



MISSION DRIVEN

SUMMER 2020

PHILANTHROPY IS LOVE OF HUMANKIND



LAUREN Y. CASTEEL
President & CEO

The late **Dr. Vincent Harding**, a Denver treasure and dear friend, often invoked the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when speaking to the “beloved community.” Today, as I write to WFCO’s beloved community, I reach for the spirit of my Black ancestors, such as Sojourner Truth. Truth was born into slavery, where her body was used as property for profit. Truth became a leader of the abolitionist movement. At the 1851 Women’s Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio, where some asked that she not be allowed to speak, she asked the audience, “**Ain’t I a Woman?**”

Among the cascade of pain, sadness, anger, and hurt that our communities feel today lies a difficult truth. 169 years later, movements for suffrage, LGBTQ+ rights, feminism, reproductive rights, #MeToo, and woke women’s marches for justice continue to struggle with what it really means to respond “yes” to Sojourner Truth. When women’s outcomes for life itself are pre-determined by their background, what they look like, where they were born or where they live, how they pray, or their abilities, our movements leave many women behind. Equity is authentically shared power and voice. Without racial equity, there cannot be gender equity.

The trauma of COVID-19 only compounds the ongoing, cumulative pain of centuries of oppression. Black and Latinx women and men are more likely to die from complications, we are at greater risk of losing our homes, and our children are most likely to be hungry and least likely to have technology for online learning. COVID unflinchingly exposed underlying systemic disparities in health care, education, housing, and child care based on race, class, and yes, gender. To acknowledge these facts is not to deny that the pandemic has affected us all statewide. It is to say that some Coloradans are more likely to lose their livelihoods or their lives simply because of who they are. It is to say Black Lives Matter – a movement founded by women.

How do we use the trauma of today, of our history, to create a sustained better-yet-to-come? For WFCO, we commit to continued listening, learning, and growing through shared power and voice. The gender and racial equity we strive for starts with us. Through our history, we haven’t always done this well. We believe that philanthropy is not only the sphere of the white and the wealthy. We will continue our racial equity journey through intentional and increased investments in women and girls of color. I’m proud to share that WFCO’s executive committee of the board of trustees has approved our exploration of establishing the Women & Girls of Color Fund. Our staff has been working proactively for several months on the creation of a community-led field of interest fund that will invest in women-of-color-led and women-and-girls-of-color-serving organizations across Colorado. More information to come this fall.

Because philanthropy is the love of humankind, we will move forward with our **2020 Annual Luncheon**. I urge you and your beloved community to join us through our House Party format from August 27-30 (see page 3). Donations of every level are critical. Why? Because we are the only community foundation in Colorado focused on women. Our colleagues recognize that only WFCO can bring an intersectional gender-lens expertise to Colorado’s recovery. You will see on page 2 that several foundations have not only given relief grants, but funded our ongoing essential research, advocacy, grantmaking, and more.

To create the systemic changes necessary for ALL women and families to thrive, we need your commitment, too. I am proud to stand beside you, addressing a movement of women and men fired up and ready to do more. I hope for a better future, where simply waking in the morning is not a cause for fear because of the color of one’s skin. I hope for a better future for the next generation, for my family, for your family, for all Coloradans. Hope is important.



**The Women’s
Foundation of Colorado**
Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.®

OUR MISSION

Catalyzing community to advance and accelerate economic opportunities for Colorado women and their families.

WFCO.ORG

WFCO MAKES 66 GRANTS FROM WFCO RELIEF FUND

More to Be Announced Soon

The economic fallout of COVID-19 has exacerbated gender, racial, and class inequities and underscored gaps in essential resources. In fact, many economists call it a “shecession” because of the disproportionate number of women who have lost jobs due to the pandemic. Nationally, 1 in 5 Latinas and 1 in 6 Black women were unemployed in April 2020.



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U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics



of WOMEN & FAMILIES
of COLORADO
of HUMANKIND

2020 Annual Luncheon

Thank You

WFCO thanks several national and state foundations that have contributed to our relief fund and provided operational support, recognizing the essential leadership role that WFCO plays in creating equitable opportunities for women and families in our state.

- BoldeReach
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- Community First Foundation
- IMA Foundation
- The Kresge Foundation
- Ms. Foundation
- PNC Foundation
- Rose Community Foundation
- The Women's Funding Network

Nearly 60 community volunteers who represent the diversity of our state reviewed and scored relief fund applications. Thank you for your time!

» To see the up-to-date list of grantees, please visit blog.wfco.org.

At the start of the pandemic, we immediately converted all of our previously awarded grants to unrestricted funds and gave \$10,000 to the Governor's COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Through our Women and Families of CO Relief Fund (WFCO Relief Fund), seeded by The Colorado Health Foundation, WFCO then made 66 rapid response grants totaling \$452,500 in April to mitigate these inequities. The organizations that received funding respond to a variety of critical needs of Colorado women and families including housing, food, transportation, child care, health care, behavioral health, and reproductive health. They focus on many populations vulnerable to the economic fallout of COVID-19, including women of color, women with disabilities, immigrant and refugee women, domestic violence survivors, women experiencing homelessness, and more.

