Boulder County Wildfire Fund

Two Years of Support
Within hours, Community Foundation Boulder County created the Boulder County Wildfire Fund to support the immediate, short-, and long-term needs of the community. The global outpouring of generosity that followed was inspiring, and together, the fund raised over $43 million from over 82,000 donations. In the immediate days following the fire, affected households received over $7 million in direct financial assistance. In the days, weeks, and months that followed, the community foundation worked closely with local, state, and federal entities to provide mental health services, cover basic needs, assist with rebuilding, and support unfunded nonprofit services.

As of December 2023, Community Foundation Boulder County has disbursed over $30 million. Over 95% of the fund is allocated and being disbursed as needed to support the community. This includes balances remaining for rebuilding and support for ongoing needs including housing support and mental health services.

As the Boulder County community’s most trusted philanthropic partner, Community Foundation Boulder County continues to work closely with all stakeholders to help support our community’s recovery.
December 30, 2021
• Marshall Fire damages or destroys over 1,000 homes in Boulder County
• Community Foundation Boulder County creates the Boulder County Wildfire Fund the evening of December 30, 2021

January 2022
• $7 million in direct financial support from the Boulder County Wildfire Fund is provided to those affected by the Marshall Fire
• Local volunteer advisory committee is established to help guide the foundation’s decision-making process
• The community foundation makes a grant to United Policyholders, a nonprofit organization which serves as an advocate and source of guidance and support for disaster victims and insurance consumers throughout the United States

February 2022
• The community foundation approves a pair of grants to Jewish Family Service and Impact on Education to provide mental health support for those affected by the Marshall Fire

May 2022
• Boulder County Wildfire Fund announces priority areas including rebuilding support, supporting the most vulnerable, and providing wraparound services
  - Rebuilding support: $20 million of the Boulder County Wildfire Fund is allocated to support rebuilding efforts
  - Supporting the most vulnerable: Community Foundation Boulder County announces the creation of an Unmet Needs Program to support those affected by the Marshall Fire experiencing financial hardship for unmet basic needs
  - Wraparound services: The community foundation works with Boulder County government to set up and host a recovery navigation program for survivors to access all available resources in one place

August 2022
• Recovery Navigators program opens
• The community foundation makes a grant to Marshall Together, a survivor group which builds community infrastructure for those affected by the Marshall Fire to keep neighbors socially connected after they were physically displaced due to the fire
• Boulder County completes the construction phase of its debris removal program. The community foundation supports these efforts with funds from the Boulder County Wildfire Fund, aiding rebuilding timelines and mitigating larger community impacts

December 2022
• Community Foundation Boulder County provides funding for commemorative events at the 1-year anniversary of the Marshall Fire
• The community foundation partners with Resource Central, a local environmental nonprofit, to provide waterwise gardens for those who lost their homes
• First Marshall Fire-affected household completes reconstruction and moves into their new home

February–March 2023
• The community foundation approves a suite of grants to nonprofits that rose to meet the community’s needs by providing financial support, animal welfare support, and wraparound services in the immediate aftermath of the fire (a complete list of grants can be found on page 5)

November 2023
• The community foundation allocates $5 million for a new Housing Support Program to help offset housing costs after insurance coverage ends in December 2023
Financial Summary

Interest: $878,829
Raised: $43,402,452

Total Revenue: $44,281,281

Revenue as of 11/31/2023

Expenses

Total Approved: $40,962,213
Total Paid: $30,397,463
Balance: $2,451,019
Fees: $868,049
Interest: $878,829

Expenses as of 12/21/2023

Revenue as of 11/31/2023
Expenses as of 12/21/2023
Support Provided

Community Foundation Boulder County has taken a people-first, trauma-aware approach to the allocation and distribution of donations made to the Boulder County Wildfire Fund. Recommendations are discussed and made by a volunteer local advisory committee and approved by the community foundation’s Board of Trustees. Distributions are made according to the needs of the community and at the pace of the community’s recovery. The fund is invested in an FDIC-insured money market sweep account, with all interest going towards providing additional support for the community.
Grant Highlights

Community Foundation Boulder County & Boulder County:
Immediate Direct Financial Assistance

Best practices in the field of philanthropy encourage community foundations to focus on services — food, shelter, blankets, etc. — in post-disaster response. Community Foundation Boulder County took a both/and approach, following the data and behaviors of people and funding accordingly. People left shelters in the days that followed the Marshall Fire, but still needed financial support as they waited for insurance support and/or unemployment benefits to kick in. A Disaster Assistance Center was set up by the county as a one-stop shop for fire-affected families. The Disaster Assistance Center allowed those in need to access a variety of resources while enabling the county to gather as much data as possible on the fire-affected community to help inform decisions moving forward.

