INDIVIDUALS MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WITH GREATEST NEED. WE ARE CHANGING THE ODDS FOR THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE SUPPORT FAMILIES – WE STAND WITH THE RESIDENTS, BUSINESS LEADERS, AND POLICYMAKERS – TO TAKE ACTION TOGETHER AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WITH GREATEST NEED.
Dear Friends,

As we sit down to reflect on our work over the last year, there are many words that come to mind, but the one that sticks with us the most is HOPE. Hope for the future and hope for our families. It is because of each and every one of you that we are able to feel this way. You have stepped up in ways we could have never imagined. When our 2-1-1 Help Center received over 120,000 contacts from individuals and families urgently needing help to pay their rent or feed their families, you ensured our team could answer the call. When the Governor reached out to Mile High United Way to manage the Colorado COVID Relief Fund, you stepped up to ensure our state was supported. As a Community United, we instilled hope in families who were scared and unsure of their future.

You helped us transform our parking lot into a winter wonderland to bring joy to children and families during the holiday season; you served our neighboring communities and program clients while hosting COVID-19 equity vaccination clinics; and you made sure kids had the tools they needed with drive-through back to school events. With hope in mind, there is nothing that came our way that we couldn’t handle. **Hope was possible because of you.**

We are incredibly proud to say that with you by our side, we served nearly 300,000 individuals this year. That is an incredible impact on our community, and one that should give us hope, while knowing at the same time there is so much more that needs to be done. Through our mission and our programs, we continue on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion journey with our staff and Board of Trustees, to ensure ALL families have equitable access to resources.

Earlier this year, Mile High United Way received a transformational gift from philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott, instilling hope for our future. In her note to the public, she quoted Emily Dickinson, ‘Hope is the thing with feathers,’ reminding us all that there is always hope to be had. Over the last year, we have been working diligently to address the needs for ALL families. We are excited to share more about what our plans are for this incredible gift in the coming months.

We are proud to serve families alongside you. With you by our side, we remain hopeful for the future. Thank you.

Warmest regards,

Christine Benero
President and CEO, Mile High United Way

Catherine Hance
2020–2021 Chair, Mile High United Way

Board of Trustees
Supporting Families Through Our Community Priorities

Working side-by-side with the community, Mile High United Way takes on the critical human services issues facing families throughout our seven-county region, including: Metro Denver, Boulder, and Broomfield.

We support families through three interconnected Community Priorities:

Giving All Children a Strong Start
Ensuring all children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

Supporting Education and Academic Success
Building educational success through partnerships with schools, families, and communities.

Creating Economic Opportunity for All
Ensuring people can meet their basic needs and have every opportunity to move toward economic success.
**OUR PANDEMIC RESPONSE**

Mile High United Way Partners with St. Francis Center to Provide Shelter for Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness

Mile High United Way and St. Francis Center teamed up this past winter to serve more individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. We transformed our conference center into an overflow day shelter staffed by St. Francis Center and made available for their guests. The overflow day shelter at Mile High United Way was activated when St. Francis Center reached capacity, often on days with cold or inclement weather.

“Our pandemic response, not only has St. Francis Center seen an increase in need, but with the cold weather months, we knew we needed to come up with a solution. We have a long history of partnering with Mile High United Way, and we are grateful they were willing to think outside the box with us to serve our community members who are experiencing homelessness. This arrangement will allow us to serve more individuals and families, especially when we have inclement weather.”

– Tom Luehrs, Executive Director, St. Francis Center

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**Providing Equitable Access to the COVID-19 Vaccine**

When the COVID-19 vaccine became available to the public, Mile High United Way teamed up with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Denver’s Early Childhood Council, Denver Preschool Program, HealthONE, and COVID Check Colorado to host equity-focused vaccine clinics to vaccinate over 1,400 people at our building. We pre-registered clients from our programs, nonprofit partners and their clients, as well as eligible community members in the surrounding Five Points and Curtis Park neighborhoods to ensure quick and easy access to the vaccine.
2-1-1 HELP CENTER

Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Help Center is a statewide program that connects individuals and families to critical resources including food, shelter, rental assistance, childcare, and more.

Our Community Challenge

- The annual median household income in Denver County is $68,592.1 The self-sufficiency level for a family of four (two adults plus an infant and a toddler) in Denver is $83,940.2 This family of four earning the median income would need an extra $15,348 per year to meet their basic expenses.
- In calendar year 2020, 2-1-1 saw a 46% rise in call volume over 2019, demonstrating the demand for resources that help families meet their needs.

Our Community Challenge

- 1,1 MILLION people across the seven-county Metro Denver area live below the self-sufficiency level (300% poverty) and struggle to make ends meet every month3
- 51% OF RENTAL households are rent-burdened in the seven-county Metro Denver area, paying more than 30% of their income towards rent4
- 16% OF CHILDREN in Colorado are not getting adequate nutrition due to financial constraints5

How you are helping:

- 2-1-1 connected 9,708 contacts to resources to help families pay their energy or water bills.
- 2-1-1 matched 5,932 resource requests for income support to help families make ends meet.

“During the pandemic we heard a lot about our frontline workers. Today I want you to know that our 2-1-1 navigators were also on the frontlines listening to our community’s needs and fears with both empathy and grace. They not only helped people access the resources they needed – but also were able to reassure them that there was support for them during this time of crisis.”

