2014 Award Nomination Form

See nomination instructions for information on completing and submitting nominations

NOMINEE (All fields are required):
Name: _______________________________ Title (if applicable): _______________________
Organization (if applicable): Community Foundation of Northern Colorado
Address: 4745 Wheaton Drive, Suite 100 Fort Collins CO 80525
street       city   state   zip
Phone: ( 970) 224 3462 email: info@NoCoFoundation.org

CATEGORY OF NOMINATION (Please check ONLY ONE):

☐ Lifetime Achievement
☐ Outstanding Business – Large (Number of Colorado employees ____________)
☐ Outstanding Business – Small (Number of Colorado employees ____________)
☑ Outstanding Foundation
☐ Outstanding Philanthropist
☐ Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy – Fundraising
☐ Outstanding Professional in Philanthropy – Grantmaking
☐ Outstanding Service Organization
☐ Outstanding Volunteer(s)
☐ Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
☐ Outstanding Youth (18 and under)
☐ Outstanding Youth Group (18 and under)
SUBMITTED BY:

Name: Skyler Rorabaugh
Title (if applicable): Executive Director

Organization (if applicable): Estes Valley Recreation and Park District

Address: 690 Big Thompson Avenue
street
city
state
zip

Phone: (970) 586-8191
email: skyler@evrpdp.com

Relationship to Nominee:
grant recipient

How did you hear about NPD in Colorado?
Received email from NPD

If your nominee is not selected, would you like them to be notified that they were nominated?
Yes ☑ NO ________

REFER TO THE NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETE DIRECTIONS!

Please remember:
- Each nomination must include:
  1. Nomination form
  2. Nomination narrative
  3. Two letters of support
- All nominations must be complete when submitted.
- Complete nominations must be submitted via email to deann@afpcc.org or via postal mail c/o AFP/CC, PO Box 21317, Denver, CO 80221.

The nomination deadline is Monday, July 21, 2014 at 5:00 PM. No exceptions!

Thank you for supporting National Philanthropy Day in Colorado

www.npdcolorado.org
1. What are the nominee's specific achievements?

The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado manages over 350 charitable funds, with over $70 million in assets, within and dedicated to the communities of northern Colorado. It has earned a reputation as an excellent partner for area nonprofits, connecting individual donors with causes they care about. The foundation staff are friendly, accessible, and proactive, and they are well respected throughout the area.

We are nominating the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado (CFNC) for the award of Outstanding Foundation to honor their effectiveness in working with a variety of donors and grantees in the service of northern Colorado communities in the aftermath of the September 2013 Colorado floods. When their neighbors found themselves with damaged homes and roads, and local economies in shambles, the Community Foundation stepped up quickly and effectively. In raising and distributing flood relief funds, they not only helped to address a wide variety of flood-created challenges, they gave us hope, and a feeling that we, the communities impacted and isolated by the floods, had support.

The CFNC was quick to start collecting flood relief donations—from a $750,000 challenge grant from the Fort Collins-based Bohemian Foundation to the birthday party gift of a nine-year-old in Fort Collins. They were able to raise more than $1.5 million dollars in a matter of three months. This translated to a grants process that was broad in focus and not cumbersome for applicants already reeling from the effects of the disaster. The first deadline was October 2013, and the last was in December 2013, and decisions were made quickly in order to get aid into the hands of those who needed it.

The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado funded a wide variety of projects in the months following the flood, meeting needs that ranged from basic human services to repairs to vital infrastructure, from job counseling to habitat restoration. CFNC is supported by local committees in the communities it serves, and these local advisors were able to help identify the most urgent needs for donor funds.

Flood recovery is a process that will take years and millions of dollars; CFNC, undeterred by the scale of the emergency, was one of the first and most effective to respond. The breadth of projects they funded with flood relief money has made a difference. They showed true awareness of, and sensitivity to, the situation in the affected communities. At a time when we faced isolation, evacuation, limited or no services including communications, electricity, water and sewer; fear, dread and stress; and the overwhelming feeling of not knowing what would become of us or our communities, CFNC lifted our spirits with their kindness and generosity.

2. What impact has the nominee had on volunteerism and/or financial contributions and/or the community?
The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado was able to raise over $1.5 million for flood relief in the communities of Northern Colorado. Using its relationship with the Bohemian Foundation, which typically funds projects within the City of Fort Collins, it secured a challenge grant for $750,000. The Bohemian Foundation funds motivated donors because they knew their gift would effectively be doubled, providing more flood relief and assistance.

