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 are stronger when we are united

Dear Friends,

For 133 years, Mile High United Way has stood strong in our belief that a community can only succeed when we are united, and when every individual and family receives equal access to critical resources in pursuit of their dreams.

As for so many, this year has been transformational for Mile High United Way. As you read through our Community Report, we hope that you see how you are part of the work we do – how we couldn’t do it without you. We could not make bold strides, make bold statements, or work with every ounce of our hearts and souls towards creating a Community United without you standing by our side.

In March of this year we stood in the lobby of our building, The Morgridge Center for Community Change, announcing that we would begin working remotely for what we thought would only be a few weeks. As the world changed before our eyes, a few weeks turned into months and we saw firsthand the devastation of a global pandemic. And while this pandemic has impacted every single person and family, we have come to realize it has not impacted us all equally. Not only did COVID devastate the lives and livelihoods of millions, it worsened the inequities and injustices we have always worked to address, reminding us that there is still so much work to do.

Our beliefs have not wavered. We believe in community. We believe in neighborhoods. We believe in children and families. We believe in the power of diverse and inclusive voices. We stood and continue to stand united against the injustices and cruelty of systemic racism.

Through it all, because of you, we continued serving. Our building may have closed, but our hearts and services did not. We continued answering the call of our community. We continued providing critical basic needs that became more difficult to meet. We continued raising our voice. We know that it is only as a Community United that we recover from a pandemic, create equitable communities, and work to remove socioeconomic and systemic barriers to provide opportunity to EVERYONE who calls Colorado home.

And it is because of YOU that we are able to come together in such significant ways. It is because of YOU that we were able to accomplish incredible feats including:

• Serving over 320,000 people through our programs and investments
• Investing $1 million in rapid relief funding into the most pressing needs of the community when the pandemic hit
• Supporting over 110,919 people who contacted our 2-1-1 Help Center – from 300 calls a day to 2,000 calls a day
• Launching the City and County of Denver’s first mobile preschool
• Serving small minority- and women-owned businesses in neighborhoods often overlooked
• Putting laptops in the hands of families who were not connected
• Partnering with Governor Polis to launch the Governor’s Relief Fund and Mayor Hancock to support the Small Business Emergency Relief Fund
• Raising over $56.6 million to invest in our community

We are proud to stand alongside you to serve our community, proud to work with our incredible Board of Trustees, and proud of the amazing staff who continue to fight for a just and equitable community, be it from their kitchens or their bedrooms. We look forward to better days ahead and to when we truly can all be united together once again.

Warmest Regards,

Christine Benero, President & CEO,
Mile High United Way

Vernon Irvin, 2018-2020 Chair,
Mile High United Way Board of Trustees
Together, we are a Community United.

Even separate, we’re bonded through community.  
Even at a distance, we stand strong together.

In the last year, we were challenged to find new ways to step up for one another. Together, we have found ways to see hope shining bright even in the face of unexpected challenges, changes, and shifts. Together, we have, and continue to, define the power of a Community United.

To everyone who has volunteered their time, to everyone who has donated to meet the needs of our community, and to everyone who has shared a message of hope, of change, of progress – you are the heart and soul of a Community United, and we thank you.
WE STAND UNITED AGAINST THE INJUSTICES AND CRUELTY OF SYSTEMIC RACISM
A HOLISTIC APPROACH FOR GREATER EQUITY

Mile High United Way’s United Neighborhoods amplifies community voices and drives educational and economic opportunities so that children and families can reach their full potential. It is a community-informed, place-based strategy that encompasses not only the work we do, but the philosophies behind it. By identifying neighborhoods through a two-pronged, research-based approach including a Community Needs Index and a Community Readiness Assessment, we focus on providing what under-resourced neighborhoods really need in the areas of critical importance they have identified. Currently working in the Globeville, Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods, we are addressing needs like rent, food, utilities, and housing assistance as well as resources for parent engagement in schools and improving student attendance. By providing targeted assistance through resources, programming, and partnerships, we work to increase access to quality early childcare and early childhood education, engage children in their learning, develop and strengthen community leaders, create wraparound support for young adults exiting the child welfare system, and create opportunity for small businesses to succeed while maintaining the spirit and heart of these neighborhoods. In essence, United Neighborhoods is focused on creating sustainable positive change, by and in partnership with communities, for more equitable outcomes that drive economic and educational success.

