



Mile High United Way

**2022-2023 COMMUNITY REPORT**



## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

Our story began on Oct. 16, 1887, when a group of visionaries, including Frances Wisebart Jacobs, a priest, two ministers and a rabbi, formed what is known today as Mile High United Way. They believed there was a better way to meet people's needs, and today, United Way continues its mission at 1,800 local chapters across the globe.

## OUR STORY CONTINUES

Since 1887, Mile High United Way has brought people together to solve our region's most pressing issues. From early childhood education and homelessness to food security and economic mobility – we have united people, ideas and resources to advance the common good.

The stories you'll read in this annual report will take you on a journey that's filled with perseverance, hope and compassion, and shines a spotlight on all that has brought us here. Each story is interconnected, just like all of us.

We thank you, our community, for being the main character in our 135-year-long story. Together, we are a Community United.

## WHAT WE DO



## IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**\$28.8M**  
INVESTED IN  
OUR COMMUNITY

**183,500+**  
LIVES  
IMPACTED

**19,000**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS  
FACILITATED

**705**  
CORPORATE  
PARTNERSHIPS

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## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

### PROLOGUE

The story of Mile High United Way began 135 years ago, when a group of visionary Coloradans believed we can accomplish more when we do it together. That faith in each other turned into the very first United Way.

In its first year, the Charity Organization Society of Denver raised \$21,700 to change the lives of children and families who called Colorado home. In 2023, we invested \$28.8 million, impacting the lives of 183,500 – the power of a community united.

But the heart of Mile High United Way's story is so much more than dollars invested. What makes all stories great are the cast of characters – children, mothers, fathers, business owners, volunteers, donors, partners and advocates – who work to create opportunity for all.

This past year, Mile High United Way has been proud to bear witness to some of the most extraordinary stories:

- A mother and her infant son, immigrating here to build a life full of hope.
- The young adult, living on the streets after aging out of the child welfare system, finding her first stable home and now having aspirations for a career in advocacy.
- The entrepreneurs who used their down time during the pandemic to learn about running a business, building a flourishing company, employing others and joining a network of other entrepreneurs.

And so many stories yet to be written.

Beyond characters, a story also needs a special setting – and there is nowhere more special than our state. It is this community and the people here that inspire us to work together to advance the common good. We know we are better together. We are a Community United.

Thank you for helping to write the stories for so many.

Warmly,

**Carlos Pacheco**  
Chair, Mile High United Way Board of Trustees

# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR CHILDREN



## Child Care, Development & Education

Our Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program helps parents support their child's kindergarten readiness in the comfort of their own homes. [United for Families](#) also provides technical assistance and training to support the Family, Friend and Neighbor providers who care for nearly 60% of young children in Colorado.



**84**  
CHILDREN SERVED  
by HIPPY in  
2022-2023

**980**  
PARENTS AND CHILDREN  
served through  
[United for Families](#)

**2,520**  
at-home learning kits  
distributed to families

**452**  
LICENSED CHILD CARE SLOTS  
created or maintained  
through our investments

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 1994, Mile High United Way launched its first school readiness initiative called Ready to Succeed. Other Mile High United Way initiatives have included the nation's first child care rating system, Qualistar Colorado, now known as Colorado Shines.



## A Baby's Steps to Big Success

Ermisenda came to the United States focused on creating opportunities for her then-infant son, Gerard. Her path forward was unclear, but after settling in Metro Denver, Mile High United Way helped her take the first step toward ensuring Gerard started kindergarten ready to succeed.

In 2020, Ermisenda and Gerard joined the inaugural year of our [Home instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters \(HIPPY\)](#) program. HIPPY empowers parents to help prepare their children for kindergarten through at-home learning by providing age-appropriate educational tools and resources.

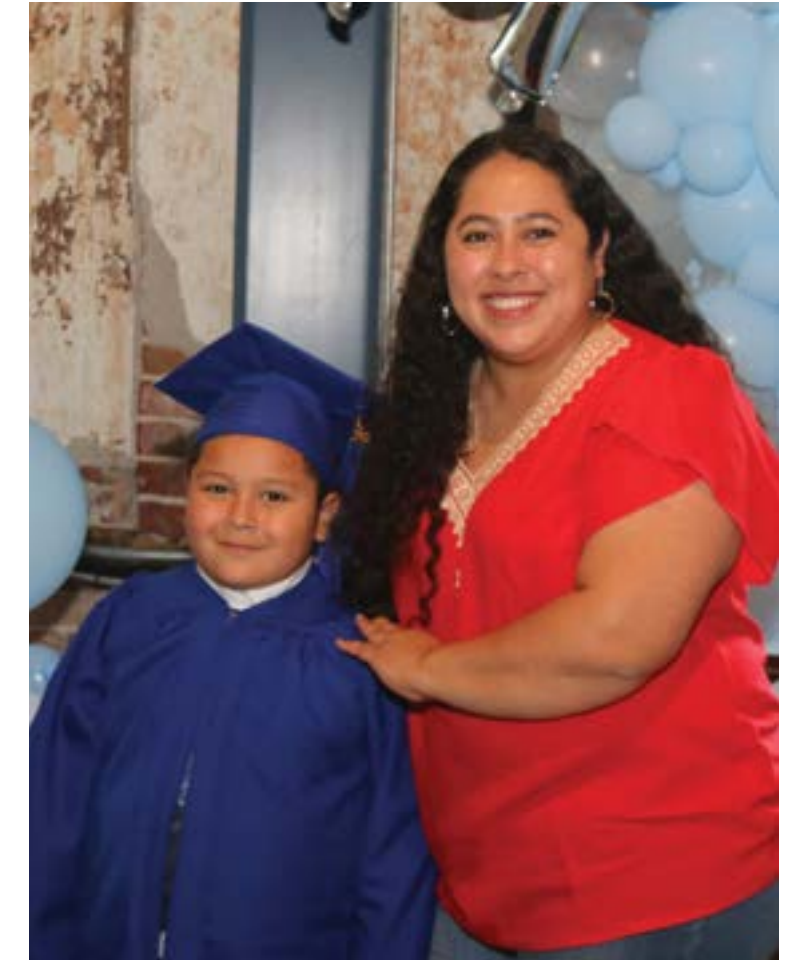
Together, with the help and expertise of a HIPPY home visitor, Ermisenda and Gerard read books, played memory games and engaged in at-home science learning by creating a rainbow using paper, a glass of water and sunlight to reinforce colors and learn how rainbows form.

[In May, Gerard graduated from HIPPY](#) alongside 13 other children, each ready to thrive in kindergarten.

During the graduation ceremony, Ermisenda told Gerard, "Five years ago when we arrived in this country ... I didn't expect us to have so much. You are so intelligent and have learned so much. We will always be there to support your dreams."

Our support for Ermisenda and Gerard's family has gone beyond HIPPY. Ermisenda joined our Aurora Parent Advisory Council and pursued her own dreams by receiving her early childhood education teacher certification from the Community College of Denver. Gerard's younger brother, Santiago, is also enrolled in HIPPY.

HIPPY began with just 27 children in 2020. Last year, we supported 84 children from 75 families.



*Ermisenda and her son Gerard graduated in May from HIPPY, our program that empowers parents to help prepare their children for kindergarten.*

# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR NEWCOMERS



## Basic Needs

Our 211 Help Center connects individuals and families to the resources they need, including food, shelter, rental assistance, child care and more.

**2·1·1**

Get Connected. Get Help.™

**120,423**

TOTAL CONTACTS RECEIVED

**252,583**

REFERRALS PROVIDED

## RENTAL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

The top met need of 2022-2023

**2,000**

IMMIGRATION- & MIGRANT-RELATED RESOURCES PROVIDED

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 2003, the 211 Colorado Collaborative was launched to provide support to thousands of families each year.

## Creating a Welcoming Home

Jeniree and Elba arrived in Denver last year with hopes of a better future. The two women were among the thousands of migrants to arrive in Denver from Latin America beginning in late 2022. Our 211 Help Center was one of their first stops in discovering their new future here. [Our navigators connected them to support and resources for food, transportation and housing at our Uptown apartment building.](#)

“It is a pleasure for us to address you in extending our most sincere gratitude for the donations and help that you have given us. Medical appointments, food banks, transportation ... and we maintain the hope of being able to count on you in the future,” they wrote in a letter to the staff members who assisted them.

As a statewide leader in coordinated emergency and disaster response efforts, our [211 Help Center](#) is uniquely positioned to provide support to both those in crises and the agencies and nonprofits directly assisting families. That’s why both former Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and Colorado Gov. Jared Polis reached out to Mile High United Way leadership to ask for support as each wave of newcomers reached Colorado.