– Tim Main, Senior Manager, Evaluation and Learning

Governor Jared Polis Signs Legislation to Expand Mental Health Support

Earlier this year, we joined Governor Polis as he signed Senate Bill 239 into law. SB 239 supports the expansion of 2-1-1 mental health services in partnership with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, bringing greater behavioral health support services to our state. Thank you to Mile High United Way Board members Brad Busse and Chris McDonald, who joined the bill signing, as well as bill sponsors Rep. Young, Sen. Kolker, and Sen. Zenzinger. With the passing of this bill, we are able to better address the top needs of our community and to support our neighbors when they need us most.

“‘I once took a call from a woman who was facing hardship because of the pandemic. And I was not only able to help get her rent and utilities assistance but was able to get her a ride to the food pantry and sign her up for SNAP. Being there to listen, to walk her through her options, and connect her to tools outside of what she originally had asked for made me feel like the work that we’re all doing at 2-1-1 has direct and visible impact on our community.’”

– Kayla, 2-1-1 Resource Specialist

Footnotes:

1, 3, 4 2019 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
2 Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard, 2018
5 Hunger Free Colorado, COVID Food Insecurity Survey, April 2021
United for Families

Mile High United Way’s United for Families focuses on high-need areas and resources to ensure all children in our community have access to high-quality early childhood care and education.

Our Community Challenge

- 90% of brain development happens in the first few years of life, laying the foundation for future learning and success.
- Half of Coloradans live in a childcare desert where there are more than three children for each available slot, and children of color are less likely to be enrolled in preschool than their white peers.

Your Impact at a Glance

- **498 CHILDREN**, parents, and caregivers served across four target neighborhoods
- **2,774 CHILDREN** impacted by COVID relief funding received by 233 childcare providers
- **900 HIPPY** home visits conducted for 68 parents
- **OVER 3,000** books distributed to partners and families

Stabilizing the Childcare Sector During the Pandemic

COVID-19 shined a spotlight on the fragility of the early care and education sector. Prior to the pandemic, childcare providers – the vast majority being women and people of color – operated on razor-thin margins to meet fixed costs like paying staff, rent, mortgage, and utilities. Those challenges intensified. 73% of programs indicated that they have or will engage in layoffs and other cost-saving measures, or worse, permanently close their doors. Mile High United Way established Keep the Lights On – a public-private partnership to help ensure the survival of this critical sector. With our partners, you helped us support 125 licensed childcare providers and 108 Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers statewide, bringing Mile High United Way’s childcare relief effort total to over $1 million in financial assistance and PPE distribution.

Thank you to our partners: The Women’s Foundation of Colorado, Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance, Healthy Child Care Colorado, Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC), Rose Community Foundation, Denver Office of Children’s Affairs, Colorado Department of Human Services, Daniels Fund, Gary Community Investments, Buell Foundation, Gates Family Foundation, Caring for Colorado Foundation, Colorado Health Foundation, and Wend Collective.

Mile High United Way Launches Program to Promote School Readiness at Home

This past year, we proudly launched the tenth Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program in the state of Colorado. HIPPY empowers parents to support their child’s early education. Since its inception, it has doubled in size, allowing us to remove families from our waitlist.

The heart of our HIPPY program comes from our trained and trusted HIPPY home visitors. Our home visitors meet with families weekly to deliver an evidence-based school readiness curriculum that ensures our youngest learners can enter kindergarten ready to thrive.

We piloted the program with 30 families in Aurora, targeting the neighborhood surrounding Lansing Elementary School. In June 2021, we were thrilled to celebrate our first-ever graduation ceremony for HIPPY students and their parents.

“This is our inaugural year of HIPPY. We launched this program during the pandemic, and I could not be prouder of this United for Families team who did the impossible. [Mile High United Way’s home visitors] launched this program, got all the families set up with their laptops, and made sure that we were actually assessing how children were progressing on their own school readiness.”

– Molly Yost, Senior Director, United for Families, Mile High United Way
Applying Our Data and Research to Improve Colorado’s Childcare System

Though often overlooked, a vast network of family members, friends, and neighbors devote their time and passion to providing childcare for millions of families. This form of care – commonly referred to as Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) caregiving – is one on which more than half of the young children in Colorado depend.

This year, Mile High United Way conducted a research study, in partnership with the University of Denver’s Butler Institute for Families at the Graduate School of Social Work and Early Milestones Colorado, to better understand the impacts of the pandemic on FFN caregiving and how we can better support providers and families in our community.

Mile High United Way’s United for Business (UFB) program supports locally-owned small businesses and strengthens under-resourced communities.

Our Community Challenge

- 20% of all businesses fail in the first two years after opening and over half fail by their fifth anniversary.¹
- Firms of color continue to face structural barriers in acquiring the capital, knowledge, and market access necessary for growth.²

Helping Small Businesses Keep Their Doors Open During COVID-19

The Mile High United Way United for Business program supports families by helping local small business owners with personalized business consulting services. Business owners are connected to skilled Mile High United Way volunteers that can help in areas of accounting, marketing, legal support, and more. This work has proven more critical than ever as many small business owners have been faced with unprecedented challenges due to the pandemic. This year, our program worked with 156 small businesses in our community to help them access resources, transform their business models to accommodate

Our findings highlight the impact the pandemic had on Family, Friend, and Neighbor care providers and caregiving:

- **56%** of providers surveyed indicated their household income has decreased since the pandemic began. We found this decrease to be more drastic for Hispanic or Latina providers.
- **40% decrease** in the overall number of children cared for in an average day.
- **36%** of providers surveyed reported an increase in caregiving expenses.

