Breakthroughs

Making life better in our diverse and complex community can be slow and careful work. Building relationships and trust takes time. Finding the most effective and equitable way forward often requires research and trial and error. But eventually, we reach that BREAKTHROUGH moment when we see results. The moment when other organizations, even other states, see our work and want to replicate it. The moment when our careful thought and research translates into action and energy. This happened in much of our work in 2015. Read some of those stories here.

You may have seen these words associated with Rose Community Foundation before. They are our foundation’s values and guiding principles. We encourage you to read more about them on our website at rcfdenver.org/valuesandprinciples.

We have highlighted these values and principles because 2015 was our 20-year anniversary. 2015 also marks 20 years of these values and principles guiding our work in the Greater Denver community. In looking back on both 2015 and our past 20 years of work, we recognize how critical these values are in our efforts to successfully address enduring community challenges, enhance quality of life and create lasting change for the better.

In 2015, we experienced several significant and visible accomplishments related to our long-term work. We attribute that progress to a commitment to work that includes collaborative partnerships, innovative thinking, thoughtful risk-taking and a disciplined focus on lasting results — all concepts that are expressed in our values statement.

In this report, we share with you several “breakthroughs” that demonstrate these beliefs at work. We are working with individuals and families to establish and maintain philanthropic traditions, and with area nonprofit organizations to ensure their stability and longevity through endowment funds.

Innovative programs in our Aging and Education Program Areas are being replicated locally and nationally, and unique partnerships in Child and Family Development, Health and Jewish Life Program Areas are making significant progress.

These breakthroughs are examples of what we continually strive for as a foundation. They are rarely easy to accomplish, usually require a long-term view and nearly always mean a great deal of collaboration with others.

Breakthroughs like these also represent milestones along a path of progress. Our work certainly is not done and we have not yet fixed all of the issues, but we are part way there and that is cause to celebrate. It is also cause for thanks.

Thank you to everyone involved in this work to make the Greater Denver community a better place for all people: donors who believe in our work; friends and colleagues who inspire us; leaders who trust that progress is possible and take risks with us; Foundation staff and partners who believe in working together for greater impact; and the new people who will join us over the next 20 years, and beyond. We look forward to our continued work together.

Sheila Bugdanowitz
President and CEO

Jerrold L. Glick
Chair, Board of Trustees
Colorado funders unite in ambitious effort to support early childhood mental health

We know from research that a child’s earliest years (from birth to age five) are among the most crucial for healthy development. Mental health — or social and emotional wellness — is a critical component. Recognizing its potential impact on Colorado communities, Rose Community Foundation started exploring the issue of early childhood mental health in 2011. Our Child and Family Development and Health Program Areas began working together. They reached out to Caring for Colorado to form a collaborative group of Colorado funders spanning health and early childhood disciplines, with the intention of increasing their collective knowledge.

Preschool expulsions are one example of why this is an important topic for Colorado. “An increasing number of young children are being expelled or suspended from childcare centers and preschool due to behavior issues,” explains Elsa Holguín, Rose Community Foundation senior program officer for Child and Family Development. “This is concerning because not only is an expelled child at risk of missing out on the benefit of early childhood education, but there’s also likely something going on in that child’s life driving the behavior issues, thus putting that child’s social and emotional health at risk.”

Long-term health is also a concern. “We know from brain research that repeated exposure to adverse experiences in early childhood can lead to increased health risks as an adult, including heart disease, diabetes and depression,” says Whitney Gustin Connor, Rose Community Foundation senior program officer for Health.

To help address issues like these before they worsen down the road, early identification and whole family support are among proven best practices. “Colorado has many programs doing great work in these areas. Yet many Colorado families, especially those in vulnerable situations still struggle to get the support they need,” explains Jeannie Ritter, former first lady of Colorado, mental health ambassador for the Mental Health Center of Denver, and Rose Community Foundation trustee.

In 2015, the funders collaborative made a significant move to help improve the situation. Eight partners pooled $11.2 million to create a five-year initiative called LAUNCH Together modeled after a highly successful (and similarly named) federal program. Rose Community Foundation is among the funding partners and serves as fiscal sponsor, while the nonprofit organization Early Milestones Colorado, is managing the initiative.

