

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: July 17, 2008  
Contact: Pam Montgomery  
Phone: 641-8837

### **NONPROFITS AND VOLUNTEERS SHINE IN THE VALLEY**

At an awards ceremony held Thursday, July 17th at the Aspinall-Wilson Center on the Western State College campus, The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley distributed \$58,700 in grants to a wide variety of nonprofits serving the Gunnison Valley.

Also given was the Volunteer of the Year award. Nominated were: Ethel Rice (Hospice and Palliative Care of the Gunnison Valley), Gene Spinner (Adaptive Sports Center), Kiley Flint (Crested Butte Land Trust), Pat Venturo (Gunnison County Literacy Action Program), Reta Calkins (Gunnison County Senior Resources Office), and Marketa Zubkova (Gunnison County Multicultural Resource Office). The award was given to Marketa Zubkova. Among her many caring services, Marketa has accompanied more than 40 women to multiple prenatal appointments, providing invaluable continuity for both patient and provider by building deep trust as she translates patient concerns and doctor instructions. It is no wonder she is known as “Tia” or “Aunt” to many of our community’s babies.

During the grant award ceremony, Foundation Board Vice Chair and Vice President, Mark Ewing, brought tears to many eyes when he talked about nonprofits in terms of being those who hold others up, those who sound an alarm, and those who rescue neighbors in need. In the room were staff, board and volunteers of nonprofits that provide strength for our neighbors who need it, protect our environment and preserve our heritage, rescue the abandoned, allow us to express ourselves artistically through music, dance, theatre and the written word, build character in our children and provide safe harbor for those at risk of violence. Board members, staff and volunteers of the Valley’s nonprofits give their lives and energy to the agencies that provide services necessary to keep our Valley viable and vibrant.

In its 2008 competitive grant cycle, the Foundation awarded grants to groups in the areas of animal welfare, arts and culture, health & human services, the environment, education, athletics and recreation, and historic preservation. Co-Chair of the Grants Committee, Don Haver, said “Grant requests are in indication of the breadth of need in our community. We are pleased to be able to support so many critical programs – to make the difference we can through the process we use.” He also commented that requests were double the amount available for granting. Anne Kinder, also a Co-Chair of the committee said that, from a personal standpoint, “It is a real honor to work through the Foundation with all the nonprofits that do so much to make this valley such a wonderful place.”

Groups receiving the competitive grant awards include: Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League for their work in rescuing animals and teaching humane behavior; Artists of the West Elks for their Visiting Artist Series which includes lectures and workshops; Celebrate the Beat to help with fees for the artists who use dance and music as a medium to teach that energy, discipline, hard work, commitment and a joyful concentration can lead to success; Crested Butte Center for the Arts for their new Kid's Art Camp to be offered in August; Crested Butte Friends of the Library for a collaboration with the Gunnison Friends of the Library and formation of the Crested Butte Writers to promote writing in the entire valley and beyond; Crested Butte Mountain Theatre for professional musicians for the production of "Into the Woods"; Crested Butte Music Festival for summer dance workshops in the Gunnison County Communities with a goal of deepening the relationship between art and life; Gunnison Arts Center for scholarships for the Summer Youth Arts Institute that will increase access to the arts and eliminate the reputation of the arts as elitist; Adaptive Sports Center for summer and winter programs for up to 30 local kids with disabilities to teach new life skills and to build a deeper level of comfort with their own abilities; Crested Butte Nordic Council for office equipment to make the program run more smoothly; Crested Butte Ski Club for general operating expenses as they expand the number of skiers who will be part of their program; West Elk Soo Bahk Do for the Gunnison Middle School program which promotes character growth; Western State College Rescue Team for replacement of equipment; Literacy Action Program in support of 40 weeks of year round programming of Adult ESL and Family Literacy, 32 weeks of GED classes and 28 weeks of summer and winter adult ESL programming in Crested Butte; Paradise Place in support of financial assistance to local working families for preschool tuition; Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory for bus service between towns of Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte and Gothic; Stepping Stones Children's Center for their tuition Assistance Program; Tenderfoot Child and Family Development Center for equipment and materials and staff training as specified by the Qualistar evaluation program; Crested Butte Land Trust to assist in the preservation and protection of conservation properties from the degrading impacts of invasive and exotic noxious weeds; Office of Resource Efficiency for the educational portion of an updated website; Crested Butte Mt Heritage Museum in support of painting the museum to guard against moisture and UV damage; Bright Beginnings for expansion and continuation of their parenting programs to families with children 24 – 36 months of age; Hospice and Palliative Care of the Gunnison Valley in support of development of a county-wide bereavement program that supports families for at least 13 months following the loss of a family member; Jubilee House of Gunnison County for direct services, including safe shelter, crisis counseling, therapy, victim compensation assistance and personal advocacy to victims of violent crimes in; Gunnison Hindsdale Youth Services (Partners) for support in strengthening and growing mentoring efforts – positive relationships help our young people grow into healthy adults; Gunnison Valley Alliance for Community Restorative Justice for a new program of Family Group Decision Making conferences for those referred by the Gunnison Probation Office; Gunnison County Senior Resources for continuation of the Senior Scoop project;

and Six Points Evaluation and Training for a consultant to work with the agency in the areas of board development and organizational matters to help the agency better live its mission.

“The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley is committed to strengthening the community through our role as a resource for donors, nonprofits and the community as a whole,” said Pam Montgomery, Executive Director of the Foundation. “Through our donor services we serve as a convenient vehicle for individuals and businesses to invest in the community today through our grants programs and build resources for tomorrow through endowment. The generosity of our donors allows us to support the nonprofit organizations that meet the many needs in our community both with grants and with organizational assistance. Our work is made possible by our many donors – it is they who allow us to address current and emerging needs in the Valley.” The Foundation’s assets are slightly over five million dollars in restricted and unrestricted funds.

For further information, to become a donor or to join the Foundation’s growing cadre of volunteers, please call 970/641-8837.