Our 211 Help Center answered their call – providing more than 2,000 immigration- and migrant-related resources. At our Uptown apartment building, Mile High United Way was able to offer homes to seven families. The team also set up an online Immigration Resource Guide and met with newcomers in person at Denver Public Library sites.

“By leveraging our 211 Colorado database, which contains nearly 7,000 resources, and strengthening partnerships with the State of Colorado and within our nonprofit ecosystem, we work to ensure that families have access to critical resources, like shelter, food, transportation, immigration services and more,” said Kasey Harlos, senior director, 211 and Disaster Response.

*In the 20 years since the 211 Colorado Collaborative answered its first call, 211 Colorado has helped more than 3 million families statewide. Today, you can dial 211 anywhere in Colorado to be connected to resources, including shelter, food, rental and utility assistance and child care. We are proud to be a part of 211 Colorado alongside Pikes Peak United Way, United Way of Larimer County, United Way of Southwest Colorado, United Way of Weld County, Hilltop and the Senior Resource Development Agency.*

# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR ADVOCACY



**332**

**FAMILY MEMBERS**  
housed through vouchers



**85**

**PARTICIPANTS**  
held a job for three or more months



**25**

**PARTICIPANTS**  
enrolled in an education program

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 1985, Mile High United Way led the Family Violence Project, a broad-based task force to address child abuse, domestic violence and elder abuse through research, venture grants, investments, volunteer opportunities, public awareness, policy advocacy and criminal justice system reform.



### Affordable Housing

Our Bridging the Gap program connects young adults who are transitioning out of the child welfare system to long-term housing, so they can focus on their future.



### Advocacy

Our advocacy work centers on addressing the systems that create barriers for historically marginalized groups. In 2023, we worked with a coalition to pass HB23-1091: Colorado Child Care Contribution Tax Credit (CCTC) Renewal, which extends this important tax credit for another three years. For 25 years, the CCTC has been a key driver of child care funding in our state.

## Advocating for Community Change

When Shelby aged out of the child welfare system, she spent four years in and out of homelessness. She said they were the “most traumatic years of my life,” and she’s “honestly surprised that I survived.”

Shortly before she turned 21, she found our [Bridging the Gap](#) program and received a housing voucher that gave her access to a safe, stable home and other supports, including basic needs, wellness and professional development coaching.

Now, she hopes to use her experience to help others.

“Since being in a stable living situation thanks to Bridging the Gap, I’ve been able to get reinvented with the programs that are guiding me into the career that I want to be in for foster care emancipation advocacy,” Shelby said in her testimony before state legislators during the 2023 state legislative session.

Housing vouchers are a key strategy to change the odds for our young people and their families. That’s why we invested time and resources during the session to advocate for Senate Bill 082: Colorado Fostering Success Voucher Program. The now-signed law provides additional housing vouchers and case management support for young people aging out of the child welfare system.

We are dedicated to advocating at the local, state and national levels for policies that support upward mobility for historically marginalized people in our community.

“Our policy work is guided by our commitment to social justice and equity for all. The Fostering Youth Success initiative shows our young adults that we care about their future and are here to support them,” said Roweena

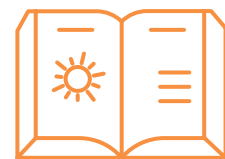
Naidoo, Mile High United Way’s vice president of policy and community initiatives.

In April, the Colorado Fostering Success Voucher Program passed with bi-partisan support and was later signed into law by Gov. Jared Polis. From connecting families to quality early childhood education and supporting migrant families to helping middle- and low-income residents access valuable tax credits, our advocacy efforts focus on building a brighter future for all Coloradans.



*Mile High United Way was part of a coalition of organizations, pictured here at the state capitol, that advocated during the 2023 state legislative session to increase housing vouchers for people aging out of the child welfare system.*

# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR STUDENTS



18 READ WITH ME VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR



673 students enrolled in out-of-school-time programs

102

PARENTS participating in school-based leadership councils

1,437

ATTENDEES at school-based literacy events



## Child Care, Development & Education

Our United for Schools program helps students and families build a foundation for academic success by connecting them to education and literacy programming while also holistically addressing families' needs.

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 1994, Mile High United Way established the Neighborhood Center Project, an after-school program for middle school students, ensuring positive youth development and academic success.

## Expanding Connection through Reading and Volunteering

Last school year, Brenda French experienced the joy that comes from helping a child discover new worlds through books when she volunteered with Read With Me, an initiative of our [United for Schools](#) program in collaboration with the Mile High United Way volunteer team. Read With Me connected Brenda and John\*, a third grader at Thornton Elementary. Together, they unlocked the magic of reading, learning about sharks, Frida Kahlo, dinosaurs and more.

"John started out reading books for a grade younger, but as he got more confident, he'd pick books in his grade. He was reading really well. It doesn't seem like an hour or 90 minutes can make that much of a difference, but he really did improve," Brenda said.

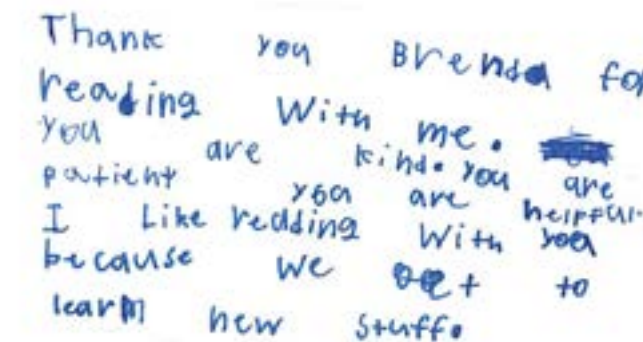
Read With Me pairs community volunteers with students struggling to read at grade level, reading together every other week. The program operates in partnership with PEAK Learning Center in the Adams 12 Five-Star School District. We were excited to bring it back in 2023 after a multi-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

Research shows that third grade is when children make the crucial jump from learning to read to reading to learn. Students not reading at grade level are more likely to fall behind as school progresses. However, Read With Me is more than just words on a page. It supplements the learning happening in the classroom.

As a volunteer, Brenda had the opportunity to share the love of reading she developed growing up in Northglenn as an only child to a single mother. Now a CPA, Brenda saw how reading changed the trajectory of her life through high school, college and beyond. [Read With Me was her chance to give back.](#)

"I don't have siblings or kids ... but I feel like I have a lot of knowledge and skills I can pass on. I wanted to show kids how they can overcome these adversities," Brenda said. "It doesn't matter whose kids they are. If this generation succeeds, then we all succeed. They're our future. If they're not reading at graduation, that's a problem because reading opens every door. I firmly believe that."

*\*Name and identifying information have been changed to protect the student's privacy*



Third grader John\* wrote a thank you letter to his Read With Me volunteer, Brenda.

# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS



**75**  
PARTICIPANTS  
had a savings  
account with PIE  
in 2022-2023

**18**  
NEW PARTICIPANTS  
started PIE

**15**  
PARTICIPANTS  
completed PIE



**94% OF PARTICIPANTS SAID SAVING IS A NEW HABIT**



## Affordable Housing

Our Personal Investment Enterprise program provides families with access to a matched savings account and financial literacy classes so they can save money for first-time homeownership.

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 2017, a group of funders, including Mile High United Way, launched Elevation Community Land Trust, a \$25 million fund to secure more than 700 affordable homes for low-income families.

## A Safe Place to Call Home

It's no secret that rising housing costs have placed a strain on many families across Metro Denver. However, we know that when families have a safe, stable place to call home, they can focus on pursuing other dreams, like quality education for their children or career development.

Connecting families to affordable housing is one way we're helping families thrive. These are families like Jennifer and her children. After experiencing two rent increases in less than three years, Jennifer knew she needed a more sustainable housing option.

Through community partnerships in Boulder, Jennifer learned about the [Personal Investment Enterprise \(PIE\)](#) program, which provides participants with resources to achieve their goals of homeownership, small business development or post-secondary education.

"I started by working with Habitat for Humanity and Elevation Community Land Trust. A Habitat for Humanity employee helped me find different financing programs I would qualify for, and PIE was one of them," Jennifer said.

PIE participants put into savings between \$33 and \$167 each month, working toward a \$1,000 total, while also taking financial education courses and receiving coaching. Upon reaching their savings goals and completing the courses, [they receive a \\$4,000 grant match to apply toward their home, business or education.](#)

In January, Jennifer closed on her home in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and Elevation Community Land Trust, finally finding stability.

