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As the Chairman of the Mile High United Way Board of Trustees, I am proud to lead such a committed and diverse group of community and business leaders who devote countless hours of their boundless talent and invest deeply in everything we do. I am proud to be part of an organization that identifies challenges and isn’t afraid to step forward. Now, more than ever, we are deeply committed to engraining diversity, equity, and inclusion across all facets of everything we do. We are approaching local community challenges in innovative ways, and we are constantly striving to serve individuals and families in the most efficient way possible. You will read more about Mile High United Way’s bold vision in the coming pages, but as we review our Community Report and look back at all we have accomplished, I am proud to be in the company of such passionate individuals.

At each Board meeting, we encourage Trustees to share their ‘why.’ Why Mile High United Way? My ‘why’ goes back to my childhood and how a United Way organization changed my life. I will forever remember every afternoon I spent there and how it changed the trajectory of my life. I want every child in our community to have this same opportunity. To this day, it is the reason I believe so strongly in Mile High United Way’s mission. I encourage all of you to think about your ‘why.’ It can be a personal story, an experience you had when you volunteered at a Mile High United Way event, your passion for serving others, or a moment in your life that has had an impact on you.

Whether you donated, volunteered, or attended a Mile High United Way event, I sincerely thank you for investing in our community and sharing your ‘why’ with us. We cannot do our work without you.

Because of your generosity, I am excited to share:
- We have served more than 250,000 people in our community through our direct programs and investments.
- We supported 86,460 people who contacted our 2-1-1 Help Center for resources.
- You helped us provide 14,496 volunteer hours.
- We hosted over 20,000 individuals in the Mile High United Way Morgridge Center for Community Change.
- Together we raised $28.5 million to serve our community.

Again, thank you for your support. Together we will continue to change lives.

Regards,

Vernon Irvin
2018-2019 Chair, Mile High United Way Board of Trustees
A BOLD PATH FORWARD

This has been an exciting year for Mile High United Way. We continue to transform the way we do business and how we engage with our community. In order to serve more individuals and families efficiently, we need to evolve with the changing needs our community faces – we need a bold path forward. We are putting forth a new strategic plan that outlines how we will approach local community challenges, we are evolving how we work in under-resourced neighborhoods, we are expanding how we engage the community through volunteerism, and we are aligning our messaging to illustrate how we are doing this work together.

As you’re reading through our Community Report, I hope you see how you are helping us do this every day. Whether you contribute your time, expertise, or finances – you are ensuring that the future of our community is stronger than ever.

Forging down a bold path:

• We are sharpening our focus to under-resourced neighborhoods by identifying community needs, partners, and school districts so that we can bring critical programs and resources to both children and parents.

• We are launching the United for Families initiative, focusing on accessibility to high-quality early childhood education regardless of zip code.

• We are expanding volunteerism initiatives: last year hosting over 5,000 individuals who are helping us meet immediate needs in our community.

• Mile High United Way and Foothills United Way joined forces to expand our footprint to serve the 7 county metro area, including: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties.

• The Mile High United Way 2-1-1 Help Center expanded its outreach and streamlined efficiencies in partnership with other local United Ways, and is connecting individuals and families to resources throughout the state of Colorado.

I am proud to work alongside you to serve our community. When we aren't afraid to be bold, align our resources, participate in authentic community engagement, and unite to solve problems in our most high-need areas, we can meet both short and long-term needs so that every resident in our community has an equal opportunity to thrive.

Because of your passion, time, and investments we can make this a reality. It is a privilege to partner with you. Thank you.

Warm regards,

Christine Benero
President and CEO
WE BELIEVE every person that calls Colorado home deserves the opportunity to thrive
WE BELIEVE every young child deserves a fair start
WE BELIEVE every child should be reading at grade level by third grade
WE BELIEVE every young person should graduate from high school and have pathways to the job market or higher education
WE BELIEVE every family should be economically stable
WE BELIEVE in community
WE BELIEVE in neighborhoods
WE BELIEVE in authentic community engagement to drive our work
WE BELIEVE in the power of diverse and inclusive voices
WE BELIEVE in data
WE BELIEVE

...WE BELIEVE WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE ARE UNITED
**2-1-1 HELP CENTER**
A statewide community resource connecting individuals and families to critical resources including food, shelter, rental assistance, childcare, and more.

