

The Place Where Change Happens



Community of Caring

Respect, Responsibility, Trust, Caring and Family



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Community of Caring Foundation family of staff and volunteers experience, along with the families and clients they serve, the phenomenal positive change that takes place when relationships are forged from foundations of mutual respect and a commitment to positive growth.

Executive Summary and Message from **Community of Caring Foundation**

*Executive Director Ted Borden and
Founder, Board Chairman Mary Bielz*

Dear Community Shareholder,

In 2025, Community of Caring celebrates its 26th year of actively demonstrating its commitment to “Building a Healthy Community.” No longer “the small non-profit with a big mission,” we have grown our programs, resources, partnerships and service delivery. As we continue to identify community needs, service gaps and health challenges, we are committed to reducing risk factors, while building protective factors for the benefit of the community we serve. We are committed to creating proven effective strategies and educational approaches to program implementation by enlisting our many skilled partners to make it happen.

Our concern is not with the amount of services, programs and client interactions provided (outputs); our concern centers on the positive impacts that benefit those we serve - clients, families, and community - to ensure wellness, economic vitality and risk factor reduction (outcomes). Our tenacious determination to effectively measure this impact has been the focus for Community of Caring over the past several years.

In 2024, we restructured several programs to improve effectiveness and maximize client success. Our Case Management, Financial Wellness, and Job Readiness/Career Development programs increased focus on creating goal-oriented success plans with over 600 clients. These programs produce life-changing results by providing valuable tools that build sustainability and greater independence. Every individual success helps to collectively build a better and healthier community!

Looking ahead, 2025 begins with breaking ground for construction of A Place for Kids Child Care Center and Exploratorium, and its opening in 2026. Phase 1 will accommodate up to 66 children from six weeks through age 12. This project is the largest undertaking ever for Community of Caring. It will require the help of the entire community. It will be strategic. It will be transparent. It will rely on the expertise of many intelligent, committed, passionate and talented partners. It will especially need YOUR support financially, spiritually and critically. The strategic growth of this community, the safety and welfare of our children, and the economic vitality of Teller County depends on all of us!

As we continue to expand volunteer opportunities, community engagement and outreach programs, there are numerous opportunities to bring the community together for the common goal - to make southern Teller County better, stronger, and more cohesive. We are all better individually when we are better collectively. The philosophy of this approach is simple: “People feel better and at their best when they work together for a common and positive goal.” Please join us in our commitment to making great things happen... through action, through working together, through our daily commitment to the greater good.

Respectfully,

Ted Borden
Executive Director

Mary Bielz
Founder - Chairman, Board of Directors

Community of Caring Foundation

Who We Are

The Community of Caring Foundation builds a better community as a “friendly, one-stop-shop” resource for food distribution, volunteers, senior activities, clothing, and training programs to assist community members towards self-sufficiency through diverse programming components. The Aspen Mine Center (AMC) and AMC West, located in Cripple Creek house 25 partner agencies and nonprofits to provide services and programs that were previously non-existent or inaccessible to our isolated mountain community.

Client services and programs connect those in need to appropriate resources, building community attachment, wellbeing and protective factors while providing a visible, neighborhood resource to the area’s highly transient and mobile population. Through these Centers, we are a conduit and host to several partner agencies providing services in our community.

Our services are divided in the following three categories: Emergency Services, Resources, and Programs. The Aspen Mine Center houses Administration, Food programs, Volunteer programs, Senior activities, Clothes Closet, Common Grounds Coffee Shop and Thrift Store. AMC West houses our Case Management Advocate Team, Workforce Center, and Partner Agencies.

Community of Caring addresses the health and socio-economic disparities of the underserved, under-resourced, and underfunded. We provide food security, financial stability, rental and utility assistance, workforce development, health equity, education support and early childhood opportunities. We also work to identify and address gaps, such as lack of housing and childcare, by mobilizing the community to work together and find solutions.



Aspen Mine Center



AMC West

FINANCIALS

To Our Grantors, Foundations & Donors ~ Thank You For Believing!