*I wouldn't have been able to purchase this house without the funds. It felt like a godsend."*

**– JENNIFER, PIE PROGRAM GRADUATE & HOMEOWNER**

"I can't express how grateful I am. The house we're in has been almost fully renovated and it feels safe. It's clean; everything works. I've even got a little yard that's a blank canvas. It holds a lot of potential for me as an artist. I really love that," she added.

PIE supports families across Boulder and Broomfield counties, in partnership with Boulder County Community Action Programs.





# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY



**6,874**  
RETURNS FILED

**\$11,754,396**  
IN STATE AND FEDERAL REFUNDS

**305** COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS  
recruited and trained

**27%**  
of federal returns eligible  
for Earned Income or  
Child Tax Credits



## Tax Assistance

Our Tax Help Colorado program provides free tax services to middle- and low-income families.

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

Since its inception in 2007 with the Piton Foundation, Tax Help Colorado has returned more than \$205 million to Colorado families. Mile High United Way became the proud owner of the program in 2022.

## Filing Taxes with Empathy and Patience

Many adults don't want to do their own taxes – let alone someone else's. But 15-year-old Chanda believed that volunteering with Tax Help Colorado would give her the real-life experience she yearned for after learning textbook concepts in her high school economics and finance class. And even better – [she would be helping people receive the much-needed tax refunds they are owed.](#)

Each year, IRS-certified volunteers like Chanda help connect low- and middle-income Coloradans to tax credits and refunds through our Tax Help Colorado program. This year, nine AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps members also served as volunteers.

"I was really drawn to learning about financial topics that have a major impact in our community. I wanted a volunteer experience that allowed me to apply the concepts first hand. When I learned about Tax Help Colorado, I thought it was too good to be true. It was everything I wanted," she said.

In 2023, Chanda and more than 300 other [Tax Help Colorado volunteers helped taxpayers file almost 7,000 returns, resulting in \\$11.8 million in tax refunds](#) back in the hands of hard-working Colorado families.

Additionally, volunteering with Tax Help Colorado demonstrated the impact a single person can have where they live. One tax client was intimidated by technology and felt so grateful Chanda was there to help create a positive experience.

"She said coming to Tax Help Colorado was a major stress reliever and since she didn't have to do her taxes on her own, she could spend time with her grandchildren instead," Chanda said.

When people learn about "tax volunteers," they assume a financial background is a prerequisite to help. This is one of the biggest myths that Tax Help Colorado Senior Director Nathan Davis and his staff encounter.

"The most important thing our volunteers bring to the table is empathy, patience and a desire to help people in their community navigate an important but intimidating process. We can teach the tax stuff. It's much harder to teach empathy and solidarity, which isn't necessary when you have amazing volunteers like Chanda," Nathan said.



# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS



**511**  
BUSINESSES  
SERVED

**\$4.26 MILLION**

in new capital distributed to small business owners through public/private grants and loans



**21**  
BUSINESSES  
received new websites, digital literacy workshops & tutorials



**Small Business & Workforce Development**

Our United for Business program provides small business owners with free consulting services and classes in the areas of accounting, marketing, legal support and more.

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 1999, Mile High United Way launched the Adult Self-Sufficiency Initiative to provide avenues for individuals and families to attain financial stability. Adults could open individual development accounts, a matched savings account that could be used for education, homeownership or business development.

## Helping People Achieve Their Dreams of Growth and Economic Stability

When Antonio Fuentes and Patricia Hernandez’s daughter moved to Denver to achieve her educational dreams, the couple joined her to stay close to family and pursue their own goals of financial growth and independence.

“The summit had many helpful seminars, talking about storytelling and social media marketing. We’re now working with (the presenter) Amanda McLernon to work on our social media,” Patricia said.

Following successful careers in their native Mexico City, they opened [Totally Nutz](#), a roasted nut franchise, in January 2020. However, the COVID-19 pandemic slowed their fledgling business, which relies on roasting and selling nuts at in-person events like festivals and fairs.

“Having a small business has been very interesting and Mile High United Way has really helped us understand how to make it grow. Even getting to know the other small business owners has been a great help. They share their experience and how they’re doing,” Antonio added.

“Even though there weren’t many events the first two years, it gave us a great opportunity to really learn the ins and outs of the business,” Patricia said.

Last year, Antonio and Patricia knew their website needed a refresh to support Totally Nutz’s steady growth. They were accepted to join our [Website Build Initiative](#). Through the program, United for Business advisors and skilled volunteers help women- and minority-owned businesses develop new websites and sustainable digital marketing strategies. Our community partner Comcast supports this important work.

*Quality employment is the foundation for long-term financial stability. To help strengthen pathways to economic success, our Careers United program hosted a [Job and Resource Fair](#) in partnership with the Village Exchange Center. More than 150 jobseekers attended the event, including Gustavo, who had recently immigrated from Mexico.*

United for Business helps Metro Denver small business owners achieve their dreams of growth and economic stability. Staff lead initiatives that promote economic mobility, build community wealth and retain and expand access to quality jobs across the region.

*“I’m looking for new opportunities and new growth here. I would love to study something that lets me grow and get a job that helps other people,” he said.*

Through unique events, initiatives and coaching, staff connect local entrepreneurs to the knowledge and resources they need to thrive. In April, Antonio and Patricia received additional support at the United for Business [Thrive Small Business Summit](#).

*As a result of the event, 35 people began new jobs or apprenticeships.*

# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



**51,240**

people living at or below 300% of the federal poverty level served by Mile High United Way community partners

**8,590**

children provided with out-of-school programming by Mile High United Way community partners

**791**

unique households provided housing assistance by Mile High United Way community partners



**268,995**

pounds of food distributed by Mile High United Way community partners



## Community Investment

Through our Strategic Initiative Grants, Mile High United Way invests in organizations that are meeting our community's most pressing needs.

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 1923, the Denver Community Chest raised \$649,000 to distribute as investment grants. Leaders emphasized four service areas: children, youth, family and older adults.

## Investing in Opportunities for Families

When Olivia was a teen, she was on the streets and selling drugs to survive. But the day she found out she was pregnant with her son, Lennon, everything changed. All she cared about was being a good mom.

"Lennon will never have to worry about where his next meal will come from or where he'll be sleeping each night, like I had to. Thanks to New Legacy, I can give Lennon the life he deserves," Olivia said.

That's when she found New Legacy Charter School, one of Mile High United Way's [Strategic Investment Grant](#) partners. At New Legacy Charter School, she could have lunch with Lennon, visit him during the day and nurse whenever she needed. The teachers at the school's Early Learning Center promoted Lennon's development by engaging him in stimulating and individualized activities.

We are proud to provide investment funding to community partners like New Legacy Charter School. Together, we are creating positive opportunities that support families across generations.

To help increase our reach and support better opportunities for families, Mile High United Way invests in organizations working to meet the community's most pressing needs. Grant recipients, like [New Legacy Charter School](#), are selected through a comprehensive, community-driven review process and receive funding over a two-year cycle.

*This spring, our staff designed and implemented a new, trust-based grantmaking process, focused on creating equity, shifting power and building mutually accountable relationships. Rather than reviewing written applications, which had been the process in the past, applicant organizations shared their vision, mission, purpose and programs through virtual conversations with an anonymous panel of Mile High United Way staff, volunteers, donors and community members.*

Parents and children at New Legacy Charter School learn alongside each other in a two-generational approach. The support Olivia received helped her see school as fun. But most important, it laid a foundation for not only her future, but also Lennon's.

*Panelists and applicants alike praised the new process as it was equitable, transparent and centered on the voices of organizations and the people they serve.*

"People say that being a mom comes naturally, but that's not always true. We don't just talk about parenting (in the classes). We talk about teen parenting, which has its own unique challenges," Olivia said.

Last spring, Olivia graduated from New Legacy Charter School as a salutatorian and has goals to become a child psychiatrist.

# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR EQUITY



## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Our equity work aims to create a truly inclusive workplace that attracts and retains a diverse talent pool and creates an atmosphere in which we are all fully engaged, valued and celebrated.

## OUR KEY STRATEGIES

DIVERSE & INCLUSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

EQUITABLE STRUCTURES

EQUITABLE DATA COLLECTION

INCLUSIVE PHILANTHROPY

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

BOARD ENGAGEMENT

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

EQUITABLE HIRING, RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

PAY & COMPENSATION

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

In 2020, Mile High United Way launched Brave Spaces: A Social Justice Action Series to engage in candid conversations about social justice issues facing communities of color.