With additional relief funding arriving from more generous individuals and several foundations in June, including \$50,000 from Rose Community Foundation and an additional \$212,500 grant from The Colorado Health Foundation, WFCO will announce additional grants soon from the WFCO Relief Fund. As of the publication of this newsletter, WFCO has awarded in total:

- **14 general operating grants** to our existing WAGES (Women Achieving Greater Economic Security) grantee cohort direct-service partners
- **42 rapid-response grants** to organizations in 17 counties
- **Nine grants** to women-led social ventures and small businesses
- **One grant** to the Mile High United Way Keep The Lights On Fund, which makes bulk purchases of essential supplies to help child care providers continue operations.

Additionally, in partnership with WFCO, Community First Foundation increased its COVID-19 relief funding to four organizations serving women and families in Jefferson County that applied for grants from the WFCO Relief Fund. Members of our team have also been appointed to Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock's Economic Relief and Recovery Council, the Metro Denver Chamber's Prosper CO Strike team, and the community voices committee for the Governor's COVID-19 Relief Fund.

“We are pleased that we can provide these essential dollars to the only community foundation in our state with the intersectional gender-lens expertise to understand the breadth of challenges women will face through this public health crisis.”

KAREN MCNEIL-MILLER
*President and CEO,
The Colorado Health Foundation*

In all, WFCO received 287 applications from organizations in 35 Colorado counties for general operating rapid-response grants.

“The vast number of organizations that applied from more than half of Colorado's counties demonstrates that women and their families in every part of our state are deeply and devastatingly impacted by COVID-19. The needs are most pronounced for women of color and women in rural counties,” said Lauren Casteel. “We are particularly proud of the specific relief support we've been able to provide to Colorado women and families who need it most.”

OUR ANNUAL LUNCHEON ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE IN 2020, EXCEPT INTO THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME!

The WFCO Annual Luncheon is the event for everyone who stands for and with the women of Colorado. Despite the unique circumstances we face in 2020, our Annual Luncheon is not going anywhere – except into the comfort of your own home. Join us and nearly 3,000 community members for this renowned community building event. Be informed, inspired, and a part of our impact.

The power of humankind is unstoppable. Coloradans have shown that when we come together in love of community, our kindness, compassion, and generosity know no limits. During the public health crisis, so many women and their families have fallen off the pathway to economic security. Women are resilient, but opportunity is needed.

The Annual Luncheon is a moment for our community to once again come together to fulfill this need. Your support will power WFCO's critical research, fuel our advocacy, and support our grantmaking that are essential to all Colorado women's advancement.

Our 2020 Annual Luncheon, chaired by Kelley Duke and Simone Ross, will feature special guest stars, local sheroes, community leaders, and the women and families who benefit from our work. You can host your own House Party anytime from Thursday, August 27th through Sunday, August 30th. WFCO will provide you with the ultimate House Party Kit to ensure a successful viewing event – at your office, home, backyard, or online.

Learn more about hosting a House Party by joining our House Party 101 Webinar on June 29. RSVP to kristinav@wfco.org for Zoom meeting information.

HOW DOES A HOUSE PARTY WORK?

As a host, you invite 6 – 10 colleagues, friends, family, or neighbors to celebrate the women and families in your life. Make your House Party your own – host a wine and cheese party, a BBQ, or a Sunday brunch! You pick the time and place – we'll bring the impact! WFCO will provide you with the perfect House Party host kit. House Parties support WFCO in continuing our vital work with each achieving a fundraising goal. The Foundation will help you in your fundraising efforts by providing the tools you need to have an impactful viewing event for you and your friends.

Once you register your party you will receive your kit in two parts. Your Host Welcome Party Pack with printed and electronic invitations for your guests will arrive in June, and in early August you will receive your full party kit.

**WFCO
Annual Luncheon
August 27-30, 2020**

Register at
www.wfco.org/luncheon



Luncheon Chairs

Kelley Duke and Simone Ross

Honorary Chairs

Dawn Bookhardt
Kathy Hagan Brown
Katherine Gold
Patsy Landaveri
Ben & Amie Valore-Caplan
Tania Zeigler & Kenneth Ho

“My House Party will feature guests prominently discussing and/or displaying who their personal “sheroes” are and making donations to WFCO in their honor. By doing so we will ensure that their lessons of strength, will, and determination are passed down to our daughters and women throughout Colorado for years to come.”

KELLEY DUKE
WFCO trustee and luncheon chair



The Women's Foundation of Colorado

Women Thriving. Colorado Rising.®

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PHILANTHROPY
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JOIN US



ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Thursday, August 27th –
Sunday, August 30th

www.wfco.org/luncheon

» Details inside.