**BRIDGING THE GAP**
Connecting young adults exiting the child welfare system with housing and personalized supportive services that guide them as they transition to adulthood.

**READ WITH ME**
A volunteer program that brings together individuals and corporate partners with schools to improve student engagement, literacy, and a love for reading.

**CENTERS FOR FAMILY OPPORTUNITY**
Serving families using a two-generational approach. Families receive financial coaching, continued education, and opportunities to build job skills to reach their goals - all in one location.

**UNITED BUSINESS ADVISORY**
Strengthening under-resourced communities by helping locally-owned businesses realize their growth potential.
CORPORATE SERVICES
Partnering with hundreds of companies to develop and lead Corporate Social Responsibility programs that positively impact our community while improving employee engagement and business returns.

UNITED NeIGHBORHOODS
Strengthening under-resourced neighborhoods by developing parent advocates, strengthening school-community partnerships, and linking essential resources to serve both parents and children.

STRATEGic INVESTMENT GRANTS
Investing vital financial resources in our partners to fight for the education, health, and financial stability for everyone in our community.

UNITED FOR FAMILIES
A new initiative that focuses on identifying high-need areas and resources to ensure all children in our community have access to high-quality early childhood education.

ADVOCACY
We advocate for policy change at the local and state level to help individuals and families in our community get the resources they need to thrive. Together, we remove barriers and create pathways to success.
WE BELIEVE...

...IN BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES
Mile High United Way believes that every child, regardless of zip code, should have a fair start. While the metro area continues to grow, many families are being left behind and simply can’t keep up with the changing landscape. Children from under-resourced homes who participate in quality early childhood education attain higher graduation rates, higher lifetime earnings, and higher education levels. When families are thriving, children are thriving.

Our Community Challenge

• There is only enough licensed childcare to serve approximately 60% of young children in Colorado who likely need childcare while their parents work.  

• By age 3, the average child in a low-income household knows fewer than half as many words as a child in a high-income household.
  Source: www.theounce.org/problems/achievement-gap/

Your Impact: Bridging the Gap Infant and Toddler Community

Mile High United Way’s Bridging the Gap program works one-on-one with young people ages 18-24 who have exited the child welfare system. Independent Living Coaches work with program participants to provide critical housing resources with a 36-month Family Unification Program housing voucher and trauma-informed coaching. When participants have stable housing in place, youth can focus on other goals like furthering their education and building a strong support system for themselves and their children.

With the newly formed Bridging the Gap Infant and Toddler Community program, we can now provide more holistic support to parents and their children. Parents meet weekly with their group, while their children play safely nearby. In order for parents to regularly participate, the provided childcare is an integral part of this program. The childcare component provides structure and routine for parents and children; both critical for healthy development.

By participating in this Mile High United Way-led program, parents indicated they learned the importance of taking care of themselves, ways to cope with loss and abandonment, and understanding the impact of their words and behavior when raising their children. Children were able to play with peers their own age and gain social skills. Together, these families are looking toward their future.
YOUR IMPACT: FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR TRAINING

As we mentioned, there is only enough licensed childcare to serve approximately 60% of young children in Colorado who likely need childcare while their parents work.*

In areas where it can be difficult to find affordable, licensed childcare, families sometimes choose to turn to less formal childcare options, like relying on family or friends.

It’s why Mile High United Way partnered with the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition to help eleven women complete the Family, Friend, and Neighbor training. Many of these women live in the Globeville, Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods. The training made sure they are well-equipped to provide quality childcare.

“This training has helped us see that there is a need for childcare providers. It’s time for us to go out and put into practice what we’ve learned to help future generations of children,” said Yamili and Marcela, both graduates of the program.

POLICY CHANGE: FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN FOR ALL

Full-day kindergarten helps families in many ways, including: preparing our children for further education, helping low-income families with their budget with early childhood education expenses, and expanding early learning.

As a result of the tremendous support from advocates across the state, the bill was signed into law on Thursday, May 21 by Governor Jared Polis. Today, families across Colorado have access to free full-day kindergarten – a major milestone for which we were proud to advocate.