The community foundation deployed direct financial assistance — in partnership with Boulder County’s Housing and Human Services department — at the disaster assistance center (and beyond) in the following ways:

**Fire, smoke and/or wind-damaged/destroyed households:**

- **$2,500/$5,000**
  via check or gift card depending on household size

**Lost livelihood:**

- **$1,200**
  via check or gift card
- **$500**
  for lost “tools of the trade”

Amounts provided by the community foundation for financial assistance are significantly higher than most institutions provide after a disaster.
Grant Highlights

Community Foundation Boulder County & Boulder County: Immediate Direct Financial Assistance

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<th>Distribution Type</th>
<th>Total Amount Distributed</th>
<th>Portion of Total Supported by Fund</th>
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<td>Damaged &amp; Destroyed, Smoke &amp; Ash, Evacuee Households</td>
<td>$6,935,625</td>
<td>$5,837,896</td>
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<td>Wind Damage</td>
<td>$1,505,000</td>
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<td>Livelihood and Lost Wages and Small Business Support</td>
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<td>Broomfield</td>
<td>$750</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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*Totals represent amount distributed by Boulder County with portion of the total amount supported by the community foundation’s Boulder County Wildfire Fund and Elevations Foundation. Total support from the Boulder County Wildfire Fund is represented by the Distribution Type table above.
Grant Highlights


To help meet the basic needs of the most financially vulnerable, the community foundation committed $2.5 million, based on census data and national data on financial needs post-disaster. Recovery Navigators and Impact Development Fund worked directly with individuals and families, including renters, to identify and meet basic needs including housing, clothing, transportation, and medical needs. Over $1.3 million has been distributed as of November 22, 2023, with support continuing until all funds are spent.

- **Total Number of Households Helped**: 147
- **Total Number of Need Requests Served**: 534
- **Average Total Funding Per Household**: $8,991
- **Average Number of Awards Per Household**: 3.6

**Items Funded = 604**

- **Basic Needs** (Food, Clothing, Childcare)
- **Bills** (Auto, Insurance, Medical, Storage, Utilities)
- **Furnishings and Appliances**
- **Housing**
- **Other** (Other, Smoke Remediation, Trade)

Recovery Navigator Grand Opening. Photos courtesy Boulder County.
Grant Highlights

Impact Development Fund: Rebuild Fund

The clear and largest barrier to recovering after a disaster is often underinsurance. Colorado’s Division of Insurance estimated underinsurance gaps from the Marshall Fire in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Community Foundation Boulder County committed to supporting people with insurance gaps by providing over $20 million to support rebuilding efforts. The national average for homebuilding recovery in the aftermath of wildfires is 25% of homes rebuilt within 5 years.* Now, just two years after the Marshall Fire, over 72% of households have applied for building permits and over 26% of homes have been rebuilt.

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Tatiana Hernandez and recovery partners receiving the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships – Photo Courtesy of Council on Foundations

Grant Highlights

Jewish Family Service: Boulder County Crisis Counseling

Recognizing the emotional toll of experiencing and navigating life after a disaster, Jewish Family Service and Community Foundation Boulder County partnered to offer counseling services to support the mental health needs of those affected by the Marshall Fire. The program offers ten free individual or family counseling sessions for youths and adults from over 250 licensed mental health providers. The Boulder County Crisis Counseling program has served over 450 households whose homes were damaged or destroyed in the Marshall Fire. The program is expanding in 2024, by offering 5 additional sessions to fire survivors who are still processing the events of December 30, 2021, and recovering from the losses they have experienced.