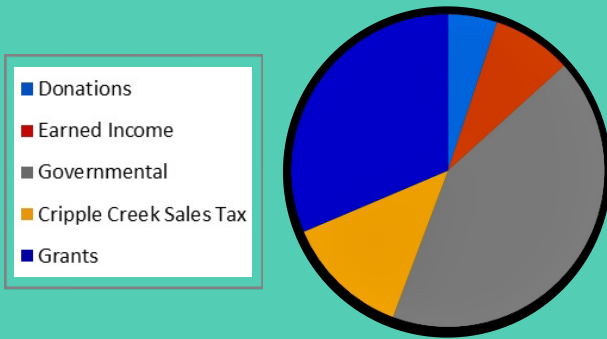
REVENUES

Revenues - \$1,711,019

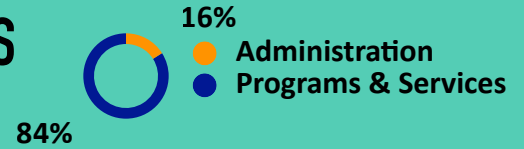
Capital Campaign - \$314,229

Individual/Business Donations - \$84,101

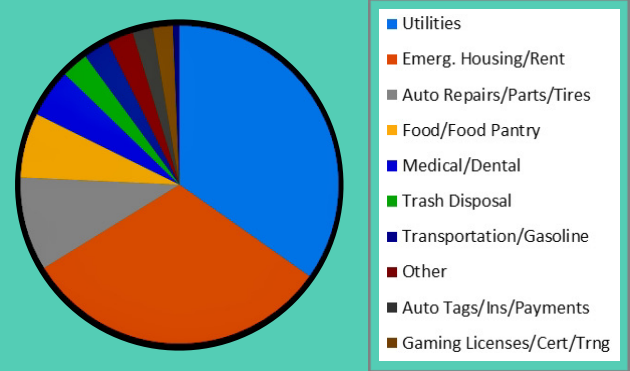
Enterprise Zone - \$5,250



EXPENSES



Emergency Assistance: \$190,480 - 912 households served
Expenses (with depreciation): \$1,717,926



A PLACE FOR KIDS received \$1,860,000 in grant funding and \$314,229 from the Capital Campaign towards our \$3.4 Million goal. Only \$1.2 Million more to go!

~ OUR SPONSORS ~

- ★ PIKES PEAK AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AREA AGENCY ON AGING
- ★ COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS
- ★ EL POMAR FOUNDATION
- ★ COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
- ★ B.P.O.E. LODGES #316 & #367
- ★ PIKES PEAK UNITED WAY
- ★ COLORADO SPRINGS HEALTH FOUNDATION
- ★ NEWMONT MINING CORPORATION
- ★ OSBORNE TRUST
- ★ TELLER COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE
- ★ PIKES PEAK WORKFORCE CENTER
- ★ CITY OF CRIPPLE CREEK
- ★ MYRON STRATTON FOUNDATION
- ★ TELLER COUNTY SALVATION ARMY
- ★ CITY OF VICTOR
- ★ COLORADO COMMUNITY HEALTH ALLIANCE
- ★ COLORADO BLUEPRINT FOR HUNGER
- ★ BLACK HILLS ENERGY
- ★ PARK STATE BANK & TRUST
- ★ SOUTHERN TELLER HOPE, LLC
- ★ WOODLAND PARK KIWANIS
- ★ ENERGY OUTREACH COLORADO
- ★ TELLER COUNTY
- ★ PIKES PEAK ROTARY
- ★ COMMUNITY BANKS OF COLORADO
- ★ HOPE LIVES HERE



And Thank You to All of Our Private Donors!

2024 IN REVIEW ~ Emergency Services, Resources & Programs

Community of Caring Case Management Specialists advocate on clients' behalf and help create their action plan, monitor and assess progress, and facilitate clients' connecting to resources.

CLIENT SERVICES

The Aspen Mine Center **Client Services Case Management Program** is the foundation of AMC. Our staff spends 1 1/2 to 2 hours with each new client to conduct needs assessment, collect baseline data, review budgets, and discuss and affirm short, intermediate and long term goals to provide a road map to success. This relationship-based program creates a trusting bond between clients and staff providing support, promoting clear expectations, skill building, opportunities and recognition. Advocates assist clients using 19 "social determinants of health," consistently monitoring and assessing client progress through an action plan, and then help with adjusting their plan to make the greatest impact upon their lives. Our staff served **639** unduplicated households, and spent **4,775** hours in direct services hours with clients.

Our **FDIC Financial Health Classes** help Clients striving for more intensive financial education with the opportunity to continue their journey towards home ownership, debt-free living, and/or increased financial health through working one-on-one with our advocates.

The **Senior Advocacy Case Management Program**, through **PPACG Area Agency on Aging** assisted **282** older adults remain independent and stable in their own homes, maximizing their quality of life. The **Senior Complex Needs Program** helped **59** elderly clients meet physical, emotional, financial and social isolation needs, providing additional assistance because of health conditions, loss of spouse, or decreasing independence. The **Senior Homemaker Program**, a short-term, first step for the elderly, assisted **13** clients remain independent in the comfort of their home.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC) served **992** clients with employment services including skills assessment, job postings and search engines, applications and resumes. PPWFC conducted **272** Job Coaching sessions with teen and adult students. PPWFC provides unemployment services including filing claims, certification and fulfilling reporting requirements, and facilitating direct communication with CDLE for complex issues.

Medicaid Members are offered Health First Colorado Medicaid resources, Benefit education, Assistance with finding Primary Care Physicians, Dentists and Specialists. Improved healthcare access and outcomes were realized for **1,986** members in Teller County.



