



ECE students at Clayton Early Learning, a grantee of Rose Community Foundation

Pursuing a Long-Term Vision for Early Childhood Education in Colorado

It's no accident that Colorado has become a national leader in early childhood education. A recent \$29.9 million federal grant to Colorado from the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge (which Rose Community Foundation helped to secure for the state) marks the latest positive signal of progress after nearly two decades of strategic, intentional work by many to make early childhood education (ECE) a priority.

Rose Community Foundation is proud of the myriad roles we have had, and will continue to have, in helping pursue that long-term vision — not just as a lead funder, but also as a community convener, advisor, mobilizer and innovative leader in developing and marshalling resources.

"From our very first days, Rose Community Foundation has believed that giving all children the opportunity of a great education is one of the key components to a better, thriving Denver," says Elsa Holguin, senior program officer for the Foundation's Child and Family Development program area.

"When research began to reveal the impact of quality learning during a child's first five years, we saw an opportunity to make a real difference," says Holguin. "Investing both time and resources

in early learning was a way to get in on the front end of a problem; an opportunity to affect systemic change."

Over the years, Rose Community Foundation has worked in partnership with numerous funders, business and philanthropic leaders, legislators and service providers to move the field of ECE forward. Many ballot efforts, blueprints and breakthroughs later, the fruits of those labors can be seen throughout the state.



"Rose Community Foundation has been a guiding influence for progress on ECE issues in Colorado. The Foundation's impact is felt through their grants, their community leadership, their long-term perspective and their ability to bring other leaders and funders to the table to help solve our common challenges."

— Lt. Governor Joe Garcia

A heightened focus on the quality of education in child care centers is one example, thanks to the development of the Qualistar Rating™, Colorado's statewide child care rating and improvement system. Other examples include the formation of a state-appointed Early Childhood Leadership Commission,

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Clayton Early Learning – A Hub For ECE in Colorado

When it comes to helping move the field of early childhood education (ECE) forward, a Denver nonprofit is making huge strides — in the city, the state and even the nation.

Clayton Early Learning is a longtime Rose Community Foundation grantee that got its start more than 100 years ago as an orphanage in Northeast Denver. Since 1996, the Foundation has provided more than \$2 million to support programs and initiatives at Clayton.

Today, families throughout the area know Clayton for its Educare Denver school, recognized as one of the top Head Start programs in the nation. The school is a vibrant, engaging place that each year is making a difference in the lives of hundreds of young children from birth to age five. Most are from low-income families; children who, according to well-documented research, often start kindergarten lagging far behind their more advantaged peers and have difficulties catching up. Clayton Educare Denver is successfully closing that gap.

Clayton's reach goes far beyond the school grounds. The organization has become a nationally recognized expert on ECE as well as the premier training and research center in the state — all thanks to its unique model that intertwines the concepts of practice, research and training. At the center of it all is a robust research institute, which Rose Community Foundation helped start and continues to support.



Young students at Clayton Early Learning

Clayton's research institute focuses on identifying and evaluating the most effective practices for ensuring kindergarten readiness. Clayton's direct classroom and family programs effectively serve as a proving ground for testing, evaluation and refinement. Best practices in professional development are then shared with child care providers, professionals and universities through coaching, training and curriculum development.

"We work hard to keep these pieces interacting with one another because we know that's where the power is," says Charlotte Brantley, president and CEO of Clayton Early Learning. "End results for children and families are much stronger with this model."

In 2012 alone, Clayton trained and coached more than 2,500 ECE professionals in the state. Those professionals will go on to effectively teach thousands of children year after year. Clayton Early Learning is a crucial partner in a long-term vision to ensure school readiness for all Colorado's children, and Rose Community Foundation is proud to support its efforts.

Learn more at claytonearlylearning.org.

Pursuing a Long-Term Vision for Early Childhood Education in Colorado *continued from page 1*

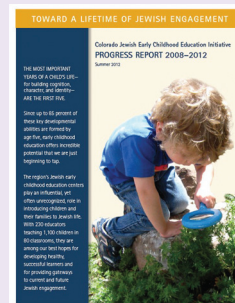
of which Rose Community Foundation is a member, and the establishment of a new Office of Early Childhood in the state.

These are just a few examples of the many significant milestones that have helped put Colorado on the right path to help all children, especially those most at-risk, arrive at kindergarten ready to learn. Rose Community Foundation is honored to be part of it all, and we're committed to strengthening the community through strategic efforts like these.

Jewish ECE: Toward a Lifetime of Jewish Engagement

Rose Community Foundation has been working for more than seven years to improve Jewish early childhood education through the Jewish ECE Initiative. Partners on this effort include Allied Jewish Federation, Colorado Agency for Jewish Education, Paul Gillis, Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation and others. The Initiative's key outcomes are developing better teaching, better learning environments and better connections among families and Jewish life.

