

Press Release

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Gunnison Area Community Foundation and Crested Butte Community Foundation Sign  
Memorandum of Understanding Regarding a Proposal to Merge

Community foundations in Gunnison and Crested Butte have agreed to consider consolidating their efforts. The boards of directors of both local community foundations, in separate meetings, agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining steps that could lead to a merger as early as this fall.

The two foundations are the Gunnison Area Community Foundation and the Crested Butte Community Foundation.

“We believe a merger makes sense for the nonprofits in our valley and the entire community,” said Tim Fretthold, board president of the CBCF, “and members of both boards have been working hard to see these two organizations come together as The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley.”

Board members say that joining the two existing organizations will bring together the knowledge, talent, networks, and experience of two successful organizations into a single foundation, uniting two equals in one cause.

“A single community foundation working with all donors, including full and part-time residents, and our communities’ many non-profit organizations will facilitate a greater understanding of the interests of both and will result in a more effective response to local concerns and needs.” said Diane Mueller. “Greater financial resources, a more efficient nonprofit sector, a stronger social fabric, a community culture of philanthropy and a higher quality of life in perpetuity will be the result,” she said.

Board members say the area’s nonprofits will continue to be served through grants and consultation services enabling stronger nonprofits to carry out their missions more effectively. In addition, the Foundation will continue to serve as a neutral convener to encourage community solutions for community concerns. The Foundation will join with nonprofits, government agencies, other foundations and community members and groups to develop solutions for current and emerging community issues.

“Our donor bases overlap and we currently work with many of the same nonprofits in the valley,” said Mark Ewing, board president of the GACF. “We expect that combining our strengths will create a more efficient and effective community foundation for the Valley’s donors, nonprofits and the community as a whole.”

Under the agreement Diane Mueller, now a board member of GACF, would become board chair of the new organization; Tim Fretthold, now president of the CBCF would become board president; Mark Ewing, current GACF president would become both board vice president and vice chair; and Pam Montgomery, now executive director of GACF, would become executive director of the new organization. Amy Shellenberger would continue with the new organization which will maintain offices in both Crested Butte and Gunnison.

“There’s yet a lot of work to do,” said Pam Montgomery, “and with unanimous support from both boards, we’re quite confident that this merger is going to take place and that the final outcome will be enhanced services for the Valley’s donors and nonprofits. Our feeling is that this is the right time and the right move for the good of the Valley.”

To read the Memorandum of understanding, please visit [www.thegacf.org](http://www.thegacf.org) .