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For Immediate Release

Contact: Pam Montgomery  
641-8837 pam@thegacf.org

## The Gunnison Area Community Foundation in Top Philanthropic Tier Nationally *Local Organization Meets Rigorous Standards for Quality and Accountability*

Gunnison, Colorado – The Gunnison Area Community Foundation received notification on October 16<sup>th</sup> that it has met the nation’s highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability. The notice comes from the Council on Foundations, a national professional association based in Washington, D.C.



“This is similar to the Good Housekeeping Seal for community foundations,” said Steve Gunderson, Council on Foundations president and chief executive officer. “It says that The Gunnison Area Community Foundation has demonstrated a

commitment to operational quality, integrity and accountability.”

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. There are almost 800 community foundations in the United States and The Gunnison Area Community Foundation is among the approximately 350 foundations that are confirmed in compliance nationwide. The program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

“This is critically important to our donors,” said Mark Ewing, Gunnison Area Community Foundation president. “When people make a donation, create a charitable bequest, or establish a fund, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage their gifts and our investments wisely and honor their charitable wishes. The National Standards confirmation says our house is in order.”

The Gunnison Area Community Foundation offers a wide range of charitable funds, some of which allow donors to advance a cause such as education or the environment, support an individual organization, provide flexible support for community needs or recommend individual grants. The Foundation also holds endowments for charitable agencies and hosts fiscal sponsorships for budding charitable organizations and community

*Gunnison Area Community Foundation National Standards/ add 1*

groups raising funds for particular programs. In addition to affirming the organization's philanthropic services, the confirmation validates The Gunnison Area Community Foundation's grantmaking practices for the nonprofit community.

"Some say it's easier to create wealth than to give money away wisely," said Diane Mueller, a Board member of The Gunnison Area Community Foundation. "There's some truth in that. Grantmaking is a lot like investing...we need to assess risks, weigh potential gains, diversify assets, monitor performance and operate fairly. When you see the National Standards Seal, you can be assured that we're committed to meeting the highest standards for grantmaking as well."

Through philanthropic services, strategic investments and community leadership, The Gunnison Area Community Foundation helps people support the causes they care about, now and for generations to come. To contact the Foundation, please call 641-8837.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations program is the first of its kind for charitable foundations in the United States.

The Council on Foundations is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit membership association of more than 2,000 grantmaking foundations and corporations, with assets totaling more than \$280 billion. The Council provides the opportunity, leadership and tools needed by philanthropic organizations to expand, enhance and sustain their ability to advance the common good. For more information on the Council, visit its website at [www.cof.org](http://www.cof.org).

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