Through LAUNCH Together, grants are awarded to selected Colorado communities to plan and implement coordinated support systems for early childhood mental health. “The ultimate goal is that everyone involved in a young child’s life — child care providers, schools, family members and doctors — is paying attention to his or her social and emotional health and that there’s coordination between all the systems to ensure the right support for children and their families,” explains Ritter.

LAUNCH Together communities will focus their planning efforts around five key prevention and wellness strategies: 1) integration of behavioral health into primary care; 2) mental health consultation in early care and education settings; 3) enhanced home visiting services; 4) parent education and family strengthening; and 5) assessment and screening.


Learn more about Rose Community Foundation’s work in early childhood mental health, including an initial assessment and report, at rcfdenver.org/ecmh.

Watch Ritter explain LAUNCH Together and the partnership that created it.

LAUNCH Together Funding Partners

• The Ben and Lucy Ana Walton Fund of the Walton Family Foundation
• Buell Foundation
• Caring for Colorado Foundation
• Community First Foundation
• The Colorado Health Foundation
• Kaiser Permanente Colorado
• The Piton Foundation at Gary Community Investments
• Rose Community Foundation
Senior Source becomes a national model for information access

An 85-year-old woman can no longer drive but she needs to get to her doctor’s appointments — where does she turn for help? An elderly couple received an eviction notice for their apartment and their caregiver wants to understand the legalities involved — but where does he start?

Thanks to a collaborative effort designed and launched 10 years ago through the Foundation’s leadership and funding, Colorado has found a winning formula: Senior Source, which took an exciting step toward national replication in 2015. Over the life of Senior Source, Rose Community Foundation has invested more than $2.5 million in the program, and has helped bring partners together, including Caring for Colorado Foundation, the Colorado Department of Human Services — Colorado Commission on Aging, The Colorado Health Foundation, and the Denver Regional Council of Governments — Area Agency on Aging. Senior Source provides a central and trusted place for older adults and caregivers to find important resources about aging issues, including transportation options and the Senior Law Handbook (both of which are supported with grants from Rose Community Foundation). In addition, program partners respond to thousands of calls and emails.

“Transportation services, housing options, crisis assistance, and knowing where to go for information and access to services can be a serious challenge, especially for older adults and their caregivers,” explains Therese Ellery, Rose Community Foundation senior program officer for Aging.

“No other station has taken the topic of seniors to the forefront,” says Valencia. “9NEWS is invested in this program because we see the value it brings to our community. Now dozens more communities, and tens of thousands more people will benefit from it.”

“Senior Source reaches not one, but two underserved populations,” says Mark Koebrich, recently retired 9NEWS anchor and a 9NEWS spokesperson for the program. “In addition to thousands of seniors anxious for information of every description, Senior Source also reaches thousands of their children who are helping their parents navigate the often troubled and difficult waters of growing older. The program has proven to be a valuable resource for all of them, and I’m very proud of my past involvement in this innovative project.”

Each year, more than 2 million people see the 9NEWS programming that covers important aging topics. Annually, 100,000 people visit the website, and Senior Source distributes 10,000 free resources like the Getting There Guide to transportation options and the Senior Law Handbook (both of which are supported with grants from Rose Community Foundation). In addition, program partners respond to thousands of calls and emails.

“One station has taken the topic of seniors to the forefront,” says Lynne Valencia, 9NEWS vice president of community relations, speaking about the collaborative group that now guides, funds, and operates Senior Source (9NEWS, Colorado Department of Human Services — Colorado Commission on Aging, Daniels Fund, Denver Regional Council of Governments — Area Agency on Aging and Rose Community Foundation).

In 2015, 9NEWS and its parent company, TEGNA, recognized that other communities around the country could benefit from the program, and decided to make a national commitment to Senior Source, making it available across the country through its 46 stations. Colorado’s program, with 10 years of experience, serves as a model, yet each station will customize the program to best fit its local community.

“Senior Source reaches not one, but two underserved populations.” says Mark Koebrich, recently retired 9NEWS anchor and a 9NEWS spokesperson for the program. “In addition to thousands of seniors anxious for information of every description, Senior Source also reaches thousands of their children who are helping their parents navigate the often troubled and difficult waters of growing older. The program has proven to be a valuable resource for all of them, and I’m very proud of my past involvement in this innovative project.”