"It is impossible to over-emphasize how important this giving was in helping us move forward and find our feet again."

The people are not given a timeframe on how long they have to complete these sessions and have expressed the desire to spread out their ten sessions and save some sessions knowing that the process of moving back into their rebuilt homes could be mentally and emotionally challenging.
Grant Highlights

Marshall Together

In the wake of the Marshall Fire, a self-organized group of community members affected by the fire came together to form Marshall Together. This group collectively works toward supporting friends and neighbors as the community heals and rebuilds. Marshall Together serves as a central hub of resources, announcements, events, and community. Maintaining social cohesion is an important psychological component to healing and supporting people as they work through the process of recovering.

The Community

- 1,500 members of Marshall Together on Slack with over 70,000 messages shared in the last 2 years
- Nearly 2,000 members on Marshall Together’s email list with just under 50 email newsletters
- 50 community liaisons across Louisville, Superior, and Unincorporated Boulder County
- 7 community wide events with 300–500 attendees and countless other neighborhood events hosted by community liaisons

The Marshall Together Team and Volunteers

- Marshall Together volunteers have distributed 500 trees to over 180 families
- Marshall Together volunteers have and continue to assemble and deliver Welcome Home bags for families returning to their homes. Over 200 Welcome Home bags have been delivered so far

The Value of Social Infrastructure

- The neighborhoods that have gathered more frequently are returning to their homes faster than those who haven’t
- Using their platform, Marshall Together has been able to organize the community of fire survivors, saving an average $20,000–$150,000 per family from various tax incentives

Photos Courtesy of Marshall Together
Grant Highlights

United Policyholders: Roadmap to Recovery Program

United Policyholders was established to be an advocate and source of guidance and support for disaster victims and insurance consumers throughout the United States. Starting with the Oakland/Berkeley fire in 1991, the UP Roadmap to Recovery® program has helped improve recovery for hundreds of thousands of disaster survivors and their communities.

As a seasoned partner in long-term recovery efforts, United Policyholders often shares the maxim that “recovery is a marathon, not a sprint.” This is especially true after disasters like the Marshall Fire that impact thousands of people, roads, access, infrastructure, labor and material costs, and the supply of qualified local professional help. Insurance funds are critically important to finance recovery, yet 76% of Marshall Fire survivors currently find themselves underinsured (generally through no fault of their own) and intimidated by a challenging claim process.

Through funding provided by the Boulder County Wildfire Fund, United Policyholders was able to provide immediate recovery support at the Disaster Assistance Center, renew their partnerships with Colorado government agencies and officials and nonprofit organizations, and focus on facilitating the flow of useful, accurate, and timely information and guidance to impacted households through their Roadmap to Recovery program. This ongoing program includes a series of informative classes and workshops, clinics, outreach and support offerings, data gathering, and problem-solving resources with United Policyholders partners. United Policyholders will continue to assist the fire survivors as long as they are needed.

"We thought UP was a priceless resource. We were very grateful for your support and services. Thank you!!"

Roadmap to Recovery Snapshot

1,557 households served with webinars, in-person events, special events, clinics, Ask an Expert, etc.

5,513 unique users served through an online Marshall Fire Insurance and Recovery Disaster Library

1,100+ Recovery Handbooks provided to Marshall Fire survivors

68 virtual educational workshops, Q&A webinars, survivor to survivor forums

10 live events on topics pertinent to Marshall Fire survivor needs, including maximizing insurance funds, resilient rebuilding, etc.

4 virtual pro bono legal clinics

2 virtual pro bono financial decision-making clinics

3 Marshall Fire Recovery Surveys in partnership with the Colorado Division of Insurance at 6 months, 12 months, and 2 years
Grant Highlights

United Policyholders:
Insurance Claim Help Pilot Project

Community Foundation Boulder County also funded a unique pilot project that paired United Policyholders’ nonprofit “consumer advocacy” organization with “Team Putnam,” a group of retired, independent, and former front-line insurance experts, to provide one-on-one support to help explain the claims process and the insurance coverages available to finance fire survivors’ recovery. This one-on-one help with experts allowed affected households to better understand the total insurance benefits available, underinsurance, smoke/thermal damage (denials of Additional Living Expense coverage, payment for professionals, and remediation costs), and denial of Building Code Compliance/Law and Ordinance coverage for those looking to purchase a replacement home.