The effect was immense. With their help, the small mountain community of Glen Haven, almost completely washed out, was able to purchase an emergency stand-by generator for their new fire station, which survived the flood; buy a newer fire engine; and assist in the reconstruction of roads and river crossings within the Glen Haven Subdivision for emergency access. In Estes Park, groups such as Crossroads Ministry, the town’s food bank, and Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success, which provides childcare support for young families, were able to extend help to families put into a dire situation by flood damage and the early end to the tourist season, with accompanying loss of work. The Estes Valley Land Trust has planted hundreds of trees, restabilizing eroded areas and bringing the seeds of beauty and hope to ravaged waterways. The Estes Valley Recreation and Park District was able to fix its golf course, which ensured jobs and revenue when the tourists finally returned in the spring. The Estes Valley Public Library and the Nonprofit Resource Center received resources to help and to train job seekers and business owners affected by the flood. The Estes Park Economic Development Corporation received funds to assist businesses in flood recovery including professional consultations. The quick response of our neighbors in Fort Collins helped our community recover when we needed it most, restoring morale and helping us get through the winter.

Past the emergency, CFNC sponsored an Urban Land Institute visit to Northern Colorado to gauge resiliency in flood-affected communities and make recommendations for improving responses to future disasters. This is typical of the vision exhibited by CFNC, not only helping recover from the disaster but ensuring that next time, we will be better prepared.

3. What leadership qualities does the nominee possess that promote philanthropy and/or volunteerism?

The Community Foundation of Northern Colorado showed exemplary leadership through its decisive action in a time of crisis, relying upon its network of donors and its local committees to provide immediate, appropriate relief. What makes CFNC an admirable foundation and a qualified nominee in normal times—its ability to work effectively with a wide range of donors, its open and friendly office, and its straightforward and relatively simple grant making process—were qualities that allowed it to act with decisive leadership when the flood hit.

This is not the first disaster that CFNC has responded to (High Park Fire, 2012) and it will not be the last. Their solid standing in this state has earned a reputation of responsiveness that is simply unmatched. The staff leadership are professional and yet humble, approachable showing great integrity. Their success in raising funds and responding to needs is evident. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to thank them for their good work in this public manner.
July 18, 2014

National Philanthropy Day in Colorado
Association of Fundraising Professionals Colorado Chapter
Box 21317
Denver, CO 80221

Dear Nominations Committee:

The Town of Estes Park enthusiastically supports the nomination of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado (CFNC) in its exceptional philanthropic contributions. We feel strongly they deserve recognition during the National Philanthropy Day in Colorado for all they have done especially with respect to disasters in Northern Colorado.

The CFNC responded immediately to the Nationally Declared Disaster of September 2014, when devastating floods impacted so many. Partnering with the Bohemian Foundation, together they granted out nearly $2 million. Their response was efficient and effective; raising funds and distributing grants quickly, with flexible guidelines, between the months of October and December 2013.

The Town of Estes Park received two grants assisting with economic recovery and a cost match for developing a master plan for the Fall River corridor. Even more important are the grants that other organizations received that serve the Estes Valley including Estes Park Investment in Childhood Success (EVICS), The Learning Place, Estes Valley Victim Advocates, Estes Valley Park and Recreation District, Estes Park Nonprofit Resource, Estes Valley Library and others. All of these organizations had staff and clients impacted by the floods; however, they were relentless in reaching out to help during the disaster and with the recovery. With the support from the CFNC, they were able to reach families hardest hit by the flood, offer needed services or respond in ways that helped with community through this disaster.

The fall season is a critical time for the Estes Park’s economy. The Town relies heavily on tourism with two-thirds of its income from sales taxes. Estes Park was on a record pace though July 2013, with sales tax revenues ahead of 2012 for the same period by 4.7 percent. The flood dramatically affected August through October 2013 sales tax collections (August sales tax was not due until September 20, 2013, post flood). The State extended the due date until December 2, 2013, which further exacerbated the situation. August through October 2013 sales tax was down 28.4 percent. This same period is traditionally ~33 percent of our fiscal year. So helping businesses to re-open quickly to salvage the remaining season was critical; and then stay open
was our immediate response and long term goal. The CFNC funds have been put to use working with local businesses on flood recovery and economic stability.

All of Estes Park drainages pounded through Town and Fall River was no exception. Along its path banks were eroded, debris piled and structures damaged. During the disaster, emergency protective measures were conducted to save lives and property. However, following this response it was time to consider long-term planning and resiliency. With the funds from the CFNC, the Town was able to obtain a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board that required a match, for Fall River master planning. This will prove to be invaluable in the future mitigating for heavy rains and floods.