 Photo: Recently retired 9NEWS anchor Mark Koebrich, with his co-anchor Kim Christiansen, shows the Getting There Guide, one of the resources Senior Source helps make available to those who need it.

Watch Valencia explain more about Senior Source and its national expansion

Learn more at rcfdenver.org/aging.
The teenage years are a critical period when we start asking ourselves who we want to be when we grow up. We are developing values, an identity, and connections to people and passions,” explains Lisa Farber Miller, Rose Community Foundation senior program officer for Jewish Life. “Jewish communities can support teens in significant ways. Yet, for years, we have seen a growing disengagement of teens in Jewish life,” she adds.

In 2009, Rose Community Foundation’s Jewish Life Program Area began studying this disengagement. The Foundation brought stakeholders together from the Greater Denver community and developed a plan for change. Eventually in 2014, the necessary components fell into place when funders and practitioners came together. That launched an ambitious effort, The Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Initiative, which aims to increase the number and diversity of Jewish teens participating in Jewish experiences and to deepen the quality and reach of teen engagement in Jewish life in the Denver-Boulder community.

“We are committed to focusing our resources during formative times when Jewish identity is being developed, such as the teen years. We want to make sure our teens understand how Jewish traditions, rituals, values, and ethics can support the good they want to do in the world,” explains Farber Miller.

The Initiative, one of the largest ever undertaken by the Foundation, is supported by more than $5.6 million and more than 30 funders, and involves significant collaboration both locally and nationally. Jim Joseph Foundation, one of the largest Jewish foundations in the world, and Rose Community Foundation are partnering to lead the effort. Five local nonprofit organizations received grants to engage local teens in new and innovative ways. All five grantees are working closely together to make a difference locally. Additionally, our Denver/Boulder community is among 10 communities collaborating nationwide to share strategies and learnings from these efforts as part of the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Funder Collaborative.

One year into the Initiative, results are emerging. The grantee organizations are offering new and more programs and working together to adapt successful approaches. Participation is on the rise across the board, especially in programs that are teen-led and that connect teens to Jewish experiences through special interests such as art or community service.

“One have never been excited to participate in an activity in my Jewish community before,” says one local teen who is a fellow with PresenTense Colorado, a new program that helps passionate Jewish teens in Denver/Boulder address social issues through social entrepreneurship. “Usually teen programs for Jews are held in large auditoriums with hundreds of teens, and I am not the best in large groups. This lets me impact my Jewish community in a large way but in an environment that I am comfortable with.”

One mom explains the appeal of another program, Rosh Hodesh: It’s a Girl Thing!, a successful gender-based, monthly discussion group for Jewish teens, operated by grantee Moving Traditions. “The participatory activities and use of art for the girls to express themselves have been a consistent draw for [my daughter]. One indication that she enjoys the opportunity is the lack of complaining about having to attend — a true testament that a 13-year-old girl really enjoys an activity!

All five grantees quickly point to collaboration as one of the most fruitful outcomes so far. “We are learning so much more about each other’s programs,” explains Karen Silverman, executive director of jHub, a grantee organization created by the Initiative and serving as a support “Hub” for all Jewish teen professionals and programs in the Denver/Boulder community. “Our new mantra is if a teen does not like my program, I have a responsibility to introduce them to another. We are making sure the kids are the most important thing.”

Learn more about this Initiative at rcfdenver.org/jewishteenengagement. Learn more about the grantees at their websites.

Communities offer teens new ways to engage in Jewish life

Do you remember life as a teenager? Maybe you currently have a teen growing up in your home?

Watch Rabbi Michael Sunshine of Jewish Student Connection talk about the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Initiative

Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Initiative Grantees

• Boulder Jewish Teen Initiative
  boulderjewishteens.org

• Jewish Student Connection
  jhubco.org/program/jewish-high-school-clubs

• jHub
  jhubco.org

• Moving Traditions
  movingtraditions.org

• PresenTense Colorado
  presentencecolorado.com

8

9

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Initiative Grantees

• Boulder Jewish Teen Initiative
  boulderjewishteens.org

• Jewish Student Connection
  jhubco.org/program/jewish-high-school-clubs

• jHub
  jhubco.org

• Moving Traditions
  movingtraditions.org

• PresenTense Colorado
  presentencecolorado.com

Watch Rabbi Michael Sunshine of Jewish Student Connection talk about the Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Initiative

Photo: A jHub group cleans up a playground.
Denver’s K-12 public school system has seen a number of positive improvements toward student success in recent years; however, an achievement gap (when one group of students outperforms another group) continues to exist between students from low-income families and communities of color and their peers.