## Celebrating Progress, Recognizing the Process

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are all integral to Mile High United Way's mission, vision, values, policies and practices. In 2023, we made great progress toward creating and achieving nine key DEI strategies for our organization.

"After listening to feedback from our board, staff and community members, Mile High United Way developed nine key strategies to enhance diversity, equity and inclusion within our organization and across our community. These strategies guide our work in creating a stronger, more equitable community," said Eric Artis, our chief human resources and diversity officer.

Each strategy was assigned an executive sponsor, staff lead and DEI Committee member – all of whom are championing implementation across our organization.

Additionally, we changed our internal practices and policies to reflect the nine strategies and our priority to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. This included launching an e-learning platform with eight DEI learning modules for staff, establishing recruitment practices that proactively advance DEI efforts and actively promote diversity, and creating a recognition program to award DEI champions.

Our staff also celebrated diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the year by engaging in cultural celebrations, such as attending the Sand Creek Massacre exhibit at History Colorado during Native American Heritage Month and learning the Five Points Neighborhood history with Rev. Quincy Shannon during [Black History Month](#). Other highlights included celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, [Women's History Month](#), Juneteenth and [Pride](#). These celebrations reaffirmed our commitment to learning and honoring the stories of all people. We were proud to march in Denver's Juneteenth and Pride parades, returning to

the [Juneteenth Music Festival](#) for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our work, outcomes and the opportunities we provide for the communities we serve are the direct result of focused goal setting, data-driven analysis, board engagement and the pursuit of ongoing improvement for our organization and the community.



# OUR STORY CONTINUES FOR FAMILIES



## Child Care, Development & Education

United for Families works to expand access to early childhood education, so our youngest learners can thrive in kindergarten and beyond.

Above: U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet (left) and John Hickenlooper (right) joined our President and CEO Christine Benero (center) and others to [celebrate the start of construction](#) of our new early childhood education center on March 31.



**70%** of families eligible for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS

This new early childhood education center represents the next chapter in our 135-year story and the next step in the legacy of our co-founder Frances Wisebart Jacobs, who established Denver's first free kindergarten in 1885.

## Building a Strong Start for All Children

When is a building more than a building? When it goes beyond its walls to serve a community's most pressing needs.

[That's what Mile High United Way is doing with the creation of our new, best-in-class early childhood education \(ECE\) center at our headquarters in Denver's Five Points neighborhood.](#)

High-quality, affordable child care is one of the most critical needs facing our community. In the Five Points neighborhood, there are not enough child care slots for 55% of eligible children.

And we know how important early childhood education is. Ninety percent of brain development occurs in the first five years of life.

Our [new ECE center](#), operated in partnership with [Mile High Early Learning](#), will serve up to 60 families. Seventy percent of the slots are designated for low-income families eligible for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.

Additionally, it will serve as the capstone of our United for Families program, providing career training opportunities for staff and connecting families to the resources they need to thrive. If all of us work together to increase early childhood education opportunities, we will create systemic change across Metro Denver and beyond.

Our building is so much more than a building – and soon it will be a place for learning, love and growth for children and their families!



*Our early childhood center will support families like Madison's. A single mom and full-time student, Madison is working to provide a brighter future for her sons. Her younger son, David, attends a Mile High Early Learning center where the Montessori-inspired education helps him grow and thrive.*

*"I come from a background of generational poverty, and I'm trying to end that in my family. Mile High Early Learning is helping make that possible for me," Madison said.*

# FINANCIALS

**TOGETHER WE RAISED \$32.6 MILLION TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY:**

CORPORATIONS

**\$4.3 MILLION**

FOUNDATIONS,  
GOVERNMENT, OTHER

**\$13 MILLION**

INDIVIDUALS

**\$15.3 MILLION**



OUR MISSION IS TO UNITE PEOPLE, IDEAS AND RESOURCES TO ADVANCE THE COMMON GOOD.



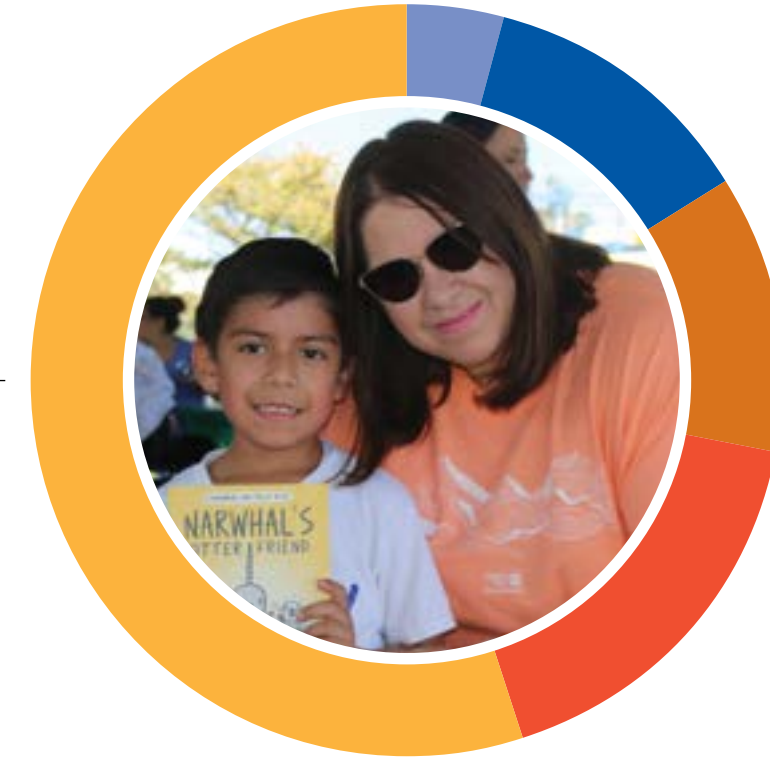
Audited financial statements and tax form 990 for Mile High United Way, Inc., for the period ending June 30, 2023, are available for your review online at [unitedwaydenver.org](http://unitedwaydenver.org).

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND EXPENDITURES: \$34.3 MILLION

We are financially strong with \$61.1 million in net assets as of June 30, 2023.

**55%**

Mile High United Way Programs,  
Community Collaboration and  
Impact Goals (\$18.8M)



**84% TOTAL INVESTED  
IN THE COMMUNITY**

In the fiscal year 2022-2023, 84 cents of every dollar spent was for programs, which far surpasses the Better Business Bureau standard of 65 cents.



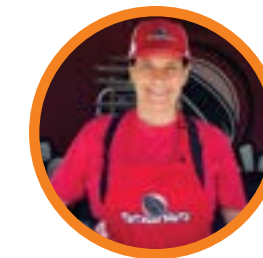
**17%**

to Other Nonprofit Organizations  
(\$5.9M)



**12%**

Fundraising and Events  
(\$4.2M)



**12%**

Small Business Grants  
(\$4.1M)



**4%**

Management and General  
(\$1.3M)

## 2022-2023 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



**CHAMPION OF HOPE AWARD**



**SPIRIT OF HOPE AWARD**



**BRIAN SMITH AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

**Andrea Miller**



**PARTNER IN SERVICE AWARD**



## CORPORATE GIVING SOCIETIES AND LOYAL CORPORATE PARTNERS

### CORNERSTONE SOCIETY - OVER \$1 MILLION ANNUALLY



### KEYSTONE SOCIETY - \$500,000-\$999,999 ANNUALLY



### CAPSTONE SOCIETY - \$250,000-\$499,999 ANNUALLY

CoBank ACB  
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
Deloitte

Ernst & Young LLP  
Gary Community Ventures  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

Johns Manville  
Kaiser Permanente  
Lockheed Martin

PwC  
Wells Fargo

### LOYAL CORPORATE PARTNERS - DONATED FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS OR MORE AND GIVEN A CUMULATIVE \$1 MILLION OR MORE

Accenture  
AT&T - Denver  
Ball Corporation  
Bank of America  
BOK Financial  
Bread Financial  
Bryan Cave  
Burns & McDonnell  
CH2M HILL  
CoBank ACB  
Comcast  
Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP  
DCP Midstream  
Deloitte  
Delta Dental of Colorado

Elevance (Anthem)  
Empower  
Enterprise Holdings  
Ernst & Young LLP  
FedEx  
FirstBank Holding Company  
FORVIS  
Fred W. Bailey Trust  
Gary Community Ventures  
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher  
IBM Corporation  
Johns Manville  
JPMorgan Chase & Company  
Kaiser Permanente  
KeyBank of Colorado

