

The Women's Foundation of Colorado Raises \$825,000 at 22nd Annual Denver Luncheon

The Western Union Foundation & MillerCoors Boost Fundraising Efforts with \$20,000 Match Donations

DENVER, Colo. (Oct. 28, 2014) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado raised more than \$825,000 at its 22nd Annual Denver Luncheon on Oct. 23, 2014 to support its mission to help women and girls in Colorado achieve their full potential. Malala Fund Co-Founder and Global Ambassador, Shiza Shahid, delivered the keynote address to more than 1,825 supporters at the Colorado Convention Center.

"The outpouring of generosity and support from corporate sponsors and individual donors demonstrates the commitment of Coloradans to help create a brighter future for women and girls and ultimately our state," said Foundation President and CEO Louise Atkinson. "The funds raised ensure The Women's Foundation of Colorado will continue to be the steward of financial resources that amplify the voices of Colorado women and girls through research, education, public policy and community investments."



Staying true to the luncheon theme, "Together, we are powerful," The Western Union Foundation and MillerCoors boosted fundraising efforts with each company pledging \$20,000, for a total of \$40,000, in matching donations during the luncheon's podium ask.

Additional support came through closing remarks by Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and featured speakers John Ikard, president and CEO of FirstBank Holding Company – the presenting sponsor; Meredith Vaughn, president and CEO of Vladimir Jones – the speaker sponsor; and Brooke Bell, public affairs manager at Anadarko Petroleum Company – the program sponsor.

Keynote speaker and social activist Shiza Shahid inspired the audience with her message about empowering girls through education and her work to help the 600 million adolescent girls around the world who are denied a formal education because of social, economic, legal and political factors.

"We chose Shiza because there is a very strong alignment between her mission and The Foundation's mission to build resources and lead change for Colorado women and girls," said Atkinson. "Our focus includes keeping girls in school, helping them pursue STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers, and securing job training and education for low-income single mothers."

Event participants were also entertained by CBS4 news anchor Karen Leigh, the Denver Women's Chorus, and participants of The Girls' Leadership Council – a grantmaking, philanthropy and leadership training program for high school junior girls hosted every summer by The Women's Foundation of Colorado.

The 2014 Denver Luncheon honorary chairs were Gayle and Lauren Embrey with the Embrey Family Foundation. The Luncheon co-chairs were Brooke Bell, Lynda McNeive and Nancy Walters. The Luncheon corporate committee co-chairs were Jessica Jaramillo and Jessica Keegan.

The Women's Foundation of Colorado thanks its many corporate sponsors: FirstBank, Vladimir Jones, the Western Union Foundation, Barbara Bridges, MillerCoors, Anadarko, CH2M Hill, DaVita, Arrow Electronics, Atlantic Trust, Black Fox Philanthropy, First Western Trust, MWH Global, Noble Energy, Hunt Alternatives Fund, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Liberty Global, The Piton Foundation, Marry Sissel, IMA, Comcast, CBS4, Comcast, The Denver Post Community. A full list of top sponsors is available at www.wfco.org/denverluncheon.

About The Women's Foundation of Colorado

The mission of The Women's Foundation of Colorado is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential. We are committed to boldly leading systemic change to advance economic opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado; using research to build knowledge and guide action; building philanthropy that supports and champions women and girls in Colorado; demonstrating and promoting inclusiveness and commitment to a diversity of people, partners and ideas; and creating strategic partnerships throughout the state to service our mission. Since 1987, The Women's Foundation of Colorado has invested more than \$12 million with hundreds of agencies in Colorado communities. For more information, visit www.wfco.org or call 303-285-2960.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: Co-Founder and Global Ambassador of the Malala Fund, Shiza Shahid.

Photo credit: Susan English Photography