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Our Community Challenge

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Your Impact at a Glance

- **156 small businesses** were supported through our program.
- **$852,323** secured for clients through grant and loan applications with support from the UFB team.
- **$60,000** value in volunteer hours to help small business owners on topics such as marketing and accounting.
- **402 hours** of customized business consulting for participants.

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¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
² 2021 Report on Firms Owned by People of Color
virtual transitions, keep their doors open, and for some, achieve growth.

"Being a participant of [United for Business] has expanded our network and allowed us to connect with professionals that we might not have before, like Stella, who has been instrumental in helping us thrive in the pandemic," said Brittney and Joslyn, owners of FIT & NU, of working with Stella, their United for Business Volunteer Advisor.

Our New Website Build Initiative Helps Small Businesses Grow Their Online Presence

With the impact of the pandemic, it’s more important than ever for local businesses to promote their services online. With limited budgets and capacity and a lack of digital marketing, establishing a strong online presence can be difficult for many local store owners. To help our clients grow online, Mile High United Way launched a website building initiative alongside volunteers skilled in all areas of digital marketing, creating 25 websites for 25 small businesses.

Lis, Owner of Flor de Lis Salon, Is Excited to Grow Her Business

Lis is the owner of Flor de Lis Salon in Thornton. This past year, Mile High United Way provided Lis and her team with 51 hours of consulting services to help them develop a plan to expand and purchase another beauty salon. One of our Business Advisors, Natalia, connected them with local financial institutions and has been assisting them in the loan process. Our skilled volunteers helped them organize their financials and create a valuation of their business and the business they planned to purchase. In addition, a volunteer attorney provided legal advice for the purchase. Lis is now looking forward to growing her business and is excited about what the future will bring, including expanding her services to create a total spa environment for the residents in her neighborhood.

“Volunteering with United for Business is such a rewarding experience! I love using my skills to raise up those in my community working to get their small businesses visible and communicating with wider audiences.”

– Clint Carlson,
Mile High United Way Catalyst Member and UFB Volunteer

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"United for Business has been super helpful for some time. When COVID hit, they brought resources and help, they've always been here. And now, we're purchasing a new business, and they've been a big, big support. They’ve helped us with everything – the valuation of the business, the attorney, every step.”

– Lis, Small Business Owner

Mile High United Way’s United for Schools works with partner schools to support families by developing parent advocates, strengthening school-community partnerships, and connecting parents and children to essential resources.

Our Community Challenge

• 30–40% of students in Denver and Adams County were chronically absent during the 2018–2019 school year.¹
• 41% of households making below $20,000 do not have internet access, reflecting a major barrier to online schooling.²
• By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is a proven early warning signal for students at risk of dropping out of school.³

¹ Denver Public Schools (Sept. 2019); Adams 12 Five-Star School District (Sept. 2019)
² https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/em/fall16/highlight2.html
³ EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST, 42(4), 223–235
Pivoting to Meet the Needs of Families During the School Year

We know that for parents to prioritize their child’s learning, they must first have stability at home. That is why our United for Schools program pivoted this year to focus not only on improving student engagement, but on stabilizing families.

A key component to this approach is our boots-on-the-ground team of Community Advocates who facilitate support for families and schools across all areas of the program. Mile High United Way’s Community Advocates built relationships with 180 families across Metro Denver, helping them access direct financial assistance for rent, utilities, food, medical expenses, mental health services, and transportation. In addition to basic needs assistance, we are strengthening school-community partnerships, developing parent advocates, and bridging the digital divide for low-income families. This comprehensive strategy is keeping more students engaged in class, so they can build a foundation for learning and achievement.

“There are so many amazing components to the Mile High United Way and Thornton partnership...Getting Lyft vouchers for families so they can get transportation to the necessary places. Paying rent. Getting deposits. So, a lot of amazing stories at each of our schools through this partnership.”

– Shannon West, Principal, Thornton Elementary

How We Promote Academic Success for Students

Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Families

Remote and hybrid learning shined a harsh light on the inequities in our education system and on the digital divide that exists in our community. United in the belief that everyone should have equitable access to the internet, Mile High United Way partnered with Comcast, Ernst & Young, and Mobile Citizen to provide laptops, reliable internet, and digital literacy training for the communities we serve. These resources were delivered to families within our seven partnering elementary schools across Adams, Aurora, and Denver County school districts.

Our digital literacy training supports parents in building their own computer skills, so they can better support their child’s online learning. The training includes easy-to-understand videos on computer and internet basics, offered in English, Spanish, Dari, and Pashto, as well as one-on-one tutoring.

New Funding for Social-Emotional Education to Help Students Develop

Schools are a critical source of stability for students. Outside of the home environment, it’s where many young students develop their ability to interact with others and form meaningful relationships. For this reason, it is important that schools in our community have support in preparing students not only academically, but socially and emotionally as well. Mile High United Way provided funding for social-emotional education for our partner schools this past year, delivering $10,000 in social-emotional learning grants to each of our seven partner schools: Swansea Elementary, Garden Place Academy, McElwain Elementary, Coronado Hills Elementary, North Mor Elementary, Thornton Elementary, and Lansing Elementary.
Bridging the Gap

Mental Health is an Integral Part of the Program

Over the course of the pandemic, and as an integrated part of our Bridging the Gap program, all participants are invited to sessions focused on mental health — from virtual yoga to cooking classes to traditional therapy to other supportive alternatives. Bridging the Gap aims to provide all participants with many ways to engage in mental health support as they plan for their future and support their families.