The achievement gap is especially apparent in Southwest Denver. According to a recent report by A+ Denver, the region serves more than 22,000 kids (about 27 percent of the Denver Public School District) and has a 90 percent low income and 84 percent Latino population. The report also shares that only 15 percent of Southwest Denver students are college-ready by the time they graduate high school.

For the past three years, Rose Community Foundation, in partnership with the Ford Foundation, has helped schools and communities in Southwest Denver and throughout the Denver Metro area implement innovative practices to work toward closing this achievement gap. The partnership’s investments have focused on an emerging practice called More and Better Learning Time.

“Central to More and Better Learning Time is extending the school day to provide more quality time for activities that support academic achievement such as enrichment programming, student interventions, tutoring, and advanced classes,” explains Janet Lopez, Rose Community Foundation senior program officer for Education.

Grant Beacon Middle School in Southwest Denver is one example of how these investments are making a difference. Three years ago the school faced possible closure. Today it has become a model for success, and its success is becoming a resource for other area middle schools.

To turn itself around, with the help of grants from the Ford Foundation and Rose Community Foundation, Grant Beacon implemented an approach that includes an extended school day, blended learning (combining technology with one-on-one instruction) and a focus on character development. That combination of strategies has proven to be an ideal recipe for student success in a school whose student population is comprised of 85 percent free and reduced lunch eligible, 93 percent minority, 40 percent second language learners and 15 percent special education.

“We have seen incredible academic growth. We are outperforming nearly all the charter schools in the area,” says Alex Magaña, Grant Beacon Middle School principal.

The model is so successful in fact, that it is now being replicated. In a ground-breaking move, Magaña and his team will implement the “Grant Beacon” model at Kepner Middle School starting with the sixth grade class in the 2016-2017 school year. This is the first time a public “innovation school” will be replicated; something only charter schools have done before.

“We already have a waiting list for Kepner,” says Magaña, pointing to the significant enthusiasm and support he is seeing from parents and others in the Southwest Denver community.

Similar to the way charter schools are managed, a new ‘Beacon Network’ will serve as the managing organization over the schools.

“Grant Beacon’s model is achieving excellent results and it is critical that we, as a community, find ways to scale successful models like these and make progress toward closing the achievement gap,” says Lopez.

“Rose Community Foundation is honored to be a long-time partner in this important effort.”

Learn more about Grant Beacon Middle School at rcfdenver.org/grantbeacon.

Photos: Grant Beacon Middle School students have access to a variety of enrichment programs within extended school hours.

Watch Magaña, along with his assistant principal, Michelle Saab talk about what is happening at Grant Beacon Middle School.
In June at the Seawell Ballroom in downtown Denver, Rose Community Foundation celebrated 20 years of serving the Greater Denver community. Joined by friends, donors and grantees, Foundation leaders looked back on the work the Foundation has done.

At the event, Governor John Hickenlooper spoke at length about Rose Community Foundation’s leadership on issues like Denver’s Road Home while he served as mayor of Denver. Foundation President and CEO Sheila Bugdanowitz also spoke about the story of the Foundation, its leadership role in the Jewish community and its other grantmaking focus areas. Chair of the Board of Trustees Jerry Glick spoke about the Foundation’s current impact in the community, and Jennifer Atler Fischer, past board chair announced the winners of Innovate for Good (see page 13).

Innovate for Good finds and funds new projects

In 2015, Rose Community Foundation created Innovate for Good, a venture to find and fund new, innovative projects. Launched in January, the challenge received nearly 400 entries from local nonprofit organizations, engineers, artists, neighborhood associations, teenagers, retirees and others who answered the question, “What new and innovative idea would you bring to life to make the Greater Denver community a better place to live?”