2-1-1 HELP CENTER
Connecting people statewide to critical resources including food, rental assistance, childcare, and more. In 2020, 2-1-1 became the trusted frontline response for all Coloradans seeking basic needs support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

UNITED FOR FAMILIES
Promoting academic success for young children and working to ensure all in our community have access to high-quality early childhood education.

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

UNITED FOR SCHOOLS
Strengthening schools in under-resourced neighborhoods by developing parent advocates, expanding school programs, and connecting families with essential resources to help children be more successful in school.

ADVOCACY
Advocating 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 more pathways to success.

UNITED FOR BUSINESS
Strengthening communities by empowering women- and minority-owned businesses by focusing on economic stability and mobility.

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT
Partnering with hundreds of companies to develop and lead Corporate Social Responsibility programs that positively impact our community while improving employee engagement.
Mile High United Way believes that every child, regardless of zip code, should have a fair start. While the Metro Denver area continues to grow, many families are being left behind, unable to keep up with the changing landscape. We know that engaging young children in high-quality learning experiences early in life will result in healthier development and improved school readiness. This builds the foundation for all future learning, resulting in more children reading at grade-level, better graduation rates, and ultimately higher earnings later in life.

MILE HIGH UNITED WAY INVESTS IN INCLUSIVE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Mile High United Way partnered with Laradon and Sewall Child Development – leading experts in supporting children and families with special needs – to bring 24 additional preschool slots into the community. This innovative, inclusive programming ensures every child, regardless of ability, can reach their full potential.

“Access to high-quality education ensures that our littlest ones enter kindergarten ready to learn and thrive.”
CHRISTINE BENERO, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MILE HIGH UNITED WAY

OUR COMMUNITY CHALLENGE:

• By age three, the average child in a low-income household knows fewer than half as many words as a child in a high-income household.*

• In 2018, 51% of Coloradans lived in child care deserts, with three times more children under five than licensed child care slots.†

*Source: theounce.org/problems/achievement-gap/
†Source: Kids Count Colorado 2020 data book
1,500
age-appropriate books donated to free summer meal sites with the Denver Public Library

200
at-home learning kits provided to families

80
parents and preschool-aged children attending family literacy classes

97
individuals and families served through our United for Families program

INCREASING STUDENT AND FAMILY LEARNING ENGAGEMENT

Studies show that increasing parent engagement in student learning is a major factor of increasing student engagement in their own education as well. Because we are committed to ensuring whole-family success, our United for Schools program established Parent Teacher Leadership Teams that included 60 parent and teacher participants focused on connecting those dots. The Parent Teacher Leadership Teams (PTLT) met monthly to cover topics like attendance, understanding student data, and more. As a result, parent leaders launched the Attendance Awareness Presente campaign – choosing school taglines, printing banners, and distributing prizes to students and families for improved attendance. Parent leaders also created Academic Nights to help parents better understand their students’ literacy levels.

United for Schools also served 294 students with engaging Out of School Time programming through our partnerships with the YMCA and PEAK After School Programs. As a part of these programs, our Out of School Time providers supported direct assistance to families including both food and school supplies distribution, and our Community Advocates in four elementary schools offered wraparound services to 60 families in Denver Public School District and 20 families in Adams County.

“I like [the PTLT] because I look for the best for my children and I can help by giving my opinion as a parent better.”

PTLT PARENT PARTICIPANT

COVID-19 RESPONSE WITH PARTNERING SCHOOLS: MARCH-JUNE 2020

The pandemic’s impact on schools and learning was perhaps one of the most jarring of all. In order to serve the rapidly shifting needs of our partnering schools, our Community Advocates worked more urgently to address the immediate needs for families. In doing this, we launched our Direct Family Assistance Fund, which provided 40 families with $16,000 from April–June in order to pay for essential costs like rent, utilities, and food.

FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR TRAINING RESEARCH

Many Colorado children under the age of five are cared for by family members, friends, or neighbors (FFN) they trust – especially in childcare deserts. Mile High United Way brought research-based training to 22 informal caregivers to boost the quality of care in their home and support children’s school readiness. With support from the Buell Foundation, Mile High United Way is leading a research effort with Early Milestones Colorado and the Butler Institute at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work to understand the challenges and needs of this population. The findings will inform policy and decision makers and better drive our programming.
We believe every person should be set up for success, regardless of their background. Along with our community partners, we are setting tomorrow’s talent up for success – whether it’s the next generation in need of early childhood education access or young adults starting their path to independence, we are making sure they have every opportunity available to achieve the success for which they and their families are working so hard.