Bridging the Gap Supports Parents and their Children

Gissel (pictured left, with her son TJ) was 19 and pregnant with her first son when she walked into the Mile High United Way building looking for help. She was experiencing homelessness and looking for resources and urgent support. After getting connected with Bridging the Gap, her Independent Living Coach helped her secure a housing voucher so she could not only support her family but have a stable place to call home.

TJ is now five years old and is enrolled in the Mile High United Way Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program. Gissel has continued working with her Independent Living Coach to build her life and achieve her own success. Currently working overnight shifts, Gissel has seen the impact HIPPY has had on her family and is interested in becoming a HIPPY instructor while she works toward her medical field dreams.

"It’s really inspired me watching TJ learn so much so quickly with HIPPY. He knows his colors, his ABCs, he can count to ten, and whenever we read to him he is always reading along with us," Gissel said. "It’s going to make schooling so much easier knowing he can go into it being proud of what he already knows."

The support Gissel has received from Mile High United Way allowed her the space to focus on more than the basic needs of her family. Because of the wraparound support from Bridging the Gap and Mile High United Way programs, she can feel confident in working toward her bigger dreams, knowing she is supported along the way.

Bridging the Gap Career Month

Each year, Mile High United Way hosts Career Month for Bridging the Gap participants. Volunteers participate and host resume building classes, mock job interviews, and more, to support our participants as they build their future and work toward their goals.

Your Impact at a Glance

- 140 people participated in the program
- 1,263 coaching sessions were conducted in virtual and in-person settings
- 73 participants found employment and held a job
- 10 participants completed an education program, ranging from a Bachelor’s degree to Dental Assistance programs

3 Dworsky, A. et al; Homelessness During the Transition From Foster Care to Adulthood, American Journal of Public Health; 2013; www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3969139/

“The classes that we took, these are things we don’t learn in foster care. This is our chance to learn, because in the future, it’s going to make us a better person – not just for ourselves and our household, but to the whole community.”

— Gloria, Bridging the Gap participant
Mile High United Way’s Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE) program empowers low-income families, individuals, and businesses to invest in their future by supporting them on their path to financial stability. Our program helps participants build assets, including homeownership, post-secondary education, and business support.

Our Community Challenge

- 44% of all households (and 25% of middle-class households) have less than three months of savings to draw upon without falling into poverty.¹
- Nearly 25% of American adults have no credit score; an additional 25% have a subprime score (below 620), leaving them without access to adequate credit.²

How our Personal Investment Enterprise Program Turns Dreams into Reality

The Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE) program has helped hundreds of families save money, build assets, and achieve greater financial stability. Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the PIE program has helped over 379 people in Boulder County since it began in 2001. This year, 23 new participants joined the program, while 23 graduated by purchasing a new home, developing their small business, or investing in post-secondary education — all during the pandemic.

In partnership with Community Action Programs of Boulder County, the program offers participants the ability to save through a matched savings account at a rate of 4-to-1, as well as enroll in financial literacy classes.

Your Impact at a Glance

23 GRADUATES purchased a home, developed their small business, or invested in post-secondary education

23 NEW participants entered the PIE program

50% OF PIE graduates say saving is a new habit

67% of PIE graduates saw an increase in income

86% of PIE graduates have a plan to save regularly

How our Personal Investment Enterprise Program Turns Dreams into Reality

The Personal Investment Enterprise (PIE) program has helped hundreds of families save money, build

¹ Treading Water in the Deep End: Findings from the 2014 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard

“PIE has been instrumental in building a pathway out of poverty for those that participate. Asset building makes prosperity achievable through home ownership, education, or business ownership. It is a way to stabilize families and help each generation thrive, not just survive.”
- Maciel Leon, Division Manager for Community Action Programs at Boulder County

Cat and Eddie Purchased Their First Home

One of the families impacted by the PIE program is Cat, Eddie, and their two boys (pictured left), Romi (2) and Tripp (5). After entering the program in June of 2017, Cat and Eddie were excited to learn more about how to maximize their income through PIE’s financial literacy classes. After graduating, they purchased their first home in April 2020. Through their commitment to the program, they were able to build a stable foundation, one that will lead to generational change within their family.

“We’re extremely grateful for all the help that we had throughout the process, and just really lucky, I feel, to have had the support that we had,” Eddie said. “We want to pass [the house] on to [the boys] and let them have a home without worrying, and it’s just really cool to get to do that.”

What Graduates Are Saying About Our Personal Investment Enterprise Program:

Based on a recent survey, the majority of graduates shared that the tools, education, and experience of going through PIE provided them with a new mindset focused on better managing their finances. PIE empowered participants with the knowledge to stop living paycheck to paycheck and envision a stable financial future.

“I feel more empowered. It has been a long process for me lasting several years but I finally achieved my goal and feel on top of the world.”

“I understand much more how to manage on a limited income, and because I was able to purchase a home, I feel more accomplished in my life.”

“Going through PIE gave me confidence in interacting with financial institutions, knowledge of the intricacies of homeownership, and empowers me to pursue them courageously and with ownership.”