A CONCERT AND CONVERSATION WITH PETER BUFFETT

Mile High United Way hosted A Concert and Conversation with Peter Buffett – an American musician, composer, author, philanthropist, and son of investor Warren Buffett. Prior to the concert, Peter visited Swansea Elementary School to meet with parents and students. The school is an anchor for the Mile High United Way United Neighborhoods work, including the Leadership Advisory Council, which is a program that guides parents to be advocates for their school, community, and children.

STRONGER FAMILIES

BY THE NUMBERS:

58
Parents and children participated in the Mile High United Way Bridging the Gap Infant and Toddler Community program.

235
Over 235 families were provided financial empowerment and support from the Mile High United Way Centers for Family Opportunity at Florence Crittenton and Mountain Resource Center.

8
United Neighborhoods Leadership Advisory Council parents completed an 18-month leadership development program to learn skills that will help them advocate for themselves and their children.

3,809
Families searched for childcare providers and early childhood education needs through the Mile High United Way 2-1-1 Help Center and the Colorado Shines Education and Referral Line.

193
Elementary school children attended high-quality after-school activities because of our United Neighborhoods program that included music, sports, art, storytelling, technology, and yoga.

MILE HIGH UNITED WAY OPENS THE CENTER FOR FAMILY OPPORTUNITY AT FLORENCE CRITTENTON HIGH SCHOOL

This year, Mile High United Way cut the ribbon at the new Center for Family Opportunity at Florence Crittenton High School, a school for teen moms and their children. Parents attend classes while their children receive the same level of high-quality education in classrooms on the same campus. The Mile High United Way Center for Family Opportunity provides financial literacy courses for the entire family, budgeting plans, increased job-skills, and planning for the future.

Together, we are ensuring parents and their children have every opportunity to thrive.
WE BELIEVE...

...IN DEVELOPING TOMORROW’S TALENT
We believe every young person should graduate from high school and have pathways to the job market or higher education. Along with our community partners, we are ensuring youth are increasing literacy skills, graduating high school, and are ultimately participating in workforce development programs.

Whatever path a young person chooses, we are making sure they have every opportunity available to achieve success.

**OUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE**

- By 2020, 74% of Colorado’s jobs will require some post-secondary education.  
  Source: www.jimcaseyyouth.org

- Nationally, by age 26, 36% of former foster young people will report at least one episode of homelessness.  
  Source: www.jimcaseyyouth.org

- Children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers.  
  Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation

When Anahi had her son, she didn’t have the resources or support she needed. “Giving my child the most basic things became a huge challenge. There are so many expenses that you normally wouldn’t think twice about.” That’s when Anahi found Mile High United Way’s Bridging the Gap program, a program for youth who have aged out of the child welfare system.

With support from her Independent Living Coach, and a clear path to reach her goals, Anahi completed her GED and found stable housing.

Today, Anahi is a Community Navigator Specialist with Mile High United Way’s 2-1-1 Help Center and her family is thriving. Anahi now gets to help others feel supported and get connected to the resources they need.

It was an unbelievable feeling to finally have someone in my corner saying, “You can do this.”
YOUR IMPACT: BRIDGING THE GAP CAREER WEEK

By 2020, 74% of Colorado’s jobs will require post-secondary education.* That is why we make Career Week a priority for youth who are participating in the Bridging the Gap program. It is critical they are thinking about their future, where they want to be, and the goals they need to achieve to get there. Mile High United Way’s Bridging the Gap program serves youth ages 18-24 who have aged out of the child welfare system. Participants are paired with an Independent Living Coach and are able to make sure their basic needs are met with 36 months of stable housing using the Family Unification Program voucher. Without these resources, the statistics paint a daunting picture; they are far more likely to experience homelessness or be arrested than finish a college degree.** During Career Week, participants are paired with staff and volunteers to plan for their future. With access to volunteers who are willing to talk about their career path, conduct mock interviews, or help with building a resume, these youth are taking steps to ensure they can meet the goals they set for themselves.