YOUR IMPACT: HELPING YOUTH IN TOUGH PLACES

Our Bridging the Gap program has always focused on helping young people exiting the child welfare system as well as children and young mothers struggling to overcome other difficult obstacles. Through a variety of resources and by working closely with our Independent Living Coaches to personalize the assistance and support they receive, our Bridging the Gap participants pave the way for themselves. Ashley Hindes came to our Bridging the Gap program as a young mother in need of housing assistance and was then paired with one of our Independent Living Coaches, Anna Marie.

As a part of our program, Ashley has been able to pay rent, become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), purchase a new car to ease transportation struggles, and so much more.

“Bridging the Gap is a support system and I honestly can’t express how grateful I am to be part of such an amazing program. Just this year with COVID-19, Bridging the Gap has allowed me to cut back on hours and, at one point, to stay home with my children to keep us safe without worrying about rent money,” Ashley said.

Ashley has poured herself into her dream of helping others through her career and in her daily life, attributing much of her ability to do that without obstacles to Bridging the Gap.

“Knowing I can talk to any of the coaches without being judged is so comforting. My coach in particular – Anna Marie – is so wonderful. She has always pushed me to go for what I want and has had so much faith in me – sometimes more faith than I have in myself,” Ashley said.
LA PIÑATA: CREATIVE LEARNING FOR FAMILIES

With your support, we invest in and strengthen innovative childcare programs like La Piñata del Aprendizaje. La Piñata del Aprendizaje is a two-generation, “play and learn” program that provides parents and caregivers with the tools they need to support their child’s development and school readiness. In this past year, 20 parents and 25 children have been served through this program, which consists of 35 weekly, two-hour sessions that create an enriching and stimulating environment for children. By supporting local, community programs, like La Piñata del Aprendizaje, we are helping to fill a critical gap in Globeville, Elyria-Swansea, where there are currently no licensed infant or toddler childcare slots available.

UNITED FOR FAMILIES TRUSTEE CIRCLE

VISIONARY
$1 - $4 million
The Anschutz Foundation

TRUSTEE
$500,000 - $999,999
Kristin and Jim Bender

FAMILY
$250,000 - $499,999
Rick and Kathy Ambrose
Christine Benero and Brad Busse
Deron and Deborah Brown
Celia Dietrich
PNC Foundation
Steve Tailey

FRIEND
$100,000 - $249,999
Jim and Sharon Butler
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
Steve and Sami Lockton
Scott and Christine Morrison
Kevin and Sally Neher
PDC Energy
Marty and Phyl Ruffalo
Hugh and Nan Williamson

NEIGHBOR
$50,000 - $99,999
Heather and Ryan Beiser
Buell Foundation
Sue and Howard Carver
Colorado Department of Human Services
Catherine Hance
Pam and Steve Jeffords
Tom and Cyndy Marsh
Morey-Schaefer Family Foundation
Stephen and Neyeska Mut
Felicity O’Heron
Peiers Foundation

PARTNER
$25,000 - $49,999
Greg and Julie Anton
Greg and Kaye Banta
Buck and Janelle Blessing
Linda and Pat Birnie
Mark and Jan Bundy
Ron and Beth Cooper
Dehn Family Fund
Bob and Lindsay Debil
Christina Dorfhuber
Mike Evans
Jamie and Cathy Gard
David Hammond and Mary Mead-Hammond
Carrie Hudak
Howard Jansen
Mary McBrine and Jerry Kashinski
Mike and Yun Hui Kehoe
Mark and Polly Lestikow
Jason and Jodi Maples
Barbara Meliman Davis
Rodd and Wendy Merchant
North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative
Bret and Nathaniel Opperman
Charles and Teri Ozaki
Carlos and Christine Pacheco
Brandon and Deb Ridonour
Katrina Salem and Jon Pitt
Sharon and Andrew Shahidi
Jordan and Haley Shilts
Kimberly Smith
Suncor
Tamra Ward
Julie Wolf
Peter Van Veen

GOING VIRTUAL

When the pandemic hit, we shifted our Bridging the Gap program to be online and worked with participants to walk them through the process of procuring housing quickly and safely. We engaged participants in virtual college and career readiness coaching and offered tele-health counseling to support their physical and emotional well-being.