King Soopers  
KPMG LLP  
Lockheed Martin  
Lumen Technologies (CenturyLink)  
Macy's Corporate  
Microsoft  
Mile High United Way Inc.  
Molson Coors  
Mountain West Series of Lockton Companies, LLC  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
Nationwide  
Newmark  
Occidental Petroleum Corporation

PCL Construction Enterprises, Inc.  
Pinnacol Assurance  
Plante Moran  
PwC  
RBC Capital Markets  
SM Energy Co.  
Suncor Energy  
TIAA  
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Companies, LLC  
UPS - United Parcel Service  
US Bank  
Vectra Bank Colorado  
Wagner Equipment Co.  
Wells Fargo  
Xcel Energy

## STRATEGIC INVESTMENT GRANTS

**We know that our community's challenges are bigger than any one organization can solve. Mile High United Way is proud to invest in organizations that serve low- and moderate-income families and communities. These partnerships are essential to our work to build a healthier, more supported Community United.**

Ability Connection Colorado, Inc.  
The Action Center  
Adams 12 Five Star Schools  
Adams County Emergency Food Bank  
Adelante 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 of Denver  
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 Dream Foundation  
Colorado Legal Services  
Colorado Safe Parking Initiative  
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition  
Colorado UpLift  
Colorado Village Collaborative  
Comitis Crisis Center  
Community Food Share  
The 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's Early Childhood Council  
Downtown Aurora Visual Arts  
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 Centers

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, Inc.  
Hope Communities  
"I Have A Dream" Foundation of Boulder County  
The Inn Between of Longmont, Inc.  
Invest in Kids  
Jewish Family Service of Colorado, Inc.  
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 Meals on Wheels  
Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives  
Outreach United Resource Center  
A Precious Child, Inc.  
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  
St. Francis Center  
St. Vrain Valley School District  
Scholars Unlimited  
The Senior Hub  
Servicios de La Raza  
Sewall Child Development Center  
Sister Carmen Community Center  
SouthWest Improvement Council, Inc.  
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  
WorkLife Partnership  
Work Options for Women  
YMCA Metro Denver  
YMCA of Northern Colorado  
YWCA Boulder County

## FOUNDATION SUPPORT



**Community foundations help fund Mile High United Way's wraparound support for families. This year, Mile High United Way received \$1.7 million in community and foundation grants. These grants directly support our community programming, helping families meet their basic needs, access high-quality education and workforce development opportunities and more.**

### \$500,000 to \$999,999

PNC Foundation

### \$250,000 to \$499,000

Gary Community Ventures

### \$100,000 to \$249,000

Busse Family Foundation  
Circle Grant/Early Milestones Colorado  
Sturm Family Foundation  
Wells Fargo  
Western Union Foundation  
Anonymous

### \$25,000 to \$99,999

Ball Foundation  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Buell Foundation  
Cielo Foundation Boulder  
Comcast  
Community Foundation of Boulder  
The Vera and Joseph Dresner Foundation  
Honda

JPMorgan Chase Foundation  
Morgridge Family Foundation  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
President's Grant Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation  
Rose Community Foundation  
Starfall Foundation  
United Way Worldwide RUTA  
US Bank  
ZOMA Foundation

### \$15,000 to \$24,999

The Anschutz Foundation  
Gates Family Foundation  
Pinnacol Assurance  
Virginia Hill Foundation

### \$10,000 to \$14,999

The Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation  
The Buck Foundation  
IMA Foundation  
The Siemer Institute



# MILE HIGH UNITED WAY TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

## Mile High United Way Tocqueville Society

The Mile High United Way Tocqueville Society is an esteemed group of business and philanthropic leaders dedicated to tackling our community's most pressing challenges. Members invest \$10,000 or more annually to support our wraparound support for Metro Denver families.

In addition to investing in Mile High United Way, Tocqueville Society members are highly engaged with Mile High United Way's community initiatives. Tocqueville Society members also lead by example, from volunteering at community events like the Children's Holiday Party to mentoring United for Business clients.

### Leadership Council

#### Tocqueville Society Co-Chairs

Helen Drexler, Delta Dental of Colorado  
Kimberly Chatman, milehimodern  
Martin Mahalchick, Bank of America

#### Champions Circle Co-Chairs

Jason Maples, Lockton Mountain West Series  
Jodi Maples, Bettenberg, Maguire & Associates

*"I give to Mile High United Way, because I know my donation is a direct investment in the programs and resources that our community needs. I am proud to help Mile High United Way ensure that every child, family, small business owner and anyone else who needs a helping hand has the opportunity to thrive."*

**– HELEN DREXLER, CEO, DELTA DENTAL OF COLORADO AND TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY MEMBER SINCE 2016**

## Women of Tocqueville

Mile High United Way's Women of Tocqueville come together to empower women and girls with their resources, time, and passion. This powerful group of community leaders leverages their network to create awareness of critical issues facing women and girls in our community and influence systemic change.

#### Women of Tocqueville Co-Chairs

Julie Bearup, Community Leader  
Yun Hui Kehoe, Community Leader



## Million Dollar Round Table

Nationally recognized cumulative gifts of \$1,000,000 and more

Rick and Kathy Ambrose  
Doug and Lindsay Andrews  
Phil and Nancy Anschutz  
Brad Busse (L)  
Sandy Dewing (d)  
Todd and Lindsay Filsinger (L)  
Steve and Sami Lockton  
John Madden  
Caz Matthews (L)  
John and Carrie Morgridge  
Morgridge Family Foundation  
Steve and Neyeska Mut  
Jeffrey Peierls  
Steve Talley  
Al and Frances Troppmann  
Anonymous (L)

## Independence Order

Nationally recognized annual gifts of \$250,000-\$499,999

David and Laurie Copeland  
Todd and Lindsay Filsinger (L)  
Steve and Sami Lockton  
Steve Talley  
Anonymous

## La Société Nationale

Nationally recognized annual gifts of \$100,000-\$249,999

Rick and Kathy Ambrose  
Kristin and Jim Bender  
Brad Busse (L)

Busse Family Foundation  
Sue and Howard Carver (L)  
Jeff and Cinnamon Hawks  
Mark and Polly Lestikow\*  
John Madden  
Tate and Eileen McCoy  
Brandon and Deb Ridenour  
Albert and Debbie Rosenthaler  
Sturm Family Foundation

## Jim & Pat Bye Champions Circle

Nationally recognized annual gifts of \$25,000-\$99,999

Preston A.C. and Lorene S. Anderson\*  
Rob and Sigute Andrew  
Greg and Julie Anton  
Mike and Julie Bearup  
Marc and Brooke Beasley  
Christine Benero (L)  
Jack and Vicki Box  
Linda and Pat Brisnehan (L)  
Deron and Deborah Brown  
Cedric and Kelli Buchanon  
Tom and Barbara Burke  
Jim and Alice Burton  
Jay and Bunnie Busch  
Joseph J. and Melanie Cimenski  
John and JoAnn Congdon  
Rick Connor  
Lori and Joe Davis  
Bob Deibel  
Celia Dietrich  
Amy and Cami Dinofrio\*  
Christina Dorfhuber and Jules Arias  
Richard and Lori Ehrman

Liz and Chad Gardner  
Kurtis and Mary Haeger  
Scott and Cheryl Hefner  
Leo Hill Charitable Trust (L)  
Jim and Sarah Holder  
Sophia M. Holtsnider  
Arnold and Kimberly Hoy  
Carrie Hudak

Alice Jackson  
Andrew and Anne Jacob  
Michael and Yun Hui Kehoe  
Chad and Becky Leavitt\*  
Mark and Ranae Lichtwardt  
Luke and Lisa Litteken  
Jason and Jodi Maples (L)  
Don and Lydia McLane  
John and Carrie Morgridge  
Scott and Chris Morrison  
Stephen and Neyeska Mut  
Bob and Jane Nagel  
John Nelson (L) and Carol Kingery  
Chuck Palmer  
Randy Pharo and Joey Porcelli  
Richard Rainaldi and Martha Records

Mary Reisher and Barry Berlin  
Robin L. Ricketts & Brian A. Brieske  
Martin A. and Phyl Ruffalo  
Ruth and Jeff Seleske  
Stephen Shurack and Linda Wackwitz\*  
Vass and Lynne Sirpolaidis  
Kimberly Smith  
Paul and Sue Sparks  
Leo Tokar and Andrea Baldrica  
Brian and Mary Beth Vaught  
Herb and Karen Vogel

Carol Waddell and Julie Junkin  
Pete and Bonnie West\*  
Dave Whitcomb and Laurie Schoen  
Brandon and Kristyn Wilcox  
Marianne Woodward  
Anonymous (2)