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“Going through PIE gave me confidence in interacting with financial institutions, knowledge of the intricacies of homeownership, and empowers me to pursue them courageously and with ownership.”
Our volunteer program provides a fun and deeply rewarding experience where individuals and corporate
groups can make immediate, lasting change by improving lives and helping our community thrive.

Adapting Our Community Events to Keep Families Safe

We found new ways to continue serving our community members while keeping everyone safe and
socially distanced. Our Back to School Bash (pictured above right) in partnership with the Denver Broncos,
was transformed into a drive-through event, so 400 families could receive new backpacks and essential
school supplies to start the new year ready to learn.

This Year, You Took the Turkey Trot Everywhere!

Because we were unable to gather safely in Washington Park in 2020, we held the first remote Mile High United
Way Turkey Trot. We asked runners to take the Turkey Trot anywhere – and wow did you deliver! We saw Turkey
Trotters from Denver, to DC, to our beautiful Rocky Mountains. Thank you to everyone who participated
and kept Denver’s greatest Thanksgiving tradition alive. Because of you and our generous sponsors, we raised
over $94,000 to support families.

Keeping the Holidays Bright

Our conference center is usually bustling with children, families, and volunteers during our annual
Children’s Holiday Party, but like with many things, this year we had to pivot. We transformed our parking
lot into a winter wonderland to ensure 900 children and over 300 families experienced the joy of the
holiday season.

“I volunteer with [Mile High] United Way because I care about living in a
vibrant community. United Way allows me to utilize the talents I am blessed
with to help people connect with services and support that help them thrive.
When people thrive, so does our community as a whole.”
– Maryanne Flynn, 2-1-1 Help Center volunteer

Your Impact at a Glance

4,244 hours volunteered
1,584 volunteers made an impact
72 days of service with corporate partners
$150,371 economic impact from our volunteers

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school supplies to start the new year ready to learn.

Denver Day of Service with the Denver Broncos

In June 2021, we held our 3rd Annual Denver Day of Service
in partnership with the Denver Broncos. In just one day,
354 volunteers donated over 885 hours of their time to 33
community service projects across Metro Denver. One of
those projects took place at Florence Crittenton (left), where
Broncos cheerleaders, Empower Retirement employees, and
other community volunteers sorted clothing donations for teen
mothers and their children.
For 133 years, Mile High United Way has used a united approach to solve complex community challenges. We believe every individual and family should have an equal opportunity to pursue their dreams and move toward economic success. As a Community United, we are removing barriers and building pathways to success for ALL families across Metro Denver.

Senator Michael Bennet (pictured above, fourth from left) with community members discussing the Child Tax Credit during a community roundtable. Mile High United Way advocated for the tax credit.

### Investing in Arts and Culture in Historically Marginalized Communities

Mile High United Way is proud to administer the Community ACTS Fund. Over $750,000 in general operating support grants were awarded through the Community Arts, Culture, Transformation, and Science (ACTS) Fund to 23 arts and culture organizations, focused on historically marginalized communities, to help our Metro Denver arts and culture ecosystem strengthen and thrive.

### Deloitte Innovation Competition

Deloitte's breadth, depth, and passion for innovation help organizations deliver innovative partnerships, program delivery models, and/or technology that impact people and communities. The Deloitte Community Fund is one mechanism that Deloitte uses to support innovation in the Metro Denver nonprofit sector. Through the fund and its innovation competition, Deloitte funds programs and projects that use a creative approach or leverage emerging technology to provide solutions to community needs. In 2020, in partnership with Deloitte, we were excited to fund:

- Cleo Parker Robinson Dance
- Phamaly Theatre Company
- Philippine American Society of Colorado
- PlatteForum
- RedLine
- Rocky Mountain Arts Association
- Su Teatro

### This year, we proudly championed local and statewide initiatives that align with our Community Priorities to further support families in our community:

- **HB21-1094: Foster Youth in Transition Program** – Allows young people who leave the foster care system to return to care in order to receive additional training and support, such as housing and employment.

- **SB21-239: Statewide Human Services Referral System** – Connects unemployed Coloradans across the state to behavioral health services and support and other vital resources that families need as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, through our 2-1-1 Help Center.

- **HB21-1304: Early Childhood System** – Consolidates various early childhood programs across state agencies into the Colorado Department of Early Childhood. It also requires a plan to implement voluntary universal preschool statewide in alignment with voter intent in Prop EE (approved by voters in 2020).

- **HB21-1285: Funding to Support Creative Arts Funding** – As part of this larger funding bill, the Community ACTS Fund (administered by Mile High United Way) received $1.5 million to invest in Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)-funded Tier III organizations led by and/or serving historically marginalized communities.
Courageous Conversations: Creating Space for Important Racial Equity Dialogue

Courageous Conversations is our virtual event series that explores topics around social justice and racial equity. During each session, we host leaders in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to share their insights on social justice issues. Previous topics include Race, Equity, and Motherhood; Food Insecurity and Race; Systemic Racism, and more. These events are intended to encourage collective understanding and action and to explore how, as an organization and as individuals, we can best support communities of color.