Our United for Schools program pivoted to assist students and families as they adjusted to a new normal, learning from home. We provided 100 laptop computers as well as a year of free internet access to help make remote learning easier and to help parents keep their children engaged in school.

MEASURES OF IMPACT

1,150 coaching sessions conducted with Bridging the Gap youth

294 students served in Out of School Time programming with United for Schools

$230,000 in much needed supplies to 1,200 childcare providers across Colorado

$310,000 in direct assistance provided to families

YOUR IMPACT: DENVER’S FIRST MOBILE PRESCHOOL

The concept of a mobile preschool emerged from Mile High United Way’s grassroots effort to better understand the strengths and needs of the communities we serve. A group of resident moms in the Globeville, Elyria-Swansea neighborhoods, known as the Leadership Advisory Council, advocated for and informed the development of this innovative way to deliver preschool to families living in a childcare desert. Mile High United Way and Right On Mobile Education (ROME) collaborated with over 14 different state and local agencies to bring the idea to life. Now, 16 children climb aboard the airport shuttle turned preschool-on-wheels to learn shapes, numbers and letters, practice writing their names, develop important social skills, and gain the confidence to enter kindergarten ready to learn and thrive.
Mile High United Way believes every family should be economically stable. When individuals and families in our community have their basic needs met, and small, locally-owned businesses are strengthened, the entire community can have a more prosperous future.

YOUR IMPACT: HELPING LOCAL STORE OWNERS BETTER SERVE THE COMMUNITY

El Tepetate is a small, locally-owned grocery store in North Denver that has been in business for over 20 years in the Globeville, Elyria-Swansea (GES) neighborhoods. For neighborhoods like GES, small businesses play a vital role in supporting the community. In addition to preserving the history and culture of the neighborhood, local businesses provide affordable and accessible products and services to community members. In GES specifically, there is a need for businesses that provide access to quality foods.

Over the years, El Tepetate has become a staple of the community. However, due to the construction along I-70, Jesus and Maria’s business has struggled.

Through our United for Business program, we helped Jesus and Maria receive a grant from the City and County of Denver to help with their business during the construction and connected them with a new accountant who continues to work with them to achieve their business goals.

El Tepetate means a lot to the residents of Globeville, Elyria-Swansea. Customers will come into the store to buy groceries but stay for hours to talk to Jesus and Maria. “I think we’ve been in business this long because of our inclusiveness and good customer service. It’s about the bond that we form with our community,” says Jesus.

COVID-19 AND SMALL BUSINESS

Through personalized business consulting sessions, we are advising local business owners on how to apply for financial assistance, adapt their business practices to the evolving COVID-19 requirements, and negotiate with their landlords. In addition, we expanded the program’s skilled volunteer team to provide long-term support through their recovery and partnered with Denver Economic Development and Opportunity (DEDO) to help provide more than $4.4 million in small businesses emergency relief grants to aid in recovery through COVID-19.
2-1-1 HELP CENTER ANSWERS CALLS FOR HELP DURING COVID

Mile High United Way’s 2-1-1 Help Center connects individuals to tailored resources from the largest, most current database in the Rocky Mountain region for health and human services. When the pandemic hit our community, requests coming into 2-1-1 more than tripled. Between March 2 - April 3, we received nearly 20,000 requests for help. And on March 30, 2-1-1 received more requests in a single day than ever before, spiking to over 2,100, up from a daily average of 330. In order to meet the increased need, generous contributors helped Mile High United Way hire 20 additional navigators and expand volunteer roles to connect more people with available resources to help meet their basic needs.

TOP PRESENTING NEEDS

The graph below shows the top community needs in March and April in comparison with the first two weeks of March pre-COVID. While the top five needs stayed almost the same, the need for rent assistance exploded as the impact of COVID and the shutdown hit some communities disproportionately. We also saw healthcare requests – rarely in the top five – shoot up as people searched for COVID testing sites. What our community needed stayed similar, but the way in which our community needed these things changed drastically – with high volume and much greater urgency as two of the most striking differences.
This year, Mile High United Way and Foothills United Way joined forces to expand, adding Boulder and Broomfield counties to our now seven-county footprint including: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson counties. In doing this, we are able to better serve the Boulder, Broomfield, and Longmont communities through our signature programs and events, and provide more comprehensive support for all that need us within our seven-county footprint.

