Words Matter Award

Nominations Sought

Two local organizations, the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley and the Gunnison County Library District, are teaming up to present "Words Matter" awards to one or more Gunnison County residents this summer. They are now accepting nominations.

The awards will go to individuals whose "words," either written or spoken, or both, have resulted in a positive impact on some aspect of Gunnison County.

The criteria for the awards include, but are not limited to, how an individual's words have achieved one or more of the following:

- Inspired positive action
- Empowered one or many people
- Affected positive change
- Civility during a time of partisan bickering,
- Courage in the face of opposition,
- Inclusiveness in the face of discrimination
- Through quiet persuasiveness, earning the respect of friends and opponents alike

Library District Director Larry Meredith stated that there will be an "adult" division and a "youth" division (up to and including age 18).He added that the "words" could have been published as a book or an article, spoken in a speech, penned as class assignment, or the above criteria may have been demonstrated over a period of time. He said some demonstrated good must come from the "words."

Pam Montgomery, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley, said that nomination forms are available at the public libraries in Gunnison and Crested Butte, at the office of the Community Foundation (805 West Tomichi) or online at www.cfgv.org and www.gunnisoncountylibraries.org. She noted that Meredith came up with the award idea and that it stems from the Foundation's "Civility Initiative" that was started when Meredith was a member of the Foundation Advisory Committee. "We believe this is an award that many may deserve to receive," she said, "and, considering the divisions in our country today, the timing is right to remind ourselves of the need for calm, reasoned debate and discussion."

Nominations are due by June 1. For more information contact Meredith at 641-7903 or lmeredith@marmot.org, or Montgomery at 641.8837 or pam@cfgv.org.