## Tocqueville Summit Giving Circle

Nationally recognized annual gifts of \$15,000-\$24,999

Barry and Trisha Amman  
The Anschutz Foundation  
Dave and Laura Baker\*  
Henry and Anna Bangert  
Jeff and Tammi Belden  
Brian and Sarah Boonstra  
Kreg and Nita Brown  
Wayne and Mollie Brunetti  
Mark and Jan Bundy  
Jamaica and Brian Burke



Jim and Sharon Butler  
Kendall and Steve Carbone (L)  
Jeff and Chelsea Carver (L)  
James and Michelle Cowgill\*  
Gary and Trina Cure\*  
George and Marion Curtis  
Jerome and Jackie Davis  
Maggie and Jeremy Dehn  
Doug and Mimi Dell  
Phil and Corry Doty (L)  
David and Darcy Eberly  
David and Janie Eves  
Darla Figoli  
Jamie and Cathy Gard  
Michael and Elean Gersack  
Christi Gonner  
Tim Green and Susan Porter-Green  
David Hammond and Mary Mead-Hammond  
Catherine A. Hance  
Brett E. Hanselman  
Hollie Velasquez Horvath  
Karen Tramm Hyde\*



## Membres De La Société

### Nationally recognized annual gifts of \$10,000-\$14,999

Fred & Jean Allegretti Foundation  
Ed Arnold  
Joanne Baginski\*  
Katy and Greg Bante  
Steven and Susanne Bates  
Ryan and Heather Beiser  
Andy Benoit and Wendy McCray-Benoit  
Joseph and Kelly Bertsch  
Scott and Teresa Binder (L)  
Blair Dvorak Family  
Buck and Janelle Blessing  
Paul and Vicki Bogenberger  
Mark Breese\*  
Jessica and Christopher Brown\*  
Julie Tschida Brown and Dave Brown  
Tory and Rebecca Bruno  
John and Ellen Bywaters  
Judy and Jerome Cain  
Brian and Noreen Callahan\*  
Rob and Annie Campbell  
John and Lisa Carpenter  
Brendan Cherry  
David Chiavacci\*  
Stephanie and Tom Chichester  
David Clausen  
Adam and Colleen Cohen\*  
Christina and Kyle Colman\*  
Kelly Condon and Jim Hoy  
Andy and Carrie Cooper  
Ron and Beth Cooper (L)  
Ian Currigan  
Chris and Ellen Daehnick

Sean and Christine Daly (L)  
Will and Tammy Damrath  
Carl and Juliana Daugherty  
Barbara Mellman Davis and Lee Davis  
Michael and Teri Davis  
Ingrid and Leo DeGreef  
Alexis Denis\*  
Josiah and Vivian Dodds\*  
Monique and Jim Drake  
Helen Drexler  
Ed Ellis and Barbara Neal  
Nadia El Mallakh\*  
John Elbon  
Mark Eller\*  
Sonia and David Franzel\*  
Noel and Leslie Ginsburg (L)  
Lisa and Andy Hackard  
Ted and Jan Harms  
Derek Harrison  
Lucky and Lucinda Heggs\*  
Richard Henderson  
Dustin Herman\*  
Barry and Arlene Hirschfeld

M.B. Holland (L)  
David and Kerrin Holsteen  
The Honeyfield Family  
Bob and Sharla Hottman\*  
Travis and Stacy Hudson  
Mike and Kaye Hurtt  
Vernon and Erica Irvin  
Brian and Nancy Jackson (L)  
Nathan and Randi Johnson  
Michael and Stephanie Kelley  
Elizabeth A. Kennedy  
Abbey Kemp\*  
Greg and Donna Kerwin  
Adeeb Khan  
Buz and Sherri Koelbel  
Dan Korinek  
Kathy Kranz\*  
Steve Lake  
Chris Lane\*  
Jeff and Katie Latier\*  
Joe and Happy Lear  
Jason Leisinger  
Kristin and Aaron Lentz  
Ben and Barbara Lewis (L)



Yvette Lewis-Molock  
Steve and Susan Lipstein\*  
Scott Lynn\*  
Rob McCoy and Kristine Koblenzer  
Melodie and John Mallory (L)  
Michael and Cathy Malloy  
Julie Marcello  
Tom and Cyndy Marsh  
Christopher and Jill McCurdy  
Maureen McDonald\*  
Jim and Fran McKinnis  
Brad and Melissa McQueen  
Arthur Meyer (L)  
Anish and Annette Michael\*  
Rachelle Michaelson\*  
Kirk and Brenna Mielenz  
David and Michelle Miles  
Gary Moore and Jane Costain (L)  
Joseph Moore  
Roweena Naidoo\*  
Keturah and Reid Nelson

Patrick Newton  
Barbara and Michael Oakley  
Felicity O'Herron  
Beth and Nathaniel Opperman\*  
Greg and Roberta Osborn  
Karin Overstreet  
Carlos and Christine Pacheco  
Joseph Palermo and Whitney Teschner\*  
John and Carly Partridge  
Kate Paul and Milke Passmore\*  
Bill and Mary Beth Pepper\*  
Mike Pereira  
Charles Pfaeffle\*  
Gary and Christine Pon  
Joel Porter and Susan Dozier  
Mike and Janie Ramseier\*  
Matthew and Helgrid Randolph  
Scott Remington and Leanna Clark  
Tammy and Ralf Rivera  
Todd Roberts

Edward A. and Richard L. Robinson (L)  
Todd Roebken  
Ethan and Jamie Rojhani  
Scott and Kristin Russell  
Jack and Elaine Sample  
Robert Sansom\*  
Lawrence and Debbie Scicluna (L)  
Jeff and Christy Schaefer\*  
Steven and Kristen Schenbeck  
Ray Schieferecke  
Brian and Katie Schilb  
Ryan and Denise Schmidt  
John Seidensticker\*  
Deb and Steve Smith (L)  
Fred L. Smith\*  
Rhonda Sparlin  
Bruce Stocks  
Sean and Kristi Sullivan  
Matthew and Jennifer Taylor  
Rod and Barb Thacker (L)  
Gay Thames\*  
Erik Toll\*  
Michael and Lisa Tousignant  
Rick and Kim Turnage\*  
Mark and Jan Ugale  
Andrew Urie\*  
Thomas and Sarah Van De Bogart\* (L)  
Joan and Adrian Van Lozenoord\*  
Kirk Vanderbeek  
Kevin and Lois Vanek  
Matthew Wagner  
Jim and Kelly Williams  
Kevin and Jamie Wilson  
Julie Wolf  
Scott and Joni Wylie  
Anonymous (4)



### Thank You to Our Tocqueville Society Sponsors

DAVIS  
GRAHAM  
STUBBS



\*New Member  
(L) Legacy  
(d) Deceased

# MILE HIGH UNITED WAY WOMEN UNITED

**Women United leads change in our community by addressing the biggest challenges facing women and girls. Our dedicated group of community leaders and philanthropists invest in high-impact programs, volunteering and advocating for Metro Denver's women and girls.**

## Women United Initiative

This year, [Women United gave its annual Innovation Award to the Domestic Violence Acute Response Team from Safehouse Progressive Alliance Network \(SPAN\) in Boulder County.](#) This award recognizes innovative community projects that empower women and children in our community.

The Domestic Violence Acute Response Team provides a coordinated response to the needs of people – usually women and girls – experiencing relationship violence by working with local law enforcement, the Boulder County District Attorney and other service providers.

**\$35,000** given to the Domestic Violence Acute Response Team from Safehouse Progressive Alliance Network (SPAN) in Boulder County through the Women United Initiative



## Women United Village

Women United helped dozens of new families with children under age 5 go home with baby and toddler supplies at the annual Women United Village on May 20, 2023. Families also received wraparound services from our 211 Help Center, the YMCA, Aurora and Denver Public Libraries, Savio House and Bright by Text.

Beginning in March, Mile High United Way collected donated items from individuals and corporate partners throughout Metro Denver. [Women of Tocqueville also held a Baby Shower](#) to gather items. Donations included hundreds of diapers, 400 packs of wipes, 48 car seats, 24 strollers, 10 pack and plays, books and clothing, as well as 750 oral hygiene kits from Delta Dental of Colorado and 200 parent and caregiver self-care kits from Comcast.