25TH ANNUAL DAY OF CARING: SERVING BOULDER, BROOMFIELD, AND LONGMONT COMMUNITIES

In September, we hosted the 25th Annual Day of Caring. This event, the largest single-day volunteer event in Boulder and Broomfield counties, sees hundreds of volunteers serving incredible organizations across Boulder, Broomfield, and Longmont. This year, we were proud to serve 45 organizations with 905 enthusiastic volunteers providing $26,759 of economic impact ranging from trail maintenance to meal-serving and so much more.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT ENTERPRISE

Our Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE) program is designed to help working, low-income families and individuals save money exclusively for first-time homeownership, post-secondary education, and small business development. As part of this program, participants can enroll in financial education classes and save through a matched savings account at a rate of 4-to-1. Celebrating its 17th anniversary, PIE is a local savings program provided through a partnership between Community Action Programs of Boulder County and Mile High United Way. So far, PIE has helped over 356 people in Boulder County purchase a home, pursue post-secondary education, or develop a new business.

“"The most important things we learned in the program are the sense and responsibility of helping those in need, and the sense of saving up money to realize and invest in our dreams. Buying a house has enabled our life to be more comfortable.” PHAM, PIE PARTICIPANT
Over the last year we have seen the power of volunteerism grow even as the way we mobilized and engaged our volunteers changed. Mile High United Way believes in the power of a Community United, and volunteerism – virtually or safely conducted in-person – is a critical part of uniting while uplifting the entire community.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: NATIONAL VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

In April, we shifted our National Volunteer Week event to accommodate Colorado’s Safer at Home guidelines as COVID-19 skyrocketed across the country. The need for volunteer support remained, and Mile High United Way’s volunteer team took that challenge and ran with it, creating National Virtual Volunteer Week. This week-long event offered a number of projects that participants could take part in from home. A total of 89 volunteers signed up to complete 250 hours of service for the community, providing $7,000 in economic impact. National Virtual Volunteer Week beautifully demonstrated that even when the circumstances around how we could help changed, the desire to help our neighbors did not.

**“It’s been incredibly gratifying doing this volunteer work, because it makes ‘Living United’ a real and tangible experience.”**

**JONATHAN DAVIDSON, 2-1-1 VOLUNTEER AND TOCQUEVILLE MEMBER**

**GIVING BACK VIRTUALLY**

When the pandemic hit, our volunteer team quickly pivoted to make our volunteer events safer by incorporating valuable remote opportunities and, when the risk lowered enough to permit, safe and socially-distanced in-person opportunities. This tremendous shift presented the unique challenge of maintaining the person-to-person interaction and relationship-building many volunteers love while unable to physically be in the same location. Video conference trainings and follow-ups helped keep the spirit of our volunteer events strong.

**MEASURES OF IMPACT**

- **14,451** kits delivered to provide critical resources to families and individuals
- **31,587** hours of service completed by our volunteers
- **$885,067** in economic impact provided by our volunteers
- **7,373** volunteers served our communities through days of service and our signature events

**YOUR IMPACT: CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY PARTY**

Each year, Mile High United Way welcomes hundreds of families in our community to come celebrate the holidays with us. Children get to partake in crafts, face painting, cookie decorating, and photos with Santa. Everyone leaves with great memories, books, coats, and plenty of gifts for the holidays.

While children are enjoying the holiday festivities, parents and guardians are able to shop for gifts to take home for their children. Many of the gifts are donated through corporate toy drives. Over 2,400 toys were donated in 2019 to the Children’s Holiday Party.

“This event allows you to actually see what you’re giving back to the community. It’s such a different way to engage; you see the programs and the work in action. It solidifies for me why I give,” one volunteer shared. Over 500 volunteers gave their time to make 2019’s Children’s Holiday Party a success.
Laura De La Torre, a Community Navigator with our 2-1-1 Help Center, is passionate about her work not only because she believes in helping create a more equitable community, but also because she knows just how life-changing the resources offered can be. 14 years ago, Laura was a single mother of two. Though she had a job, making ends meet was difficult. Around Christmas, she called 2-1-1 and was connected with a Community Navigator. “After the call, I realized the Navigator gave me something much more than resources. She gave me hope,” Laura said.