*Source: jimcaseyyouth.org, **Source: National Foster Youth Institute, https://www.nfyi.org/

UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS: FOCUSING ON CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Last year, over 111,000 students in our five counties were chronically absent.* The goal of Mile High United Way’s United Neighborhoods is to ensure an increasing number of children are reading at grade-level. In order to accomplish this, we need to make sure every child is attending school, and is able and ready to learn.

Mile High United Way’s United Neighborhoods anchors its work in public elementary schools, and the focus of our investments and services are based in and around these under-resourced school communities. We are tackling chronic absenteeism by developing parent advocates, strengthening school-community partnerships, and linking essential resources to serve both the parents and the children.

We know school attendance is a challenge for many parents and students – whether it is because parents lack transportation, a child needs to stay with a younger sibling because a parent needs to work, or bullying at school. Regular attendance in the early years of school is crucial to academic success. Students who were chronically absent in kindergarten had the lowest reading scores by 5th grade.**

This year, the Early Outreach System was launched at two Globeville and Elyria-Swansea (GES) schools to improve the attendance rates of students. We know that interventions that occur in the early grades, before absences become a challenge for a student, can lead to improved school attendance. We used data to help these schools identify which of their students were at-risk of missing too much school. We then worked with the schools to develop new attendance outreach strategies for these families and used Mile High United Way’s 2-1-1 Help Center to provide them with resources that could help them get their students to school.

We recognize that after-school programming also reinforces students’ consistent school attendance. This year we supported 193 elementary school children to attend quality after-school programming in GES schools.

*Source: CDE District Chronic Absenteeism 2019, **Source: Attendance Works
BY THE NUMBERS:

113,365 Youth positively impacted through our work with community partners.

1,121 Independent Living Coaching sessions held with Mile High United Way Bridging the Gap participants.

1,404 Children demonstrated measurable increases in their literacy skills through our work with community partners.

142 Youth participated in workforce development programs.

YOUR IMPACT: READ WITH ME

Mile High United Way's Read with Me program brings together local schools, businesses, and volunteers to read with second and third grade students each week to help build their confidence, increase literacy skills, and develop a love for reading. This year, our volunteers dedicated 930 hours to our students to ensure they are engaged and excited about reading. Within five classrooms, 129 volunteers read with 88 buddies. It is incredible to see the relationships that are formed by the end of the year. Teachers have reported that their students are excited to come to school to see their buddies and look forward to the program each week.

Children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers*

*Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation
WE BELIEVE...

...IN CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL
Mile High United Way believes every family should be economically stable. When individuals and families in our community have their most basic needs met, like access to food, housing, and stable employment – families are able to have a more prosperous future.

Because of your support, we can help individuals and families navigate complex systems to ensure their basic needs are met - whether it is connecting people to mortgage assistance, increasing their access to food, or helping local businesses thrive.

OUR FIGHT

• 2 in 5 people in Metro Denver are unable to make ends meet without assistance or support.

• In the 7 county metro area, 1 in 10 people are living in poverty.
  Source: 100% Federal Poverty Level

MILE HIGH UNITED WAY’S 2-1-1 HELP CENTER

Mile High United Way’s 2-1-1 Help Center connects individuals to tailored resources in their community by phone, text, chat, email, and in-person. 2-1-1 is a confidential, multilingual service that helps callers navigate through their situation by assessing their needs and then matching them with the best and closest resources in their community. 2-1-1 has the largest, most current database of resources in the Rocky Mountain region for health and human services. Covering 25 counties in partnership with United Way of Larimer County and United Way of Weld County, we serve the Metro Denver area, as well as Northern Colorado - approximately 71% of the state's population.

TOP NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

- 13% Housing
- 13% Rent Assistance
- 12% Utility Assistance
- 9% Shelter/Transitional Housing
- 9% Income Support/Assistance
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

YOUR IMPACT: MEETING IMMEDIATE NEEDS WITH THE TEMPORARY MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Earlier this year, Mile High United Way, in partnership with the City and County of Denver, launched the Temporary Mortgage Assistance Program (TMAP) in response to the federal government shutdown.

The program provided up to two months assistance, or $5,000 maximum, to qualified Denver residents who experienced a sudden loss of employment to cover mortgage payments.