### 100 MILE HIGH UNITED WAY PARTICIPANT FAMILIES RECEIVED BABY ITEMS

- 400** packs of wipes
- 48** car seats
- 24** strollers
- 10** pack and plays
- 750** Delta Dental of Colorado oral hygiene kits
- 200** parent & caregiver self-care kits from Comcast

## 24th Annual Women United Luncheon

[The stories of women and girls inspired hundreds of people](#) at the 24th Annual Women United Luncheon on Sept. 22, 2022, at Seawell Ballroom. Catalina Gonsales, United for Families senior manager, and Yazmin Lujan Saenz, community advocate coordinator for our Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program, shared their transformative experiences through HIPPY. Both women are now a force for positive change on behalf of mothers and children across Metro Denver.

We also heard from our guest speaker, Ciara, who shared how the Why Not You? Foundation is changing the narrative for girls of all ages throughout Colorado and across the country, and we honored our 2022 Frances Wisebart Jacobs Award recipient Sue Carver for her decades-long commitment to philanthropy and the United Way movement.

**700** Women United Luncheon attendees raised **\$330,488**



## Leadership Council

### Board Liaison, Women's Strategy & Philanthropy

Kathy Ambrose

### Women United Chair

Julie Bearup

### Women United Leadership

Kimberly Chatman  
Yun Hui Kehoe  
Morgan Montgomery  
Kimberly Smith  
Ashley Story

**Learn more about Women United's volunteer work for young adults on page 41.**

# MILE HIGH UNITED WAY CATALYST SOCIETY

**The Mile High United Way Catalyst Society is dedicated to helping its members become community champions through personal, professional and philanthropic development. Members receive access to mentorship from high-level community leaders and a variety of networking and skills-building programs.**

Ongoing engagement with Mile High United Way helps Catalyst members achieve their short- and long-term personal goals while on the road to leadership positions within the community. In addition to their philanthropy, members volunteered throughout the year at events including the Children's Holiday Party and Back to School Bash.



## Catalyst Society Leadership

**Chair**  
Alexis Denis, KPMG

**Vice Chair**  
Bridgette Adams, Xero

**Leadership Team**  
Al Sahlstrom, Jones & Keller P.C.  
Clint Carlson, University of Colorado  
Allison Burke, Sherman & Howard  
Yolanda Fitzpatrick, CoBank

## Members

Anthony Aerni  
Torie Bender  
Graham Boswell  
Daniel Byrd  
Kim Chatman  
David Clarke  
Erik Clarke  
Danny Collins  
Christina Colman  
Allison Connor  
Katie Crump  
Bonny Dahm  
Chris Dahm  
Jason Dickerman  
Ben Eisenberg  
Connor Frick  
Natalie Froland  
Brooke Grimes  
Greg Haberer

Marissa Hammers  
Derek Harrison  
Samantha Jacobson  
Sarah Jennings  
Abbey Kemp  
David Kluzniak  
Molly Kokesh  
Sterling LeBoeuf  
Christopher Leseur  
Zach Levko  
Brett Lusk  
Martin Mahalchick  
Connor McKeown  
Megan McVeety  
Nick Mikulka  
Amber Pace  
Neal Pedersen  
Zach Porter  
Sarah Rappe

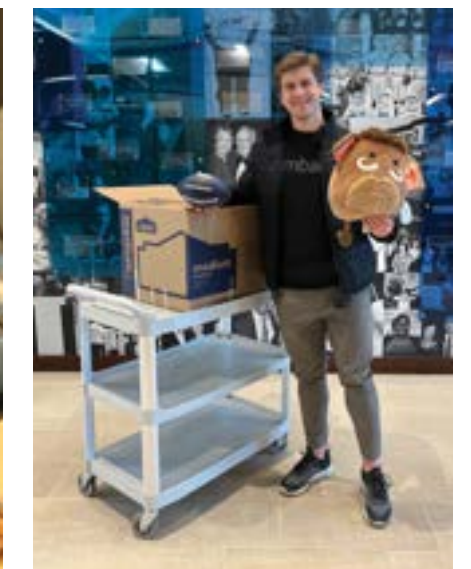
Charley Robinson  
Kevin Ross  
Karl Sona  
Chelsea Sulkowski  
Brett Sullivan  
Eric Temple  
Brandon Thomas  
Erik Toll  
Brent Troxell  
Lindsey Ullom  
Mike Van De Bogart  
Thomas Van De Bogart  
Leah Weiner  
Caleb Weiss  
Micah Wenz  
Eric Wright  
Rick Zani

# MILE HIGH UNITED WAY LINC



**Mile High United Way's LINC (Lead, Impact, Network, Change) is the next generation's approach to philanthropy. This group of young professionals takes on issues they care about, and shows up for the community through giving, advocating and volunteering.**

Among other activities, members participate in learning sessions to better understand challenges facing our communities, write letters to older adults who may feel isolated, and build resource kits for families and individuals in need.





Robert S. Adell  
 Orah Ahlborg  
 William Auckland  
 James H. Blinn  
 Charles A. Bonfils  
 Patricia Booth  
 Pat and Linda Brisnehan  
 Roy L. Brown  
 William Browning  
 Lloyd W. Bryan  
 Kendall and Steve Carbone  
 Peter Carpenter  
 Stephen Mark Christian  
 Jackson Curtis Cohen  
 Ron and Beth Cooper  
 Kathryn Craig  
 Mary and Robert Coskey  
 Nathan H. Creamer  
 Lewis Culver  
 Ella Goldean Dedrick  
 Pia Denzmore  
 Howard and Arvie Doerr  
 Janet Doolin  
 Phil and Corry Doty  
 James W. Douglas  
 Mildred Drennen  
 Mary W. Dreyer  
 Elizabeth Dunn  
 Michael and Ann Durkin  
 Eric F. Dysband  
 Irene P. Ehrlich

Lloyd W. Engel  
 Todd and Lindsay Filsinger  
 Minnie Flaks  
 Frieda Freed  
 Michael Fuks  
 Irene K. Fulton  
 Thomas J. Gibb  
 Noel and Leslie Ginsburg  
 Jenette Goldblatt  
 J. M. Goodstein  
 Jacqueline Hall  
 Michael Harmon  
 Shelley Harmon  
 Christine Hart  
 Arthur Hayutin  
 Mary P. Heatwole  
 Claude Hendricks  
 Frances F. Hepp  
 Blanche Bass Hilf  
 Leo Hill Charitable Trust  
 Peter A. Homburger  
 Mabel Hughes  
 Charles and Carol Jansch  
 Cheryl Johnson  
 Hezron Johnson  
 Marion Johnson  
 W. A. Johnson, Jr.  
 Mildred A. Jones  
 Neil R. Jones  
 William E. Jones  
 Lloyd M. Joshel

Suzanne Joshel  
 Margaret Klempera  
 Claudia A. Knoll  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Krech  
 Morris Krohn  
 Walter G. Lange  
 Rona Levin  
 Arthur Levine  
 Leonard S. Lewin  
 Ben and Barbara Lewis  
 Joan Lewis  
 A.J. Markley  
 Ralph Matthews  
 Barbara Maughlin  
 Lucille A. Monneuse  
 Gary T. Moore and Jane Costain  
 Victor Neas  
 John Nelson  
 Catherine Noonan  
 Phyllis Norsworthy  
 Gordon H. Olmstead  
 Kate Paul  
 Reed Pennington  
 Fred and Rosemary Pittroff  
 Eve and Ed Powell  
 Leon Ramo  
 Ann Reinstein  
 Ralph Rivera  
 Edward A. Robinson  
 Richard L. Robinson

Thomas Rockwell  
 Edwin H. Roman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Leva Romo  
 Albert and Debbie Rosenthaler  
 Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Sachs  
 The Saylor Family  
 Jon Seulean  
 Charles Shannon  
 Jo Shannon  
 Richard and Jennifer Shay  
 Naomi Sheftel  
 Dr. Stan Siefer  
 Clara B. Siefker  
 Mary Kathryn Simmons  
 Walter B. Simon  
 Elsie Smith  
 Stern-Elder Memorial Trust  
 Jennifer Stokes  
 George and Beverly Sweeney  
 Dale and Kay Tabor  
 Charlotte Tucker  
 James and Judy Vaughn  
 Dorothy Wait  
 Edward W. Waldorf  
 Seymour Watkins  
 Travis Webb  
 Natalie West  
 Douglas Wilhelm  
 Doris W. Wilson  
 Shaun and Debbie Yancey  
 Anonymous (18)

### Tocqueville Legacy Circle

Fred W. Bailey  
 Christine Benero  
 Scott and Teresa Binder  
 Brad Busse  
 Jeff and Chelsea Carver  
 Sue and Howard Carver  
 Sean and Christine Daly  
 Chris and Sarah Gilstrap  
 M. B. Holland  
 Brian and Nancy Jackson  
 Pamela and Steve Jeffords  
 Robert L. Jund  
 Mark and Elizabeth Kennedy  
 Bob and Marcia Krane  
 Melodie Mallory  
 Jason and Jodi Maples  
 Robert Mares  
 Caz Matthews  
 Arthur Meyer  
 Edith Schwartz Meyer  
 William Ruffer  
 Lawry and Debbie Scicluna  
 Deb and Steve Smith  
 Rod and Barb Thacker  
 Teresa Van De Bogart  
 Thomas and Sarah Van De Bogart  
 Anonymous (3)

Founders Legacy Society donors have chosen to support Mile High United Way in their wills or estate plans. The Tocqueville Legacy Circle is a special group of the Founders Legacy Society. Members have chosen to perpetuate a Tocqueville gift by pledging a minimum of \$250,000 through their estate plans.