Years later, Laura joined the Mile High United Way team as a 2-1-1 Community Navigator. A week into her training, Laura was overwhelmed with emotion as she heard the voice of her co-worker helping someone on the phone. It was Mary Anne, the very same Community Navigator who gave her that much needed message of hope all those years ago.

“That is what 2-1-1 is all about. We are here because some of us know what it’s like to need help, and we want our clients to know that there is someone on the other end of the line who wants to help them today. That is the power of 2-1-1 and how it changes lives.”

LAURA DE LA TORRE, 2-1-1 HELP CENTER COMMUNITY NAVIGATOR
Together, we are a Community United. Working hand-in-hand with the Colorado Health Foundation, Governor Jared Polis, and countless volunteers, Mile High United Way has proudly served as the financial steward of the statewide Colorado COVID Relief Fund, which has raised over $19 million to support hundreds of organizations easing the devastating impact of the pandemic across our state.

"2-1-1 is the statewide firstline response for all human services needs as they relate to COVID-19."

GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

Governor Polis declared June 23, 2020 to be known as Mile High United Way Day.
TOGETHER WE RAISED $56.6 MILLION TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY:

409 CORPORATIONS
$7.0 million

15,000 INDIVIDUALS
$18.2 million

FOUNDATIONS, GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER
$8.2 million

COLORADO COVID RELIEF FUND
$19.0 million

DENVER SMALL BUSINESS EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND
$4.2 million

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND EXPENDITURES: $52.3 MILLION
We are financially strong with $43.9 million in net assets as of June 30, 2020.

- 36% MILE HIGH UNITED WAY PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY COLLABORATION, AND IMPACT GOALS ($18.8M)
- 39% EMERGENCY COVID-19 GRANTS ($20.4M)
- 16% DONOR DESIGNATED GIFTS TO OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ($8.5M)
- 7% FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS ($3.8M)
- 2% MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL ($0.8M)

91% TOTAL INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY
In fiscal year 2019-2020, 91 cents of every dollar spent was for programs, which far surpasses the Better Business Bureau standard of 65 cents.

Mile High United Way’s mission is to unite people, ideas, and resources to advance the common good. An outward and intentional commitment to inclusion across all dimensions including race, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, and physical or mental ability enables us to effectively and authentically address our communities’ most pressing needs. Mile High United Way respects, values, and celebrates the visible and non-visible unique attributes, characteristics, experiences, and perspectives of every person. We recognize the unique needs and opportunities across Colorado and seek to engage all voices to co-create more equitable communities.

JOINING THE DENVER FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE BLACK RESILIENCE

Addressing the disproportionate impact of racism, bias, and discrimination takes a Community United. In June we were proud to join The Denver Foundation in their commitment to address systemic racism and its impact on Black communities by investing in the Black Resilience in Colorado (BRIC) initiative. This partnership allows us to be part of collective efforts toward a resilient, equitable community. It also builds on our organization’s journey toward inclusion and racial equity. BRIC philanthropic strategies include responsive grants and leveraging organizational capacity building programs and initiatives for Black-led and Black-serving nonprofit organizations.

MILE HIGH UNITED WAY SUPPORTS DENVER PRIDE

Even though the parade was virtual, Mile High United Way was excited to support Denver Pride again this year. In place of a float, we created a video to be part of the digital parade, sending a message of love and unity to all our LGBTQIA+ neighbors and friends.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY ACTS FUND

Established in 2018, the Community ACTS Fund is an independent committee which oversees the programmatic development and distribution of a pooled set of resources from the Science and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) Tier I organizations. Mile High United Way is proud to serve as the steward for this incredible fund focused on supporting an ecosystem of smaller, culturally-diverse organizations across the seven-county Metro Denver region. This year, in response to COVID-19 the Community ACTS Fund invested over $1.4 million in emergency relief grants to arts and culture organizations across our seven-county footprint. The general operating grants were awarded equitably across the organizations as a percentage of their annual budgets.