Offering “A Seat at the Table” for Meaningful Conversations about Cultural Diversity

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, we hosted a roundtable discussion with three leaders in the AAPI community: Fran Campbell, CEO of the Asian Chamber of Commerce and Mile High United Way Trustee, Phillip Chung, PhD, of Mile High United Way, and Charles Ozaki, Mile High United Way Trustee. This discussion, called “A Seat at the Table,” celebrated the often overlooked historical and cultural contributions of our AAPI community in Colorado and delved into meaningful dialogue about violence against the AAPI community, the Model Minority myth, and holding onto one’s cultural roots.

“Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! That was one of the most enlightening, empowering conversations I’ve heard in a long time. Truly a courageous conversation with a very positive approach to an ongoing problem in our country. Understanding that doing the hard work, yes it’s incredibly hard, to face the systemic racism America is built on can have significant results that make us all better is so encouraging. And a message that is much needed today.”

– Lee Gash-Maxey, Executive Director of the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, after our session on Decolonizing Wealth with Edgar Villanueva

Building Greater Equity Through Our New Social Justice Fund

In 2020, Mile High United Way created a Social Justice Fund to invest in impact-focused and collaborative programs that focus on improving equity and creating awareness of issues affecting our communities of color. Through the fund, we invested $20,000 in the Globeville, Elyria-Swansea Coalition Organizing for Health and Housing Justice, or the GES Coalition, a group of neighborhood leaders and community organizations working to prevent the displacement of our neighbors, protect historically marginalized neighborhoods, preserve affordability in housing, and more. Our funding specifically supports bi-weekly, personalized care packages that are delivered to the door of 120 families in the GES community, providing food and essential baby items like formula and diapers.

Our Social Justice Fund also invested $10,000 in nine organizations working with their community to provide voter education, registration, engagement, and mobilization. We are also providing capacity training for BIPOC-led organizations as well as an ongoing learning series, such as How to Be An Anti-Racist Organization, for organizations working to further their own equity journey.

We believe every individual must receive equal opportunity to pursue their dreams and ensure they can thrive. We look forward to growing the Social Justice Fund in this next year, providing greater access to opportunity and prosperity for all in our community.
Our mission is to unite people, ideas, and resources to advance the common good.

Together We Raised $73.4 Million to Serve Our Community:

- **387 Corporations**
  - $5.7 million

- **14,000 Individuals**
  - $35.8 million

- **Foundations, Government, and Other**
  - $13.1 million

- **Colorado COVID Relief Fund**
  - $4.8 million in FY21, bringing the total to $23.8 million in funds raised and distributed over two years

- **Denver Small Business Emergency Relief Fund**
  - $14.0 million

**Community Investments and Expenditures: $55.6 Million**

We are financially strong with $64.8 million in net assets as of June 30, 2021.

- 40% Mile High United Way Programs, Community Collaboration, and Impact Goals ($22.5m)
- 37% Emergency COVID-19 Grants ($20.8m)
- 14% Donor Designated Gifts to Other Nonprofit Organizations ($7.5m)
- 6% Fundraising and Events ($3.3m)
- 3% Management and General ($1.5m)

91% Total Invested in the Community

In fiscal year 2020–2021, 91 cents of every dollar spent was for programs, which far surpasses the Better Business Bureau standard of 65 cents.

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, 2021 are available for your review online at unitedwaydenver.org.
Celebrating our 2020–2021 Community Champions
Thank you for your incredible partnership during this challenging year

Champion of Hope Award Winners

Spirit of Hope Award Winner

Social Impact Award Winner

Partner in Service Award Winner

Brian Smith Award for MVP in a Campaign
Drew Gilmer, Molson Coors Beverage Company

Champion of Hope Emeritus

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
Alliance Data
Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield
Ball Corporation
Bank of America
BOK Financial
Bryan Cave
CH2M HILL
CoBank ACB
Comcast
Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP
DCP Midstream
Deloitte
Delta Dental of Colorado
Empower Retirement
Enterprise Holdings
Ernst & Young LLP
FedEx
FirstBank Holding Company
Gates Corporation
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Johns Manville
JPMorgan Chase & Company
KeyBank of Colorado
King Soopers
KPMG LLP
Lockheed Martin
Lumen Technologies
McKesson
Morgan Stanley
Nordstrom
PCL Construction
PNC
PNC Bank
PwC
Stryker
Tesla
TechnipFMC
TIAA
Tri-State Generation & Transmission
UP
d
UPS
U.S. Bank
Wells Fargo
Wells Fargo Equipment
Xcel Energy
Xerox
Xcel Energy
It is with the belief and vision for a Community United, we announced a $7 million investment in our seven-county footprint this past year.