During the course of the program, Mile High United Way’s 2-1-1 Help Center received 1,166 calls for TMAP assistance and almost $40,000 was granted to qualified homeowners. Mile High United Way has been pleased to support the community in this effort to ensure that residents did not lose their homes and could continue to pay for other needs during this difficult time.

YOUR IMPACT: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) APPLICATIONS

Food insecurity continues to be a significant issue in our community. To meet this most basic human need, 2-1-1 is now able to accept applications for SNAP, previously known as food stamp benefits, through our partnership with Hunger Free Colorado.

Year-round, 2-1-1 is able to connect individuals to food pantries, meal sites, and after school and summer meal programs – and we are grateful to now add SNAP applications to the list of resources.

Each year, 2-1-1 receives thousands of requests for food, as individuals and families seek options to help hold them over until their next paycheck. We are thrilled to now have the ability to submit applications on behalf of SNAP clients by phone!

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: LYFTING UP OUR COMMUNITY

Mile High United Way was selected to participate in a pilot program with Lyft. The program provided transportation to veterans and families needing to get to medical and veteran benefit appointments, employment services, and providing transportation to food resources.

During the initial pilot, 2-1-1 dispatched 310 rides. Of these, 61% were for medical purposes, 28% were for riders seeking employment, 7% were to help veterans seeking benefits, and another 3% were for families seeking food benefits. Rides had an estimated value of over $5,000 with an average cost of $16.90 per ride.

We are excited to say this partnership was reinstated for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, allowing us to continue this critical resource for our community members.
Your Impact: Oscar and Rocío now have a thriving business

Owning a business is challenging, and it’s even harder when you have a family to support. Oscar and Rocío bring their passion and talent, but they knew they still needed help when it came to their restaurant. They connected with Mile High United Way’s United Business Advisory (UBA) to get guidance so they could stabilize and grow their family business.

Mile High United Way’s United Business Advisory program strengthens under-resourced communities by helping locally-owned small businesses realize their growth potential. The program works collaboratively with individual business owners, many of whom live in the Globeville, Elyria-Swansea neighborhood, to understand their needs and utilizes professional services and skills-based volunteers to help them reach their goals.

Because of UBA, Oscar and Rocío have been able to tighten up their financials and secure a loan for a commercial kitchen space. “We’re smart about the direction we want to go in and how we want to grow and support our family,” said Oscar.

Oscar and Rocío have secured new contracts and hired more employees to meet customer needs. Their business is growing and succeeding! Not to mention, their food is delicious. Most importantly, they’re able to focus on their family. Their daughter even wants to own her own food truck one day.

By the Numbers:

86,460
Individuals and families contacted Mile High United Way’s 2-1-1 Help Center in need of resources.

63,159
Shelter nights were provided through our work with community partners.

146
Mile High United Way Bridging the Gap participants had safe and stable housing.

1,595,150
Meals were provided to individuals and families in our community because of our investments in 20 community partners.
WE BELIEVE...

...IN COMMUNITY
BY THE NUMBERS:

180 Day of Service projects were completed with our corporate partners. They dedicated their time and resources to give back as a team.

17,505 Kits made this year by our volunteers, including basic need items that were given to individuals and families in our community who needed them most.

13,566 Hours donated by our volunteers who came together to give back to our community in a big way.

$380,119.32 Donated back to our community through volunteer hours.

1,365 Volunteers participated during Project Homeless Connect. They were paired one-on-one with individuals experiencing homelessness and connected them to resources.

GRAND OPENING: THE TIAA VOLUNTEER CENTER AT MILE HIGH UNITED WAY

This year, we opened the TIAA Volunteer Center at Mile High United Way. We celebrated the grand opening during National Volunteer Week where we hosted 100 volunteers in one day. Denver Mayor Michael Hancock joined us as we cut the ribbon, officially opening the center. The TIAA Volunteer Center is a space where volunteers and teams can come to host volunteer opportunities and give back to our community, focusing on our volunteer pillars: empathy, inclusivity, and sensitivity.
WE ARE CAREFUL STEWARDS

TOGETHER WE RAISED $28.5 MILLION TO SERVE OVER 250,000 PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY:

370 CORPORATIONS
$6.2 million

18,000 INDIVIDUALS
$19.4 million

$2.9 MILLION FROM FOUNDATIONS, GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER

CLICK HERE to view the audited financial statements and tax form 990 for Mile High United Way, Inc and its subsidiary Mile High United Way Curtis Park for the period ending June 30, 2019.
OUR MISSION IS TO UNITE PEOPLE, IDEAS, AND RESOURCES TO ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND EXPENDITURES - $28.4 MILLION

We are financially strong with $39.4 million in Net Assets as of June 30, 2019.