2024 IN REVIEW

Community of Caring programs and services exist to provide food security, financial stability, rental and utility assistance, workforce development, health equity, education support and early childhood opportunities.



AMC Food Pantry: In 2024, **232** emergency food boxes were distributed benefitting **693** individuals. Through our **Longer Table** program, **620** pounds of fresh produce was provided to **92** individuals, and **117** individuals received miscellaneous free food and pet supplies. The St Peters/ St.Victor's Faith Family and many, many individual donors, faithfully contribute a variety of food items through Care and Share and other organizations, providing the Pantry with monthly donations. We received food valued in excess of **\$40,000** in 2024.

Commodities Program volunteers package and distribute USDA Food to qualifying residents of Teller County on a monthly basis. In 2024, **over 56,000** pounds of commodity food boxes were distributed to **919** Families and **348** boxes to Seniors.

The **Wild Wonderful Wednesdays Community Lunch Program**, in partnership with local churches, clubs, businesses, agencies and volunteers, provided and served **4,790** community members a weekly, nutritious luncheon. This vital, weekly program "builds a healthy community" by enhancing neighborhood attachment, prosocial engagement, connecting clients to local resources, promoting intergenerational and cross-economic interaction, and acceptance.

The **Client Hygiene Shower Program** is sponsored by The Catholic Daughters, who made available personal hygiene toiletries, shower shoes, clean socks and underwear to **436** clients.

The **AMC Clothes Closet** provides used clothes, blankets and linens to the community. Last year, **876** individuals used the Clothes Closet and **12,480** articles of clothing were given to those in need.

The **AMC Christmas Holiday Program** collaborates with local nonprofits to meet the needs of struggling families for Christmas. **173** families were given assistance through the AMC Angel Tree, Shop with a Hero, and Santa's Table. **94** teens were given gift cards, and **46** children were assisted through the Kiwanis Club's Sweet Dreams in a Bag bedding program. **350** people were served at the **Community Thanksgiving** meal.



2024 IN REVIEW

Thanks to our Volunteers, Community of Caring is able to supplement so many essential programs and services. Their dedication and engagement helps provide food, activities, clothing, essentials, and extras to the community.



Aspen Mine Center Gift & Thrift Resale Shop relies strictly on donated goods from the community with **19** volunteers donating nearly **7,000** hours per year. The AMC Thrift Shop generated over **\$85,000** in revenue which is dedicated to CoC's programs and emergency assistance fund.

Common Grounds Coffee Shop is a community gathering place for coffee and conversation located inside the AMC, offers food, and specialty coffees through a job training program thanks to a grant from the El Pomar Foundation.

Book Exchange Library - Members of the community generously donate reading and viewing material including children's books, fiction and non-fiction literature, magazines, and DVD movies.

The **Teller County Resource Group Coalition (TCRG)** meets monthly to share agency presentations, updates, and to disseminate information benefitting the clients from our communities, while preventing duplication of services, and increasing provider knowledge. There are **215** agencies currently listed in the TCRG directory.

THANK YOU to our volunteers and partners.
We could not do what we do without you!

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Our **Volunteer Program** participants contributed over **10,500** hours of volunteer time valued at **\$178,500**. **50** people from the local community donated their time and efforts to enhance and amplify Community of Caring programs and services.

Community of Caring serves as a **judicial, court-ordered Community Service Program** site. CoC facilitated **20** individuals' fulfillment of **1,000** hours of court-ordered community service requirements, with many continuing as regular volunteers long after their service is completed.

Pioneers in Public Service & Philanthropy and the City of Cripple Creek Community Allocation Project, partners community youth and city officials with allocation of **\$22,000** funds per year to area non-profits. Since its beginnings 23 years ago, as a collaboration between the El Pomar Youth in Community Service Program and Cripple Creek, over **310** high school students leadership, philanthropy, and civic engagement skills, to award grant funding determined through interviews and community needs assessments. Since its inception, this project has funded over **\$774,000** to **340** programs, projects, and nonprofits.

The **Community of Caring Scholarship Program** endows two **\$1,000** scholarships for graduating seniors, as well as continuing-education students who exemplify our values and history of community volunteerism.





Community of Caring Foundation

BOARD of DIRECTORS

MISSION

Building a healthy community and individual self-sufficiency by promoting the values of respect, responsibility, trust, caring and family.

VISION

Actively employ resources, programs and collaborative partnerships to build a vibrant, healthy community, and strategically promote, implement and sustain systems change.



Mary Bielz

Founder, Board Chairman



Martha Hubbard

Vice Chairman



Joan Rook

Secretary



Tony Perry

Treasurer



Dan Williams

Board Member



Mike Rulo

Board Member



Miriam Mondragon

Board Member



Reed Grainger

Board Member



Jackie Sunshine-Mitchell

Board Member