COMMUNITY ACTS FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

- Access Gallery
- Art as Action
- Art from Ashes
- Black American West Museum & Heritage Center
- Chicano Humanities and Arts Council
- Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
- Colorado Celebration of African American Arts and Culture
- Colorado Fine Arts Association
- Colorado Folk Arts Council
- Denver March Powwow
- Downtown Aurora Visual Arts
- Dragon 5280
- Fiesta Colorado Inc.
- Grand Design, Inc.
- Mexican Cultural Center
- Motus Theater
- Museo de las Americas
- Phamaly Theatre Company
- Philippine American Society of Colorado
- PlatteForum
- RedLine
- Rocky Mountain Arts Association
- Su Teatro
COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AWARDS

Champion of Hope Award

Spirit of Hope Award

Social Impact Award

BEN EISENBERG

BRIAN SMITH AWARD
FOR MVP IN A CAMPAIGN

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AWARDS

Champion of Hope Award

Spirit of Hope Award

Social Impact Award

BEN EISENBERG

BRIAN SMITH AWARD
FOR MVP IN A CAMPAIGN

LOYAL CORPORATE PARTNERS

CORNERSTONE SOCIETY | OVER $1 MILLION ANNUALLY

KEYSTONE SOCIETY | $500,000 - $999,999 ANNUALLY

CAPSTONE SOCIETY | $250,000 - $499,999 ANNUALLY

LOYAL CORPORATE PARTNERS

Donated for the last 20 years or more and given cumulative of $1 million or more

Accenture
Allianz
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Ball Corporation
BBVA
BOK Financial
Bryan Cave
CoBank
Comcast
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP
DCP Midstream
Deloitte
Delta Dental of Colorado
Empower Retirement
Enterprise Holdings
EY
FirstBank
Gates Corporation
GH Phipps Construction Companies
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
IBM Corporation
JPMorgan Chase & Company
Kaiser Permanente
KeyBank of Arizona
King Soopers
KPMG LLP
Lockheed Martin
Lockton Mountain West Series
Lumen Technologies
Macy's Corporate
Microsoft
Mile High United Way Inc.
Molson Coors Beverage Company
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
Nordstrom Bank
Occidental Petroleum Corporation
PCL Construction Enterprises, Inc.
Pinnacol Assurance
Plante Moran
PwC
Raytheon
RBC Capital Markets
SM Energy Co.
Sturgeon Electric Company, Inc.
Suncor Energy
TIAA
Tri-State Generation & Transmission
United Airlines
UPS
U.S. Bank
Vectra Bank Colorado
Wagner Equipment Co.
Wells Fargo
Xcel Energy
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT GRANT PARTNERS

During the 2019-2020 Strategic Investment Grant cycle, Mile High United Way proudly awarded over $5 million to almost 100 high-performing nonprofit organizations in Metro Denver.

ABILITY CONNECTION COLORADO, INC.
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
ARTS/Baby Haven
Bayaud Enterprises
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado
Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado
Bright by Three
Catholic Charities
Center for Work Education and Employment
Centro Humanitario Para Los Trabajadores
Centro San Juan Diego
Circles of Change
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Jodi Maples is a social worker with a Master’s in Social Work from the University of Denver and a PhD in life. Jodi has spent her life trying to help others, to call out injustice, to be a good ally, and to be the change she wants to see in the world.

After spending some time as a child protection caseworker for Arapahoe County, Jodi is now a case consultant to the Guardians ad Litem (attorneys to children involved in the family court system) at Bettenberg, Maguire & Associates law firm. Jodi is passionate about supporting children and young adults going through a rough time, giving them a sense of control where she can, and an ear to listen where she can.

ECDC AFRICAN COMMUNITY CENTER WINS 2019 WOMEN UNITED INITIATIVE INNOVATION AWARD

Women United has selected the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) African Community Center as its 2019 Innovation Award recipient for the launch of their new Driving Opportunity program. The ECDC African Community Center helps refugees and immigrants rebuild safe and sustainable lives in Denver. Their female-led Driving Opportunity program will offer driving classes and in-car instruction to members of the female refugee and immigrant community. The program will focus on meeting the diverse cultural and religious needs of the students through its unique approach. Specifically, the classes will be available in three different languages and use all female instructors from the cultures they are serving.

This new program will fill an important void in our community, where currently refugee and immigrant women in the Denver area do not have access to affordable, culturally-relevant, and language-specific driving classes. By providing greater opportunity to obtain driver’s licenses, more women in our community can experience greater independence as well as expanded job opportunities and financial stability.
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