



NEWS *from the* FOUNDATION

Stories of Service

by Julia Lawton

As Director of Communications, I have the honor of sharing stories about how the Foundation pursues its mission to serve the people of Colorado. Though the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges for the state of Colorado, I've been especially touched by the poignant stories I've heard in the last few months from our council members, grantees, program participants and El Pomar staff. I have heard stories of resilience, perseverance, compassion and altruism; stories of food banks able to meet increased demand, nonprofits providing diligent care for seniors, organizations extending mental health services for kids and communities finding shelter for those experiencing homelessness.

As I conclude my time at El Pomar, these stories serve as fitting reminders of my humility and appreciation for the opportunity to partner with the nonprofits on the front lines of their communities providing critical services before, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below are a few stories of impact:

"We have been able to launch a new food box delivery program, dropping food directly on the doorsteps of our most vulnerable residents. We serve around 300 households per week for approximately 1,200 individuals experiencing hunger in Mesa County, over double our normal operations." said Alisha Wenger, Executive Director of the Community Food Bank of Grand Junction.

"The generosity, in immediate funds, from El Pomar, assisted our efforts tremendously in delivering food and technology to feed our neediest of children," said Roxanne Pignanelli, Government and Community Affairs Coordinator of Pueblo School District 70.

"We believe that everyone deserves healthy food, especially during a crisis like COVID-19. El Pomar Foundation's Colorado Assistance Fund allowed us to act quickly to get food to families facing food insecurity and reach over 500 families each week, distributing 65,000 meals" said Nathan Mackenzie, Director of Development at Colorado Assistance Fund grantee The GrowHaus.

"Our community received financial support within days to assist with critical and emergent needs including PPE for safety net medical clinics, childcare support for healthcare workers, food for at-risk youth and transportation for senior citizens in remote parts of our county" said Linda Gann, Senior Manager Western Slope of Connect for Health Colorado.

Thank you for sharing your stories with us and for your efforts to serve your communities in these unprecedented times.