- 48% MILE HIGH UNITED WAY PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY COLLABORATION, AND IMPACT GOALS ($13.6M)
- 34% DONOR DESIGNATED GIFTS TO OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ($9.6M)
- 14% FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS ($4.0M)
- 4% MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL ($1.2M)

82% TOTAL INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY

Last year, 82 cents of every dollar spent was for programs, which far surpasses the Better Business Bureau standard of 65 cents.
WE BELIEVE...

STRONG START
Ability Connection Colorado, Inc.
Adams County School District 14
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
ARTS/Baby Haven
Bright by Three
Catholic Charities
Clayton Early Learning
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
Denver Early Childhood Council
Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance
Early Excellence Program of Denver Family Star
Florence Crittenton Services
Focus Points Family Resource Center
HOPE Center
Invest in Kids
Jeffco Schools Foundation
KIPP Colorado Schools
Mile High Early Learning
First Steps at Monarch Montessori
Mount Saint Vincent
Mountain Resource Center
Roots Family Center
Sewall Child Development Center
Swallow Hill Music Association

The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County
Warren Village
WorkLife Partnership

READING MATTERS
Colfax Community Network
Reach Out and Read Colorado
Scholars Unlimited
The Bridge Project-University of Denver

DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S TALENT
Adams County Youth Initiative
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado
Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado
City Year Denver
College Track
Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists
Colorado Circles for Change
Colorado UpLift
Colorado Youth for a Change
Denver Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
Denver Education Attainment Network
Denver Kids, Inc.
Denver Public Schools Foundation
Denver Scholarship Foundation
Denver Urban Scholars

Downtown Aurora Visual Arts
Environmental Learning for Kids
Florence Crittenton Services
Girl Scouts of Colorado
Girls Inc. Metro Denver
Goodwill Industries of Denver
Heart & Hand Center
Metro Denver Partners
Office of Children's Affairs/Denver Afterschool Alliance
Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives
OpenWorld Learning
Project VOYCE
Sun Valley Youth Center
Volunteers of America
YESS Institute
Youth on Record

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
Bayaud Enterprises
Center for Work Education and Employment
Centro Humanitario Para Los Trabajadores
Centro San Juan Diego
Colorado Legal Services
Colorado Visiting Nurse Association
Comitis Crisis Center
Crisis Center

Denver Asset Building Coalition
Denver Inner City Parish
ECDC African Community Center of Denver
Family Tree, Inc.
Food Bank of the Rockies
Growing Home
Hope Communities
Jewish Family Service of Colorado
La Raza Services, Inc.
Latina Safehouse
Metro Caring
Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
Mi Casa Resource Center
mpowered
Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute
SafeHouse Denver, Inc.
St. Francis Center
Sunshine Home Share Colorado
The Action Center
The Delores Project
The Gathering Place
The Senior Hub, Inc.
TLC Meals on Wheels
Urban Peak Denver
Volunteers of America
Women's Bean Project
Work Options for Women

...WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE ARE UNITED
ADVOCACY

During the 2019 legislative session, Mile High United Way worked collaboratively with our elected leaders, policy makers, and partners to help solve our community’s biggest challenges. We supported 30 bills, and 26 bills were successfully signed into law.

2018-2019 POLICY PARTNERS

In addition to supporting mission related legislation, Mile High United Way invested in policy organizations whose work aligns with our goals to move individuals and families out of poverty, including:

• Bell Policy Center
• Colorado Center on Law and Policy
• Colorado Children’s Campaign
• Colorado Fiscal Institute
• Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy and Research Organization (CLLARO)
• Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)
• Housing Colorado
• Hunger Free Colorado
• Stand for Children

Colorado Governor Jared Polis as the keynote speaker at the Mile High United Way Tocqueville Society breakfast.

