

PRESS RELEASE:

The Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley opened the New Year on a positive note Wednesday, January 2nd, celebrating the accomplishments of the Valley's non-profits with over \$30,000 in community grants at its winter award ceremony at the Crested Butte Center for the Arts

The product of a recent union of the Gunnison Area Community Foundation and Crested Butte Community Foundation, the CFGV awarded a larger sum than either foundation had previously bestowed individually. "Part of the reason for merging the foundations was to have a greater impact on the community through our programs," said Executive Director Pam Montgomery. "In the short term, our plan is to grow the amount we're able to give with each new grant cycle; in the long term our intent is to build endowments that will serve the changing needs in the community forever."

CFGV Board Chair Diane Mueller, President Tim Fretthold and 2007 Grants Chair Don Haver presented checks to the following organizations: Adaptive Sports Center – winter ski program for Valley students with special needs; Bright Beginnings – design and implementation of Bright Beginnings group visits for families with children under 36 months of age, both in Spanish and in English; Crested Butte Community School Enrichment Program – enhancing educational opportunities for students and promoting school-wide enrichment through assemblies, performances and artist-in-residence programs; Crested Butte Mountain Theatre – attendance of a dozen Crested Butte teenagers at the Rocky Mountain Theatre Association Festivention in Denver; Crested Butte Music Festival – publication of a new pocket calendar; Crested Butte Ski Club – assistance with coaches' travel expenses at USSA-sanctioned races; Crested Butte Wildflower Festival – production of a zero-waste event; Gunnison Country Partners – assistance in volunteer recruitment, volunteer training, case management and other support services for 30 school-based mentoring matches; *Gunnison Valley Journal* – assistance with publication of 2008 edition of the *Gunnison Valley Journal*; Gunnison Valley Animal Welfare League – veterinary treatment of the Valley's rescued and relinquished pet animals awaiting adoption, and support of an education campaign encouraging spay/neuter procedures; Habitat for Humanity – educational brochure; Light Program – low income sliding scale vouchers for healthcare for uninsured or underinsured Gunnison County residents; Jubilee House – seed money for transitional housing program for victims of domestic violence; Literacy Action Program – organizational staff training facilitating better service for adult English as a Second Language students and Tot-Parent participants; Office for Resource Efficiency – technology upgrade; Public Policy Forum – general operating support; Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory – free science education pilot program for children ages 5-10 and their families at the Old Rock Community Library and Ann Zugelder Library; Senior Resource Center – seed money for a trial program informing senior citizens of current activities in the community; Six Points Evaluation and Training – roof upgrade for a residence and Artists' Program supplies; Stepping Stones Children's Center – for-credit continuing education class-work for staff; Tenderfoot Child and Family Development Center – purchase and installation of an upright sunshade structure for toddler playground.

The community foundation extended grants to organizations focusing on a variety of issues – from animal welfare to social services to education – and recipients ranged from those who had

previously received awards from both the GACF and the CBCF to brand-new applicants. Commented first-time recipient Nancy Dolezal of Jubilee House, “The Transitional Housing Project for survivors of domestic violence is long overdue, and for the foundation to understand the need, to believe in our work and to take a risk on a new program with seed money is a giant step in the right direction for us and for the community. We’re thrilled to receive this much-needed grant from the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley. What can I say, but thank you!”

For more information or to offer your support to the Community Foundation of the Gunnison Valley, please call 970-641-8837 or e-mail nancy@gacf.org or amy@gacf.org.