A team of 130 community members helped to select the winning ideas, evaluating them for innovation, ability to make a difference, feasibility and alignment with Rose Community Foundation’s mission to enhance the quality of life in Denver. In June, during Rose Community Foundation’s 20th Anniversary event, the nine winners were awarded funds totaling $250,000.

The following nine projects were selected as winners:

- **Bright by Three**
  - Bright by Three’s educational text-messaging system expands to provide parents with localized community resources and information.

- **Clean River Design Challenge**
  - The Greenway Foundation’s design competition for Metropolitan State University of Denver students to create a mechanism to remove trash from the South Platte River.

- **Creative Youth Take Flight – La Alma Connection**
  - Arts Street’s program for youth to create a master art plan and public art series to encourage pedestrian use of the light rail and 10th Avenue in the La Alma neighborhood.

- **Fresh Food Connect**
  - Groundwork Denver’s new mobile app to allow home gardeners to donate extra produce for distribution at food banks and through affordable sale.

- **Race, Policing and Community Justice Advocates**
  - Shorter Community AME Church’s program to engage high school students as peer presenters in the areas of racial equality, community awareness based policing and justice advocacy work.

- **Shakespeare in the Parking Lot**
  - Denver Center for the Performing Arts’ “food truck for the arts,” taking theatrical performances to high school students in school parking lots.

- **The Stompin’ Ground Games**
  - Warm Cookies of the Revolution’s year-long Olympics-style competition between Denver neighborhoods, combining arts, culture and history in the name of civic pride and engagement.

- **Veterans in Food Deserts**
  - Denver Botanic Gardens’ program in which military veterans bring fresh produce and planting, harvesting and nutrition knowledge to neighborhoods with limited access to healthy foods.

- **Workshop on Wheels**
  - Be the Gift’s fully outfitted mobile home repair truck fleet serving households headed by single mothers.

Photo page 12: There was a festive setting at the Seawell Ballroom for the event; Governor John Hickenlooper spoke about Rose Community Foundation’s leadership in Denver during his time as mayor of the city; the celebration brought together many who have been involved with the Foundation in a variety of ways over the years. Photos by Arnie Trujillo served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Photo page 13: Innovate for Good winners were announced at Rose Community Foundation’s 20th Anniversary Event. Each received an Innovate for Good trophy.
Nonprofit organizations take steps to sustain their future with new endowment funds

Endowment: A restricted fund made up of gifts and bequests to a nonprofit organization. The principal of this fund remains intact and generates earnings that can add to the organization’s operating revenue.

Endowments provide organizations with ongoing financial stability by providing an annual distribution earned year after year from investing the endowment fund's principal. Endowments also provide donors with additional ways to support their favorite nonprofits through legacy gifts and bequests. For the past 15 years, Rose Community Foundation has invested in the stability and longevity of the Greater Denver community by managing endowment and designated funds. At the end of 2015, the Foundation stewarded endowment and designated funds cumulatively valued at $49 million for 49 different nonprofits. In addition to managing and stewarding funds, the Foundation has also provided comprehensive training and coaching to nonprofit leadership teams.

Foundation staff has helped development (fundraising) leaders and board members integrate specific fundraising strategies to launch and build endowment funds into their overall development plans. In the late 1990s, Foundation programs like The Endowment Challenge and Live On: Build Your Jewish Legacy provided both training and incentives for building an endowment fund, particularly for Jewish organizations. In 2015, the Foundation extended this model to a broad range of local nonprofits, including arts and advocacy organizations, further ensuring stability for organizations with wide-ranging influence on life around our community. The group of 12 organizations includes Foundation initiatives like Rose Youth Foundation and the Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, alongside organizations like the Colorado Ballet, Denver Film Society and RedLine Gallery. Participating organizations take part in a series of training sessions and also receive matching grants for participating and putting what they learn into practice.

Mike Guthrie, the chief operating officer for the Carson J. Spencer Foundation said that the opportunity to join this program prompted his organization to establish an endowment fund, which the organization would not have pursued otherwise. “We are a small nonprofit with big goals,” he says. “But establishing an endowment wasn’t something we thought we were capable of, given the size and capacity of our organization.” The Carson J. Spencer Foundation works to prevent suicide and assist those coping with pain and grief resulting from a loss by suicide.