“Thank you for being there when I was feeling most vulnerable and helpless. The advice I received gave me the confidence and information I needed to communicate better with my insurance company.”

175
Consults

20+
In-person consults

13
Referrals to United Policyholders pro bono legal appointments

Multiple consults with Wildflower Condo HOA board and individual condo owners

United Policyholders volunteer appreciation event: John Putnam (Insurance Help Pilot Project lead), Garry Sanfaçon, and United Policyholders Executive Director Amy Bach – Photo by Eric Patzer courtesy of United Policyholders
Grant Highlights

Resource Central: Garden in a Box Program

Established in 1976, Resource Central is a nonprofit focused on creating innovative programs that help people save water, conserve energy, and reduce waste. With support from Community Foundation Boulder County, Resource Central distributed over 375 Garden in a Box kits to 199 Marshall Fire survivors. This program helped those affected by the Marshall Fire to rebuild their landscapes with waterwise gardens which will not only look great, but conserve water for years to come. As more families complete the building process, Resource Central is expecting even more Garden in a Box kits to be distributed in the spring and fall of 2024.

2023 Program Highlights:
• 118 gardens distributed to 61 spring participants
• 260 gardens distributed to 138 fall participants
• Firewise Landscaping webinar with 122 attendees
• Distribution of community marketing materials
• Volunteer collaboration with Ball Engineering

Looking Toward 2024:
• Community outreach events in September and October
• New garden selection featuring a fully native, part-shade garden
• 347 approved participants for Spring of 2024
• 29 approved participants for Fall 2024
• Continuing firewise landscaping education

“...The loss of our flower gardens has been very hard. This was an offer that was generous beyond measure.”

Photos Courtesy of Resource Central
Thank You

The Boulder County Wildfire Fund was built by over 82,000 donations totaling over $43M. We, along with the entire community, are grateful to every individual, small business, group of friends, and lemonade stand who contributed to the fund. The outpouring was an incredible testament to the love and compassion that exists in Colorado and beyond. Below we are recognizing the generosity of donors over $100,000.

- Albertsons-Safeway Foundation
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Ball Foundation
- Bank of Colorado
- Bank of the West
- Betsy and Michael Billinghurst
- The Carter Chapman Shreve Family Foundation
- Chevron
- Circle K Stores
- Civitas
- Colorado Rockies Baseball Club Foundation
- The Colorado Trust
- Denver Broncos
- FirstBank
- Flatiron Construction
- Freeport-McMoRan Foundation
- Fugere Family Fund
- Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
- Hunter Douglas
- Kaiser Permanente Community Health Fund
- The Katz Amsterdam Charitable Trust
- Kroenke Sports Charities
- Kroger
- Laurie G. Schoen
- Lennar Foundation
- LivWell
- Martha Piper
- The McDonald Family
- MDC/Richmond American Homes Foundation
- Mike and Michelle Elings
- Noodles & Co.
- Pinnacol
- Schlessman Family Foundation
- Seagate Technologies
- Stephens Family Foundation
- Target Corporation
- Trimble, Inc.
- Vail Resorts
- Vaisala
- Veeps
- Virginia W. Hill Foundation
- Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Markets Inc.
- The William Kistler Coors Foundation
- Whole Foods
- Wood Family Fund
- Workday Foundation
# Partner Acknowledgements

## Boulder County Wildfire Fund Advisory Committee

### Committee Members
- Scott Beard, Trustee, Community Foundation Boulder County
- Ellen Berry, Marshall Fire survivor (Unincorporated Boulder County)
- Carly Hare, Portfolio Director, Colorado Health Foundation
- Stuart Kingsbery – CPA, Origin CPA Group
- Jonathan Lev, Executive Director, Boulder JCC
- Richard Lopez, attorney & Board President, Calwood
- Ann O’Connell, former Planning Commission member, City of Louisville
- Reina Pomeroy, Marshall Fire survivor (Louisville)
- Edwina Salazar, former Executive Director, OUR Center
- Chuck Sisk, former Mayor, City of Louisville
- Kelly Watt, Marshall Fire survivor (Superior)