# VOLUNTEERING HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many heroes in Mile High United Way's story are our [volunteers](#). They devote thousands of hours to our mission each year, doing everything from building bikes and sorting baby supplies to building trails and preparing tax returns. They come from a variety of backgrounds and all ages.



**18,952**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS

**3,655**  
VOLUNTEERS

**\$641,275**  
VOLUNTEERS' ECONOMIC IMPACT



**BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**

**100**  
families received wraparound services

**500**  
backpacks distributed throughout back-to-school season

### Back to School Bash 2022

On July 30, 2022, at our [Back to School Bash](#), volunteers helped us [give new backpacks filled with supplies](#) to students.

## DAY OF CARING



400

volunteers at Day of Caring

26

community projects

### 28th Annual Day of Caring

On Sept. 9, 2022, we celebrated our annual [Day of Caring](#), an opportunity for volunteers to get out and support community projects across Metro Denver. Hundreds of volunteers from corporate, civic and community groups worked on a variety of projects, ending with a lunch celebration in Boulder. Projects ranged from beautifying parks and trails to sorting donated food items.

10,000

trotters, volunteers & spectators

49

years of the Turkey Trot

## TURKEY TROT



### 49th Annual Mile High United Way Turkey Trot

The 2022 Turkey Trot on Nov. 24 at Denver's Washington Park was the largest [Mile High United Way Turkey Trot](#) ever. Thank you to all the runners and volunteers who make this part of their [Thanksgiving tradition](#).

## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

ON EARTH DAY

200

volunteers

9

community partner sites



### National Volunteer Week 2023

From April 17 to April 21, 2023, hundreds of volunteers helped us celebrate [National Volunteer Week](#). They assembled [1,000 teacher kits](#), [made blankets](#) and [put together bikes](#).

### Tax Help Colorado

The tax season is busy at Mile High United Way with our [Tax Help Colorado program](#). Each year, IRS-certified volunteers connect residents to the credits and refunds they're owed. See story on page 14.

7,000

tax returns filed

\$11.8M

refunded to Coloradans

## WOMEN UNITED COOKING PARTY



BRIDGING THE GAP PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF

10

toaster ovens

10

cutting boards

30

knives

30

mixing bowls

### Women United Cooking Party

In June, 10 participants in our Bridging the Gap program paired up with Women of Tocqueville volunteers to [learn some cooking tips](#) from Chef Jeff of The Chef's Table.

*"It is empowering being surrounded by inspiring and motivated women who help create impactful change. Helping build the Cooking Party from concept to execution and seeing the impact firsthand is why I am a part of Women United." — Julie Bearup, Women United Chair*

## CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY



WHO YOU HELPED

400

families

1,300

children

### Children's Holiday Party 2022

Mile High United Way's annual [Children's Holiday Party](#) is only possible because of volunteers. On Dec. 10, 2022, volunteers wrapped gifts, made crafts with kids and helped families shop for toys.

# 2022-2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chair**

Carlos Pacheco  
Premier Members  
Credit Union

**Vice Chair**

Christopher McDonald  
Comcast - West Division

**Secretary**

Diane Garcia  
Congruex

**Treasurer**

Mashenka Lundberg  
CoBank

**President and CEO**

Christine Benero  
Mile High United Way

Kathy Ambrose  
Community Leader

Greg Anton  
BDO USA, LLP

Tatiana Arguello  
NBCUniversal Local -  
Telemundo Colorado  
and Telemundo Utah

Greg Bante  
Savills

Damon Barry  
Ballard Spahr, LLP

Ryan Beiser  
PNC Bank, NA

Mark Belfance  
Ernst & Young LLP

Linda Brisnehan\*  
Lockheed Martin Space  
Systems (Retired)

Deron Brown  
PCL Construction  
Enterprises, Inc. –  
US Head Office

Brad Busse\*  
Busse Ventures

Maggie Dehn  
Fidelity Investments

Douglas Dell  
KeyBank

Alexis Denis  
KPMG

Christina Dorfhuber  
Deloitte Consulting LLP

Helen Drexler  
Delta Dental Colorado

Renny Fagan\*  
Nostos Consulting LLC

Todd Filsinger  
Filsinger Energy Partners

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Mortenson

Paul Franke\*  
Moye White



Ryan Frazier  
Frazier Global

Lee Gash-Maxey  
Colorado Black Chamber  
of Commerce (Retired)

David Hammond  
Davis Graham & Stubbs  
LLP (Retired)

Catherine Hance  
Mission Hill Hospitality

Jim Holder  
Holmes Murphy

Carrie Hudak  
Koloma, Inc.

Vernon Irvin  
Everbridge

Alice Jackson  
Xcel Energy

Charles Johnson  
Ball LLC

Geoffrey Keys  
Skye Commercial

Kathy Kranz  
Pinnacle

Steve Lake  
Lake Advisors, LLC

Dan Lewis  
Denver Metro Chamber  
Leadership Foundation  
(Retired)

Richard Lewis\*  
RTL Networks, Inc.

Martin Mahalchick  
Bank of America

Jason Maples  
Lockton Companies

Rodd Merchant  
J.E. Dunn Construction  
Company

Todd Munson\*  
Vectra Bank Colorado

Erik Mitisek  
Highwing, Inc.

Kevin Neher  
McKinsey & Company

Neil Oberfeld  
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

Felicity O'Herron  
University of Colorado

Beth Opperman  
Northern Trust

Charles Ozaki\*  
City and County Manager  
Broomfield (Retired)

Michael Ramseier  
Kaiser Permanente

Robin Ricketts  
Lockheed Martin Space

Ethan Rojhani  
Grant Thornton LLP

Tonette Salazar  
Strategies 360

Blaine Versaw  
KPMG LLP

Teresa Van De Bogart  
Molson Coors (Retired)

Carol Waddell  
Empower

Tamra Ward\*  
Taloma Partners

\*Emeritus

# EXECUTIVE TEAM



Christine Benero  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Eric Artis  
Chief Human Resources & Diversity Officer

Michael Burke  
Chief Financial Officer

Chelsea Carver  
Chief Development Officer

Vanecia Kerr  
Chief Impact Officer

Wade Treichler  
Chief Operations Officer

Jennifer Kostka Beck  
Vice President, Marketing

Laurie Troge  
Administrative Director





## FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

### EPILOGUE

It is inspiring to think of all the people who have been part of this Community United since 1887. The young children, moms and dads, caregivers, entrepreneurs, community leaders and volunteers. The young adult working on a fresh start. The older adult looking for a way to give back to the community that nurtured him. The new family who has chosen Denver as their home.

What an honor and a privilege it is to be part of Mile High United Way's 135-year story. It is a movement in which we all play a critical role.

There are still so many chapters yet to write. In the year ahead, we will learn about an entirely new cast of characters – from the families at our soon-to-open early childhood education center to those individuals who call our 211 Help Center seeking hope.

We will navigate the twists and turns of the legislative session, follow the excitement of an election cycle, and meet new donors, volunteers and advocates who want to live our mission.

We will fill our hearts watching parents shop for their children for the holidays at our Children's Holiday Party and new mothers find the supplies they need to give their babies a strong start in life at the Mile High United Way Village.

And we will see thousands of runners and volunteers kick off Thanksgiving at the 50th annual Turkey Trot, and hear women share their stories at the 25th annual Women United Luncheon.

Two things are certain this year – The unexpected will happen, and Mile High United Way will be there to connect our neighbors to the resources they need to get through and thrive.

We are stronger together. Thank you for believing in us as we write our next 135 years. Our story continues ...

Warmly,

**Christine Benero,**  
President and CEO, Mile High United Way



**CELEBRATING 135 YEARS**  
Our story continues ...





**LIVE UNITED<sup>®</sup>**

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