To read a progress report on the Initiative and to view the complete list of project partners, funders and participating ECE centers, go to RCFdenver.org/jewishECEstudy.



Q&A with Beverly Buck

Beverly Buck is a trustee of The Aloha Foundation, a family foundation focusing on early childhood education and development in Colorado, New York and Hawai'i. She is a donor, aligned funder and a longtime friend of Rose Community Foundation. She is currently a senior researcher at the Buechner Institute for Governance at the University of Colorado School of Public Affairs.



How did you get involved with Rose Community Foundation?

My relationship with Rose Community Foundation started first as a grantee when I was with the Colorado Children's Campaign and then at the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver. I then served in leadership roles for both Rose Women's Organization and the Jewish Women's Fund of Colorado, which are donor-advised initiatives at the Foundation. I found Rose Community Foundation's work in early childhood development, education and Jewish life to be creatively innovative. They were willing to work in a variety of ways to be transformational and shape public policy at both state and local levels, as well as the program level. By the time The Aloha Foundation began funding in Colorado, Rose Community Foundation program officers, especially Lisa Farber Miller and Elsa Holguin, were friends and trusted mentors. A close partnership with Rose Community Foundation was inevitable.

Why is early childhood education so important to you?

A child's foundation in life begins with parents who can be their children's first teachers and through positive, healthy early child development. My mother created The Aloha Foundation partly out of her frustration as a family court judge having to watch an endless parade of children who did not get that start. Because Aloha is a "nano" foundation, we look for opportunities that will have impact beyond our time, talent and treasure. Early childhood development and education are obvious investments for me personally and for The Aloha Foundation.

As a funder in early childhood education, what sorts of trends do you see?

We cannot be complacent and rest on our laurels. For better or worse, the importance of quality early childhood care and education timed to utilize the incredible brain development experienced by young children is a story we must keep telling. That's why we will continue to work with Rose Community Foundation to pursue better ECE opportunities for every child.

Philanthropic Services – Rose Community Foundation works with individuals, families, nonprofit organizations and corporations to inform their giving and maximize their philanthropic impact. Learn how we can help turn good intentions into meaningful results. Contact Margie Gart at mgart@RCFdenver.org or 303.398.7442.

Rose Community Foundation - 2012 At a Glance

Impact and progress distinguished this past year at Rose Community Foundation.

Continued growth in nonprofit endowments, new donor-advised funds, donations into existing funds and legacy donors partnering with the Foundation, made 2012 one of the best fundraising years in our history as more than **\$8.4 million** came into the Foundation.

Grants approved in 2012 totaled **\$16.3 million** with **\$9.5 million in Foundation-directed grants** and **\$6.8 million in donor-directed grants**. More detailed charts of 2012 at a glance are available online: rcfdenver.org/about_AtAGlance.htm.



Thank you to everyone involved for making 2012 such a success!

The Living Legacy Tapestry Video

The Living Legacy Tapestry is a commissioned work of art that celebrates and honors the lives of legacy donors to Rose Community Foundation.

We recently completed a video about the *Living Legacy Tapestry* that can be viewed online here: RCFdenver.org/livinglegacy.



Irit Waldbaum shows the Tapestry to her granddaughter

Mazel Tov to MazelTot!



Congratulations to MazelTot, a Foundation initiative that connects young families to Jewish life and each other, for being named one of the nation's 50 most innovative Jewish nonprofit projects by *Slingshot*.

Learn more at mazelto.org.

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Rose Community Foundation connects intentional generosity
and innovative ideas to strengthen our community.



In This Issue

Sheila Bugdanowitz

President and CEO, Rose Community Foundation

We describe our work as connecting intentional generosity and innovative ideas to strengthen the community. Our ability to connect people and resources demonstrates our varied and integrated roles in driving impact and systemic, positive change in the community that stretches beyond simply the grants we provide — which are substantial. We identify enduring and emerging community problems; We convene and empower community, government and business leaders and our experienced staff and other funders; We channel a range of resources and a disciplined focus to find creative, systemic solutions.

We know that big advances in addressing community problems don't happen overnight, rarely by accident and never by working alone.

In this issue of *Connections*, we're showcasing one of the ways we demonstrate our approach to community leadership by focusing on Early Childhood Education (ECE). The newsletter includes a review of our historical commitment to ECE, an article highlighting a grantee making a difference through their ECE work in the community, and a brief interview with a Foundation donor actively engaged in early childhood education issues.

We hope you appreciate this refreshed newsletter format and encourage your comments and suggestions: info@RCFdenver.org.

Legacy Giving

Rose Community Foundation can help your legacy gift planning make a big difference in the community and around the world today and into the future. Contact Vicki Dansky for more information: vdansky@RCFdenver.org or 303.398.7422.

Stay in Touch!

Stay in touch with Rose Community Foundation. Send us your email address so we can keep you up to date with timely news and information from the Foundation. Send your name and email address to info@RCFdenver.org.