Guthrie says he now understands how having an endowment positions his organization differently for donors. “It provides a sense of permanence and makes clear that we have a long-term future,” he says.

For Maya Brock, the executive director of Mending Faces, an organization that provides surgical care to impoverished children in the Philippines with cleft lip and cleft palette, a valuable part of her participation in the cohort was putting together an integrated development plan. “It has been really good education for me and for the board,” she says. “We are so lucky to get this training.” She remarked that they were motivated to participate because donors had expressed an interest in including Mending Faces in their will, and it was quickly apparent that the organization did not have the appropriate policies and other infrastructure to accept these long-term gifts.

“As a community foundation, we have a unique role to play by helping nonprofits develop avenues to sustainability,” said Director of Philanthropic Services Gaye Leonard. “We can help these organizations develop long-term strategies and discipline to integrate the endowment and legacy giving into their overall development plan.”

Senior Gift Planning Officer Vicki Darsky takes great satisfaction in the fact the Foundation is helping to build a rich future for Denver’s nonprofit community. “We believe that legacy gifts and the future impact of building endowments will strengthen our community in ways we cannot even imagine,” she says.

“Nonprofit organizations take steps to sustain their future with new endowment funds.”

Watch participants from the Denver Film Society talk about their participation in this group.

Nonprofit Organization Endowment Funds and Sub-Funds

AJC Colorado Legacy Endowment Fund
American Jewish Committee Endowment Fund
Anti-Defamation League New Century Endowment Fund
Arthritis Foundation Colorado Endowment Fund
Barbara and Norman Gray Fund
BAM-BJ Congregation
Bnai Havurah Endowment Fund
Boulder Jewish Community Center Endowment Fund
Boulder Jewish Community Foundation Endowment Fund
Center for Judaic Studies, University of Denver Endowment Fund
The Holocaust Awareness Institute Fund
The Dr. Irwin E. Winnick Fellowship Supplementary Fund
Rabbi Dr. Stanley M. Wagner Community Cultural Fund
Colorado Ballet Endowment Fund
Congregation Beth Evergreen Endowment Fund
Elen Dissenhof Educational Endowment Fund
Congregation Emanuel Endowment Fund
Denver Academy of Torah Endowment Fund
England Fund
Makovovsky Fund
MBG Foundation Fund
Obby Shames Fund
Denver Film Society
Denver Jewish Day School Endowment Fund
Auerbach Family Children’s Fund
Jack Robinson Memorial Scholarship Fund
Rose Medical Center Sports and Fitness Endowment
Charles and Louise Rosenbaum Scholarship Fund
Denver Public Schools Foundation
Denver Public Schools Foundation Denver Film Society
Girl Scouts of Colorado Endowment Fund
Council General Operating Fund
GSCO Endowment for Capital Replacement
GSCO Endowment for Denver Metro Outreach — CenturyLink
GSCO Endowment for Denver Metropolitan Campers
GSCO Endowment for Traveling Leaders
Stephanie A. Foose Leadership Prize Endowment Fund
Mary Jo Jacobs, M.D., Memorial Girl Scout Adventure Fund
Doris M. Krusin Senior Foundation Endowment Fund
Girl Scouts of Colorado
Look Wider
MP Camp Operating Fund
Hillel of Colorado Endowment Fund
Raphael Levy Program Endowment
Annie Rosen Fund
Siegel Endowment Fund
The JAAMM FEST Endowment Fund
Jewish Family Service of Colorado Endowment Fund
Latino Community Foundation of Colorado Endowment Fund
Mental Health America of Colorado Jeanne M. Rohner Endowment Fund
Mazel Museum
Mending Faces Endowment Fund
Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
Project Pave Endowment Fund

Continued on lower right of page 21.
One of the unique roles a community foundation can play is to steward charitable bequests (gifts specified in a will) and other types of planned gifts in a way that particularly honors donors’ intentions and values. Rose Community Foundation takes this role very seriously. “People have different goals for their charitable bequests,” explains Vicki Dansky, senior gift planning officer. “Sometimes they want to use philanthropy as a way to keep their adult children close to each other, and some use their legacy gift planning to open or continue a conversation with their children and grandchildren about values they hope to perpetuate through the generations.”