Mile High United Way Trustees, President and CEO Christine Benero, and Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera at our annual Day on the Hill event.
WE BELIEVE...

MILE HIGH UNITED WAY SELECTED FOR STRENGTHENING THE NONPROFIT SECTOR INITIATIVE

In September 2018, Mile High United Way was proud to be selected by Gary Community Investments, which includes the Piton Foundation, to establish the Strengthening the Nonprofit Sector (SNS) initiative. This initiative is a nonprofit capacity building and technical assistance initiative that strengthens selected partners as they work to improve the lives of children and their families throughout Colorado.

Over the course of this three-year investment, the SNS initiative will provide capacity building learning opportunities for the 100 organizations funded through Mile High United Way’s Strategic Investment Grant program and intensive capacity building support for ten selected organizations. This year, Mile High United Way and Gary Community Investments worked with: Clayton Early Learning, Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, Denver Asset Building Coalition, Denver’s Early Childhood Council, ECDC African Community Center, Florence Crittenton Services, Hope Communities, mpowered, Warren Village, and Work Options for Women. Organizations selected for the cohort provide programs or services focused on family economic security and/or early childhood education, and are Mile High United Way Strategic Investment Grant partners.
MILE HIGH UNITED WAY SELECTED TO MANAGE INCLUSIVITY FUND TO SUPPORT ARTS, CULTURE, AND SCIENCE IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The Inclusivity Fund, recently renamed the Community ACTS (Arts, Culture, Transformation, and Science) Fund, was created in 2016 with direction from members of the State Legislature during the reauthorization process for the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

“As the mission of Mile High United Way is to create opportunities for everyone in our community, we are honored to have been selected to partner with the Advisory Committee to administer the Community ACTS Fund,” said Christine Benero, President and CEO of Mile High United Way. “Communities thrive when arts and cultural experiences are available to everyone and we are looking forward to the support the Fund will bring to new and underserved communities.”

An Inclusivity Fund Advisory Committee was appointed by the SCFD Board of Directors and convened in January 2018. The primary purpose of the Committee is to ensure that the Fund is distributed in a way that builds capacity for smaller arts, culture, and science organizations, particularly those that serve and/or represent traditionally underserved communities. The grants will help build capacity among the smaller organizations in the 7 county SCFD region and support additional programming for underserved communities.

The Fund will be supported by annual contributions from the five largest SCFD organizations – Denver Art Museum, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and Denver Zoo. These organizations are committed to supporting the Fund for 12 years.

Mile High United Way is honored to play a meaningful role in managing the Community ACTS Fund for critical organizations in our community.

MILE HIGH UNITED WAY DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION WORKGROUP SUPPORTED BY THE DENVER FOUNDATION

This year, we were excited to receive a grant from The Denver Foundation to support our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Mile High United Way is shifting community engagement strategies and prioritizing internal processes that explore, educate, and build understanding and practices that reflect authentic engagement with our community members, particularly communities of color. With this generous grant from The Denver Foundation, Mile High United Way has established a DEI workgroup comprised of staff members that will create a shared definition of racial equity and will fully embed that into the organization’s framework.
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2018 FRANCES WISEBART JACOBS AWARD RECIPIENT: BETSY WIERurma

Betsy Wiersma is a serial entrepreneur, author, global professional speaker, and founder of the CampExperience™ Network, a network of more than 5,000 women gathered for good. Betsy’s efforts have raised over one million dollars in funding and in-kind support for charitable causes in Colorado and around the globe. Betsy's passion for her community is contagious. Whether she's driving her pink and purple flowered CampExperience car or putting together a creative charity support project, her CampExperience™ sisters describe her as kind, passionate, a dreamer, and an overall rockstar.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT: JIM AND KRISTIN BENDER

Jim and Kristin Bender are committed Tocqueville Society members – and didn’t miss a beat when they moved back to Denver from Tulsa. They have done everything from hosting social hours for other Tocqueville members, serving as a networking opportunity for current and prospective members, to volunteering in our community. They most recently joined the Major Gifts Council and made a pivotal financial investment in the Mile High United Way United for Families initiative – a new initiative focusing on access to high-quality early childhood education for all families. We are grateful for their ongoing support and deep commitment to engaging others in our work.
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