A Precious Child, Inc.
Ability Connection Colorado Inc
The Action Center
Adams 12 Five Star
Adams County Emergency Food Bank
Adelaide Community Development
Aurora Community Connection Family Resource Center
The Baby Haven/Friends of the Haven Bayaud Enterprises
Beyond Home
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado
Boulder County Head Start
Boulder Shelter for the Homeless
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
Bright by Text
Broomfield FISH
Catholic Charities
Center for African American Health
Center for Work Education and Employment
Centro San Juan Diego
City Year Denver
Clayton Early Learning
Coal Creek Meals on Wheels
Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Colorado Legal Services
Colorado Safe Parking Initiative
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
Colorado UpLift
Colorado Village Collaborative
Comitis Crisis Center
Community Food Share
Crisis Center
The Delores Project
Denver Asset Building Coalition
Denver Children's Advocacy Center
Denver Indian Family Resource Center
Denver Kids, Inc.
Denver Public Schools Foundation
Denver Rescue Mission
Denver's Early Childhood Council
Downtown Aurora Visual Arts (DAVA)
The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County
Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County
Early Excellence Program of Denver
ECDC African Community Center
Emergency Family Assistance Association
Environmental Learning for Kids
Families Forward Resource Center
Family Learning Center Inc.
Family Star
Family Tree, Inc.
Florence Crittenton Services Early Childhood Education Center
Focus Points Family Resource Center
Food Bank of the Rockies
The Gathering Place: A Refuge for Rebuilding Lives
Girl Scouts of Colorado
Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
Growing Home Inc.
Hands of The Carpenter
Heart & Hand Center
HOPE Center
Hope Communities
I Have A Dream Foundation - Colorado
I Have A Dream Foundation of Boulder County
The Inn Between of Longmont, Inc.
Invest in Kids
Jewish Family Service of Colorado, Inc.
Laradon Hall Society for Exceptional Children and Adults
Latina Safehouse Initiative
Longmont Meals on Wheels, Inc.
Metro Caring
Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
Mile High Early Learning
Mountain Resource Center
Muslim Youth for Positive Impact
Nederland Food Pantry
New Legacy Charter School
Nourish (Formerly TLC) Meals on Wheels
Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives
Outreach United Resource Center
Project Angel Heart
Reach Out and Read Colorado
Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center
Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
Rocky Mountain Welcome Center
Roots Family Center
SafeHouse Denver
Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)
Scholars Unlimited
The Senior Hub
Servicios de la Raza
Sewell Child Development Center
Sister Carmen Community Center
SouthWest Improvement Council, Inc.
St. Francis Center
St. Vrain Valley Schools
Sun Valley Youth Center Inc
Sunshine Home Share Colorado
Swallow Hill Music
TLC Learning Center
Urban Peak Denver
Volunteers of America
Warren Village
We Don't Waste
Wild Plum Center for Young Children and Families
Work Options for Women
WorkLife Partnership
YMCA Metro Denver
YMCA of Northern Colorado
YWCA Boulder County

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

$1,000,000
The Anschutz Foundation

$499,000 TO $999,000
Gary Community Ventures
The Colorado Health Foundation

$250,000 TO $499,000
Caring for Colorado Foundation
PNC Foundation
Siler Institute

$100,000 TO $249,000
Cliff Foundation
Daniels Fund
U.S. Bank Foundation
Wend Collective
Anonymous

$25,000 TO $99,999
Ball Foundation
Buck Foundation
The Denver Foundation
Koelbel Family Foundation
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Sturm Family Foundation

Climax Molybdenum Company and Freeport-McMoran Foundation
Comcast NBC Universal Foundation
Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation
LibertyGives Foundation
Nationwide Foundation
Records-Johnston Family Foundation, Inc.
Rose Community Foundation
Weary Family Foundation
Western Union Foundation
ZOMA Foundation

$15,000 TO $24,999
United Way Worldwide
Virginia Hill Foundation
VF Foundation

$10,000 to $14,999
Buck Foundation
The Denver Foundation
Koelbel Family Foundation
Pikes Peak Community Foundation
Sturm Family Foundation
Nancy S. and Earl L. Wright Foundation
Mile High United Way's Women United lead the charge by addressing the biggest challenges facing women and children, and they inspire the change by investing in high-impact programs, responding to emerging needs in our community, and taking action as volunteers and advocates for Metro Denver's women and girls.

Uplifting Women and Girls Through Our Women United Initiative

Through the Women United Initiative, Mile High United Way invests in high-impact programs that address the challenges faced by women and girls in our community. This year, the initiative delivered $164,000 in funding for our community programs as well as partner agencies across our seven-county footprint.

Our Annual Community Baby Shower Provides Essential Support for New Families

Through the initiative's Kindness Project, Mile High United Way hosts an annual Community Baby Shower to support new families with diapers and other essentials to help children and families thrive. This year, because of our generous donors, we collected over $7,300 in baby items, including diapers, wipes, blankets, and car seats. Our incredible Women United volunteers sorted and distributed these items to young families in our Bridging the Gap program as well as several partner organizations. A special thank you to GH Phipps Construction for donating over 15,000 diapers!

Creating the Next Generation of Women Leaders

Every year, through the initiative's Innovation Fund, Mile High United Way's Women United invests in an innovative program that supports the advancement of women and girls. In Spring 2021, we selected A Precious Child's Precious Perks program as our Innovation Prize recipient. The Precious Perks program offers important employment opportunities for young women through training, skill-building, and other services that help them prepare for excellence in the job market. We are proud to support this unique approach that is filling an important gap in developing our next generation of women leaders.

“Creating the Next Generation of Women Leaders

This funding serves young women 16–24 years old looking for workforce education, mentorship, and employment opportunities in the Metro Denver area. Participants referred from Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Jefferson, and Weld Counties will earn certifications, sales experience, and clinical case management.”

– A Precious Child

22nd Annual Women United Luncheon: In One Word

This year, we hosted the first-ever virtual Women United Luncheon, featuring our keynote speaker Gayle King, co-host of CBS This Morning. We presented Debbie Trujillo with our 2020 Frances Wisebart Jacobs award and heard powerful stories from our luncheon chairs, sponsors, Board members, and women impacted by our 2-1-1 Help Center and Bridging the Gap programs. To everyone who hosted a watch party (pictured left) or invested in our work – we thank you for believing in the power of women and the power of a Community United.

