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# Partnerships

#### **BEYOND BARRIERS**

Beyond Barriers is the new name for the St. Vrain Valley Independent Living Fund. The name was chosen by a community member whose brother lives with a disability. Inspired by his brother's resilience in navigating challenges like securing employment, housing, and support at school, the name 'Beyond Barriers' reflects the courage and determination of those facing similar obstacles. This fund is dedicated to helping individuals live with dignity and independence, providing the support needed to overcome daily challenges.

#### NEW AMERICAN FUND

The Pathway Partners Program was renamed to New American Funds this year. This name was changed to give people a better understanding of what the fund is about. An El Comité de Longmont staff member was the first to get her citizenship through this fund. She had been dreaming about getting her citizenship for years. She has been eligible for many of those years, but the cost was always a barrier.

She came back to the El Comité office after her swearing-in and asked for help registering to vote. As she was filling out the online voter registration form, she turned back to Lisa Moreno, El Comité's Executive Director, and said quietly with tears in her eyes, "I've always wanted to vote."

# How Are Our Funds Affecting the Community?

### **BEN'S CLUB**

An officer requested funds for a woman who recently lost her baby and her husband was stationed out of state. Her car broke down and bills continued to accumulate. The officer asked for funds from Ben's Club to help her pay for basic needs and car repairs.

### **HOPE DIRECT**

In 2023 the Foundation's Board committed to investing an additional \$15,000 to bolster the impact of the HOPE Direct program.

Will and his family had a good life. They weren't rich but had all they needed until a serious car accident killed Will's wife and two small children. His life was seriously changed forever. Will ended up at the HOPE shelter for three months, heartbroken and distraught. As time passed, the HOPE staff were able to help him get a job and provided case management and much-needed support. Will was a kind person who helped out where he could.

When it was time for Will to move into a place of his own, HOPE reached out to Longmont Community Foundation for the HOPE Direct Program. HOPE Direct paid for Will's deposit on an apartment where he is successfully living and putting together a new version of his life together.



### LIVE AND GIVE

Born to Read, with its mission to support childhood literacy in the St. Vrain Valley, puts its funding from the Live and Give grants to good use! So far in 2024, they have already delivered 1,117 bags to our local hospitals. A recent evaluation was glowing in responses: "This bag is wonderful! Thank you, we love reading in our house!" One parent said she "absolutely loves" the Longmont Public Library card for the new baby, and that she "very much" felt more informed about the importance of reading to her baby.

Also, a nurse at UCHealth Longs Peak Hospital told Born to Read about how siblings enjoy reading BTR's books to their new brothers and sisters.

The Live and Give grant funding is crucial to their ability to continue this essential service to our community and its families.



Thanks to the generosity of donors we have helped our community provide 3 million in grants and scholarships. These efforts impact organizations focused on human services, healthcare, education, the arts, animals, and civic engagement. We're proud that this work helps create a better St. Vrain Valley for all.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

- Bequests: A gift made through your will or trust. It is one of the most popular and flexible ways that you can support the community.
- **Donor Advised Funds**: Make gifts to charity during your lifetime, and create a legacy of giving with your family.
- Beneficiary Designations: Designate the Live and Give Longmont Fund or Ascend St Vrain as a beneficiary of your retirement fund.
- Charitable Gift Annuity: Transfer cash or property to the Foundation and receive a tax benefit and payment during your lifetime.



# SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW



Awarded over \$200,000



Provided to 32 students



Through 21 scholarships





### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### Cullen Aasmundstad-Williams

Cullen is attending CSU pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering. He enjoys playing the violin, soccer, and running. He likes cooking and baking. Cullen attributes that to his experience in the district's Culinary Arts program. He comes from a single-parent household and is very grateful for the scholarships he received as he says they will help him focus on his studies at CSU.

Ascend St Vrain, Braly, Dr Jack, and Margaret Beynon Memorial



**Maria Padilla** 

Maria is a first-generation Latina. Her college journey began in 2018 at FRCC. She worked while taking two classes per semester. She received her Associate of Arts in Sociology five years later. In the fall of 2023, she started attending Metropolitan State University in Denver to pursue a bachelor's degree in Sociology. For the first time, Maria will be able to be a full-time student without financial barriers due to the generosity of the Arapahoe Pass donors.

**Arapahoe Pass** 

#### **Emmelia Ashton**

Emmelia utilized her scholarships to complete her degree at the Colorado School of Mines. She received a Bachelor of Science in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering and a minor in Biology. She graduated summa cum laude. She participated in many organizations while at Mines including the Society of Women Engineers, Tau Beta Pi Engineering Society, Keramos Ceramics Engineering Society, student government, the choir concert, and played for the Women's Club Rugby team. Emmelia plans to complete her M.S. in Materials Science at the Mines.

Ascend St. Vrain and The Davies



## RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Due to the continued generosity of many Longmont-area donors we awarded eight new Ascend St. Vrain Scholarships and renewed ten Ascend St Vrain Scholarships. Renewable scholarships are neither guaranteed nor automatic, and certain standards must be met for a recipient to renew. If the recipient continues to meet those standards, the scholarship continues to be awarded. This requires significant funding to keep a renewable scholarship program going. We are very grateful for every gift we receive on an annual basis. Please consider donating to or leaving Ascend St. Vrain Scholarship in your will or estate plans.

# COMMUNITY PROJECTS CATALOG



### **Projects**

Twice a year, we invite nonprofits to submit their projects or ideas for inclusion in our Community Projects Catalog. Included in this guide were 48 organizations with their projects or requests.



### Why?

This catalog was sent to our donors. They were able to find projects and organizations that aligned with their values and donate.



2023 Fall Edition
Community
Projects Catalog