Julie A. Malek and her husband Rick J. Kornfeld have included a gift to the Foundation in their will for their children to direct in the future. They also had conversations with their children about their intentions for the gift. Malek says that the process of making the gift has been really important to them as a family. Both Malek and Kornfeld grew up in Denver and they have both had parents die. She says that including Rose Community Foundation — with its strong connections to the history of Rose Medical Center and the Denver community — in their will felt like a powerful connection to their parents’ history. “The really beautiful thing is that our gift feels like a legacy from both of our families,” she remarks.

As legacy donors, Kornfeld and Malek have also contributed meaningful images and memorabilia to the Living Legacy Tapestry, which hangs in the Foundation’s lobby. “It was really special to be able to do that; we were able to include pieces of our parents’ history,” says Malek.

The Living Legacy Tapestry is composed by artists Leah Sobsey and Lynn Bregman Blass of visualhistorycollaborative.com. Dansky says that the Tapestry is an important visual archive of donors’ values. “It is our way of capturing and continuing the values of these amazingly generous people who have supported the community and committed to doing so even beyond their lifetime,” she says.

Malek says that talking with their children and documenting their own intentions has been an important exercise. “Our kids will know what is important to us, but they will have some freedom to make their own decisions, too.”

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**Finding meaning in stewardship: leaving a family legacy**

“It is our way of capturing and continuing the values of these amazingly generous people who have supported the community, and committed to doing so even beyond their lifetime.”

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*Image: Julie A. Malek (center) with Living Legacy Tapestry artists Leah Sobsey and Lynn Bregman Blass of visualhistorycollaborative.com in front of the Living Legacy Tapestry.*
2015 By the Numbers

- **$240 million**
  - Grants and distributions awarded to the community and supporting foundation projects since 1995

- **$18 million**
  - Grants and distributions awarded in proceeds from the sale of Rose Medical Center in 1995

- **$170 million**
  - Total foundation assets at end of 2015

- **$305 million**
  - Total contributions

- **$23 million**
  - Donor, endowment and designated funds

- **$126 million**
  - Donor, endowment and designated funds

- **7 new donor-advised funds**

- **13 new legacy gifts**

- **$1,531,518**
  - Aging

- **$1,642,384**
  - Child & Family Development

- **$1,542,483**
  - Education

- **$1,127,148**
  - Health

- **$2,868,208**
  - Jewish Life

- **61%**
  - Increase in total contributions over 2014

- **61%**
  - Increase in total contributions over 2014

Grants Awarded by Program Areas

- Aging
- Child & Family Development
- Education
- Health
- Jewish Life

Along with other distributions and matches, in 2015, Rose Community Foundation granted nearly $18 million. Rose Community Foundation’s full audited financial statements and tax returns will be posted online at rcfdenver.org as soon as they are available. You may also call 303.398.7434 to request a printed copy.
2015 Board of Trustees

Founding Trustees

*Deceased

Not pictured: William N. Lindsay III, Evan Makovsky

Top row left to right: Irit Waldbaum, Steven A. Cohen, Jennifer Adler Fischer, Brian Wilkinson, Katherine Gold

Bottom row left to right: Michael Touff, Milroy A. Alexander, Lisa Reckler Cohn, Monte Moses, Ph.D.

Founding Trustees

*Deceased

Not pictured: William N. Lindsay III, Evan Makovsky

Top row left to right: Michael Touff, Milroy A. Alexander, Lisa Reckler Cohn, Monte Moses, Ph.D.

Bottom row left to right: Ronald E. Montoya, Rob Klugman, Judy Altenberg

Kathy Neustadt, Jerrold L. Glick, Chair

We acknowledge the contributions of the following staff members who left the Foundation in 2015:
Elizabeth Moser, Program Assistant
Kendra Shore, Executive Director, Jewish Women’s Fund of Colorado

For a current list of staff and their biographies, visit rcfdenver.org/staff.

Staff
Sheila Bugdanowitz, President and CEO
Whitney Gustin Conner, Senior Program Officer
Vicki P. Dansky, Senior Gift Planning Officer
Theresa Ellery, Senior Program Officer
Todd Fahnestock, Executive Assistant, Program Assistant
Ben Finan, Collaborative Giving Coordinator
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Rachel Griego, Project Manager, Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
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2015 ANNUAL REPORT