Your Impact at a Glance

- **6,569 WOMEN** and girls served through the Women United Initiative
- **1,016** women and girls received job coaching or skills workshops
- **50** women earned a degree or graduated from an educational program

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

- **Chair**: Kimberly Smith, American AgCredit
- **Vice Chair**: Julie Bearup, Community Leader
- **Members**: Yun Hui Kehoe, Community Leader; Wendy Topalian, Community Leader

CORPORATE CONNECTIONS

- **Chair**: Sonja Bruce, BOK Financial

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- **Chair**: Julie Bearup, Community Leader
- **Vice Chair**: Ashley Story, Mercer

WOMEN UNITED LUNCHEON

- **Co-Chairs**: Patrina Pettry, U.S. Bank; Kristin Bender, Community Leader

THANK YOU TO OUR WOMEN UNITED SPONSOR:
Our Next Generation of Philanthropic Leaders

*Mile High United Way’s Catalyst Society* is a passionate group of forward-thinking professionals who are committed to amplifying the diverse voices of our community and paving the way for the future of philanthropy. Through ongoing engagement and a long-term investment strategy, members enter the program on a trajectory to become Tocqueville Society members.

“I am so proud of the work the Catalyst Leadership team has done over the last four years to create robust programming that continues to attract and build the next generation of philanthropic leaders in our community.”

– Natalie Froland, Catalyst Society Chair, 2020–2021


*LINC* is a group of socially-minded young professionals that channel their energy to improving our community through unique volunteer and giving opportunities.

Creating Personal Connections and Meaningful Impact During the Pandemic

This year, LINC members sent support to students starting virtual school, wrote letters of encouragement to isolated adults in retirement communities, participated in article clubs to deepen their knowledge about the issues facing our community, and put together 200 kits for unhoused individuals accessing the St. Francis Center overflow warming center at Mile High United Way.

In addition, they raised funds for our United for Business website development project, helping small, local business owners grow their business online and supported our United for Families team by funding 40 bedtime boxes for caregivers and families. These boxes help families stay connected and set up healthy habits that improve learning and development.

Why Our Members Love LINC:

“[I like] feeling like I am more connected to my community, [that I] did some good work, and met some great people.”

“[I like] opportunities to connect with others and volunteer. [It’s a way] to feel connected and involved in the community.”

“[I really loved the outreach projects to seniors!] I would love to have more ways to support the community remotely!”
Donor Spotlight: Mark and Ranae Lichtwardt

Mark and Ranae Lichtwardt have been Tocqueville Society members with Mile High United Way since 2015. This year, they accepted our 2020 Tocqueville Challenge, increasing their investment and commitment to our community. In total, because of donors like Mark and Ranae, the Tocqueville Challenge resulted in an additional $300,000 being invested back into Metro Denver. We are incredibly moved by their generosity and caring for others.

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“We know many people are struggling right now and the need for resources have increased due to COVID-19. We feel fortunate and blessed that we’re able to do more this year to help. We are passionate about Mile High United Way’s work as they are thoughtfully addressing the greatest needs of the families and individuals that have been impacted most by this pandemic.” – Mark and Ranae Lichtwardt

Mile High United Way’s Tocqueville Society is comprised of Metro Denver’s most generous philanthropists who are dedicated to tackling our community’s most pressing challenges.

The Incredible Leadership Behind Mile High United Way’s Tocqueville Society

As our Tocqueville Society Chairs, Mike and Yun Hui Kehoe were a guiding force during this unprecedented year. They stepped up, galvanized our members, and helped to promote Mile High United Way’s community programs.

“We have been involved with Mile High United Way for many years, but we have never been more inspired by the commitment and passion of Mile High United Way and you, our fellow Tocqueville Society members. As Tocqueville Chairs, we feel great pride in what we have helped to accomplish.” – Mike and Yun Hui Kehoe, 2019-2021 Tocqueville Society Chairs

Sending First-Generation Students to College Off Right

Every year, our compassionate Tocqueville Society members support Ready, Set, College!, a college readiness and mentorship event that gives first-generation students access to pre-college advice, life skills workshops, living essentials, and ongoing mentoring. Students also receive a new backpack, laptop, gift cards, and other essential school supplies to help them start the semester off right.

This year, we transitioned the event to be virtual, so our Tocqueville members could support students from home. Because of their generosity, $17,165 went towards providing backpacks and supplies for 45 first-generation college students.

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Tocqueville Society

**JIM AND PAT BYE CHAMPIONS CIRCLE**

**Nationally recognized annual gifts of $25,000 – $99,999**

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- David and Deborah Younggren
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Mile High United Way Receives Transformational Gift from MacKenzie Scott

Philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott announced a $20 million investment in Mile High United Way. This gift is a testament to our incredible donors, like you, for all you have collectively done to position Mile High United Way for this significant investment and belief in our work. We hope that Ms. Scott’s belief in us and her desire to support us in continuing our mission and vision will inspire even more people to join our effort.

“Hope” is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.”
– Emily Dickinson
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

Discover new ways to give back to our community through upcoming volunteer opportunities offered by Mile High United Way.

SIGN UP AT
VOLUNTEER.UNITEDWAYDENVER.ORG

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2-1-1 HELP CENTER

Discover new ways to give back to our community through upcoming volunteer opportunities offered by Mile High United Way.