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS EXPENSES



EXPENSES	
Programs	
Affordable Housing	\$3,184,372.61
Resident Services	\$1,137,130.39
Housing Development	\$30,092.51
Supporting Services	
Administrative	\$332,065.36
Fundraising	\$162,270.75
Commercial	\$147,373.28
Total Expenses	\$4,993,274.90

THANK YOU

Support from our generous donors and volunteers allows us to provide crucial services and resources to our residents and members of the community. ALL programs and services are funded solely through fundraising dollars.

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS

\$99,000+

The Colorado Health Foundation

The Colorado Refugee Services Program

\$20,000-\$98,999

Colorado Department of Human Services

Colorado Housing & Finance Authority

Enterprise Community Partners

Strear Family Foundation

The Anschutz Foundation

The Denver Foundation

Trailhead Institute - The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger

\$5,000-\$19,999

3i Law

Anonymous

Anschutz Family Foundation

Bank of America Charitable Foundation

City and County of Denver

Emergency Food & Shelter Program

FirstBank

KeyBank

McPherson Family Foundation

Neighborhood Equity & Stabilization - City of Denver

Sam S. Bloom Foundation

US Bank Foundation

\$2,500-\$4,999

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Denver Sheriff Department

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Presbyterian Church

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INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$5,000+

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Chuong & Khanh Le

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Rebecca Drogen

Sharon Knight

Kelly McMullen

Marilyn Phillips

Adam Riddle

Marcia Rodgers

Jean Saul

Tracey Stewart

Toni Stone

Trevor Voltz

Laurie Zeller

\$1,000-\$1,199

Cynda Collins Arsenault

Lola and Mark Grueskin

Cynthia Halaby

David and Margaret Knowlton

Mandi Leigh

Ken Mirr

Adam Riddle

Barbara Scott

Dorothea Steinke

\$500-\$999

Richard Alven

Cynda Arsenault

Brad Baumgartner

Alix & John Corboy

Chris Crowlev

Lou Ann Dixon

Steven & Susie Drucker

Flizabeth Fischer

Paul Fread

Jaime & Rita Gomez

Neda Habibi

David Henninger

Amy Ivy

Margaret Stroock & Andy Low

Barb McKee

Christine McLeod

Jody McNerney

Rotund Stunned Outgunned

Tesarek Fund

DJ Sante

John Simon

Jolynn & Gary Snyder

Dorothea Steinke

Ray & Marilyn Stranske

Raquel Tarantino

Matt Theis

\$100-\$499

Lois Adamson

Alexander Aleong

Anita & Aaron Azari

Carla Baglion

Joan Bancroft

Megan Baron Cate Barritt

Susan Bateman

Christophe Bauer

Patricia Beaver

David Beckner

Kathryn Bedell

Maggie Bolden

Charles & Melinda Boraman

Monica Bowers

Stephen Bratek

Jane Brickner

Aaron Brown

Charleen Brown Stephen Brown

Patti Capps

Allan & Shirley Casey

Cody Casey

Susan Castleberry

Rob Chanev

Susan Coleman

Rosemary Conner

Anjenette Cooper

Sally Cullerton

Denise Daniell

Bob Davis
Annette & Nicholas
Dayley
Debi Desgalier
Caroline Diroll
Chris Divenyi
Susan Dowd
Nicola & Keith Dudek

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Avery Flinta
Kenneth Floyd
Richard Foster

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Ruth Gerrity

Michael Gilbert

Dawn Graese

Kathleen Graves
Terry Green

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All informational references in this report will be provided upon request.