### Previous Committee Members
- Heather Balser, former City Manager, City of Louisville
- Nicole Garcia, faith leader, National LGBTQ Taskforce
- Probir Ghosh, President & CEO, Virtual Source Networks Inc.
- Isaac Sendros, former CEO, AdventHealth Avista Hospital
- Narayan Shrestha, Local business owner, community leader
- Kammi Siemens, former Executive Director, Boulder Jewish Family Service

### Committee Support
- Deb Gardner
- Morgan McMillan
- Hannah Rosenblume

## Nonprofit Partners

### Impact Development Fund
- Gwen Borrego
- Megan Ferguson
- Emily Nilsen
- Jamila Pierson

### Jewish Family Service
- Jennifer Banyan
- Linda Forster
- Melissa Mascareñas

### Marshall Together
- Tim Crean
- Reina Pomeroy

### United Policyholders
- Valerie Brown
- Lisa Hughes

### After the Fire
- Jennifer Gray Thompson

### Sister Carmen Community Center
- Suzanne Crawford
- Katie Warning
# Partner Acknowledgements

## Government Partners

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<th>City of Louisville, CO</th>
<th>Town of Superior, CO</th>
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  - Mike Conway
  - Vince Plymell
- **Colorado Resiliency Office**
  - Ann Miller
  - Karlyn Vasan
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  - State Representative Judy Amabile
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**Town of Superior, CO**
- **Town Board of Trustees**
  - Clint Folsom
  - Jenn Kaaoush
- **Planning Department**
  - Allison James
  - Lisa Ritchie (current role)
About Community Foundation Boulder County

Staff
- Tatiana Hernandez, Chief Executive Officer
- Alexis Brown, Development Assistant
- Lucy Carlson-Krakoff, Communications Associate
- Kelsey Flemming, Senior Accountant
- Helen Gemmill, Director of Development
- Caroline Grinnell, Director of Development
- Sarah Harrison, Vice President of Programs
- Jeff Johnson, Controller
- Heather Lee, Grants & Data Administrator
- Severin Lier, Senior Communications Manager
- Ken Long, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operational Officer
- Trisha McKean, Chief Development Officer
- Sarah Mikkelsen, Temporary Grant Maker
- Hannah Rosenblume, Executive Coordinator
- Kevin Vasquez, Director of Development
- Assata Welles, Development Associate

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- Scott Beard | Vice Chair
- Katie Volkmar | Secretary
- Jeramy Wilson | Treasurer

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- Elliot Forsyth
- Stanley Garnett
- Fernando Guzman
- Patty Leslie
- Emily Mears
- Alexis Miles
- Gil Sparks
- Arvind Sundar
- Bernice Garcia Tellez

Support Staff
- Robert Half: Kristian Strange, Evelyn Szprejda, Joey Pagano, Lauren Green, Christine Krumholz
- Prismatic Consulting: Kim Brown, Katie DiMercurio, Rachel Sachs, Jane Stewart, Nia Wassink (owner)

Previous Staff
- Sara Carrasco-Wyant, Philanthropic Services Associate
- Peggy Driscoll, Philanthropic Services Director
- Matt Eidson, Business Analyst
- Jennifer Fulton-Anderson, Chief Financial Officer / Chief Operating Officer
- Travis Peterson, Grants Administrator
- Eric Schoenborn, VP of Engagement
- Matt Zweibel, Pledge 1% Director

Community Foundation Boulder County staff members at the community foundation’s annual Friends Party – Photo by Noah Katz
About Community Foundation Boulder County

Since 1991, Community Foundation Boulder County has addressed the evolving and growing needs of the Boulder County community, granting over $150 million.

**Our Vision**
We envision a thriving, equitable, and inclusive community that collaborates to ensure everyone in Boulder County experiences a life of opportunity and fulfillment.

**Our Mission**
We nurture and activate the ideas, generosity, and leadership of the community to galvanize resources and support equitable solutions for all who live/work in Boulder County.