Estes Park is fortunate to have a committee that works closely with the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, residents who know our community and can provide direct feedback on needs and opportunities. They were instrumental outreach and support.

CFNC is a solid contributor to this community; they are a constant, reliable and approachable. They are there for all of us. CFNC responded to the wild fires and flood; however, they are here when there are no disasters with their annual granting, attending this award ceremony and offering additional publicity for the nonprofits receiving grants. They truly represent Northern Colorado; all of us and not just the larger cities. Their leadership visit Estes Part frequently to simply “check-in”, offer estates planning educational opportunities or to meet about needs and opportunities.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this wonderful organization and all it has done to respond and to improve the lives of those in Northern Colorado. We are honored to write this letter and encourage you to strongly consider this nomination. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Frank Lancaster
Town Administrator, Estes Park
flancaster@estes.org
970-577-3705
& My Sister’s Place

National Philanthropy Day 2014
Letter of Support for Community Foundation of Northern Colorado Nomination

July 18, 2014

The flood of 2013 changed not only the landscape of the Estes Valley but also its people. It certainly changed me. I am the Executive Director of Estes Valley Victim Advocates and My Sister’s Place safehouse. I also live in the Big Thompson Canyon.

Thursday, September 11th was an ordinary work day for me. I watched some of the 9/11 coverage on TV and then planned on heading down to Fort Collins for a breakfast meeting. I didn’t get to Fort Collins. By the afternoon the river was going over the bridge to Hwy 34. By midnight my front yard and Waltonia Road had turned into a raging river.

And so began my personal and professional seven month ordeal. After four days with no communication from the outside world, a Black Hawk helicopter landed in the middle of the forest, picked us all up and flew us out of Waltonia – dogs, cats and all. We flew over the Big Thompson River, over the decimated town of Drake, Storm Mountain, Horsetooth Reservoir and into Fort Collins where a Red Cross bus waited to take us to an evacuation center. I had no idea the safehouse had flooded until I got to Fort Collins on Monday afternoon. Late Thursday, I finally got a ride to Estes Park. The first day back at the office was Friday, September 20th. I looked at the devastation of the flooded safehouse and talked to my staff who had been working nonstop ripping up carpet, tearing out linoleum, moving safehouse residents and children to other safe locations. Saturday I came in and physically worked for 8 hours straight. Sunday was working on the computer getting caught up. That first week, I worked nine long days straight.

I knew I needed to put a plan together quickly for raising money to fix the safehouse. This is where the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado comes in. When I called the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado it was like calling old friends. “What do you need?” they said. “How can we help?” and “Here’s our plan to help get your safehouse operational.” With the challenge grant from the Bohemian Foundation and the many wonderful local and out-of-town volunteers we were able to replace carpet, drywall, baseboards, and furnace ductwork. Walls were painted and the crawlspace was dried out and a vapor barrier put down. Our outside stairs had been compromised and were rebuilt. Mitigation work is still in process. With a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado we were able to do all these things and work with contractors. The amazing thing is the safehouse which was closed due to flooding September 13th, re-opened December 9th.
Because we are a small staff, never did we expect to be able to open in December. And while I was doing my director stuff I was also doing the things I personally had to do like calling FEMA and SBA and all the other disaster programs. I had to go to the disaster resource center for cleaning things, toothpaste and shampoo. I had to find a vehicle to drive and a place to live. I sat in lines, applied for resources, told my story over and over and over again. Basically I was head of a victim advocate agency and a victim myself!

Without the support of the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, we never would have been able to reopen the safehouse in two short months. Not only did they help us with creating a safe place for those in need but they also recognized we were “cash strapped.” Our annual fundraiser, which brings in about $13,000 annually and was to take place in October, had to be canceled. Because of this, we also received an operations grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado which helped us move forward into 2014.

Sometimes we in the Estes Valley feel isolated and separate from the rest of Colorado. The support shown us by the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado in our time of need has shown us that we have friends, supporters and champions. We are strengthened by our partnership with the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and are proud to be a part of this larger community that cares not only about individuals but the nonprofits which serve those individuals every day.

We wholeheartedly support this nomination for Outstanding Foundation, National Philanthropy Day 2014.

Sincerely,

Mary Mesropian

Mary Mesropian
Executive Director
Estes Valley Victim Advocates
My Sister’s Place
P.O. Box 1287
Estes Park, CO 80517