

# Mountain Resource Center 2015 Annual Report



Mountain  
Resource  
Center  
neighbors  
helping neighbors





## Reflections on 2015



Holly Simon  
*Interim Board President*

Mountain Resource Center celebrated 25 years of service to our community in 2015! We are grateful for our dedicated staff, board of directors, funders, volunteers and local businesses who gave donations. Support has included sponsoring and attending fundraising events; donating cash and goods; utilizing opportunities like Colorado Gives Day; and donating to or shopping at our resale store.

This year was unprecedented in achieving our goal to provide intensive services that help people progress toward stability. **Eighty-six percent of clients** who visited the food pantry received two or more additional services at Mountain Resource Center. We continue to respond to the needs of our neighbors by providing programs ranging from basic needs assistance in times of crisis to parenting support to raise strong, healthy children. Our workforce program helps those who are unemployed or underemployed. Our Veteran services help Veterans and their families with reintegration into civilian life.

As a community hub, Mountain Resource Center's Tillotson room is a regular meeting place for civic and social groups. More than 340 community events and meetings took place at Mountain Resource Center in 2015.

Thank you to our generous mountain neighbors for 25 years of support in *neighbors helping neighbors*. We could not have done it without you! The Mountain Resource Center invites you to get involved. Find out more at [www.mrcco.org](http://www.mrcco.org)

## Our Service Area



## A Family's Story

Silas\* initially came to Mountain Resource Center's workforce program for help securing employment. Soon, he became aware of other services offered at the Center. Silas had been concerned about his wife's distrust of others as a result of severe abuse and neglect from her primary family. He felt the Parents as Teachers program could support Cami in raising their infant. He was present for our first few visits in their home, a small cabin where they lived with Silas' father. As Silas began to work more, our visits focused more on Cami and her growing toddler. Cami has little formal education but asked many questions about safety, sleep and feeding. She was remarkably astute in her observations of her child. When she became pregnant again, she became concerned that her toddler needed more socialization with other children. That's when we started talking about group classes at the Center. It was an enormous step for Cami when she walked into the Early Childhood room with other parents.

Then the snow flew, and with it, the realization that both parents were driving cars with broken heaters, making it impossible to keep the windshield de-iced while driving. Mountain Resource Center provided funds to repair one car. Cami now drops Silas at work on Monday and Friday mornings so that she can attend classes. In Cami's words to her Parent Educator, "Thank you so much. You are a miracle worker. We are so blessed to have you not only because you helped with the car but just for being an amazing teacher. I really never open up or even let people into my life, but you also made that happen with me and for my child."

\*Names have been changed to protect confidentiality

## Mission Statement

To provide high quality, integrated health and human services that improve the lives of people in communities we serve.

## Vision Statement

Neighbors helping neighbors achieve their potential.

**650** people obtained referrals for community resources

**830** people learned about health insurance

**1,670** people received direct services

**3,150** people served  
with more than **18,000** services

**60% served were low-income**  
(income at 133% or lower of the federal poverty level)



## What We Do

- **Basic needs assistance** such as rent, utility, and transportation support; public benefits enrollment assistance (931 served)
- **Financial coaching** including budgeting workshops and one-on-one guidance in debt management and asset building (65 served)
- **Workforce development** through one-on-one career assessments and ongoing job search support; classes such as resume writing, interview skills and computer skills (196 served)
- **Health Coverage** assistance enrolling in public or private health insurance (930 served)
- **Two-generation family education** classes for infants, toddlers and preschool-age children and their parents offering early childhood enrichment and parenting support. (233 parents and children served)
- **Parents as Teachers** home visitation program provides learning activities, information on child development, and health screenings to families with young children (183 parents and children served)
- **Healthy Living** programs include parent engagement in healthy schools; cooking classes; nutrition and physical activity classes for preschoolers and school-age youth (332 served)
- **Mental health services** and youth substance abuse prevention programs (96 served)
- **Veteran reintegration support** to navigate benefits, obtain emergency services, mental health services, and employment-related support (54 served)
- **Food Pantry** offering perishable and non-perishable foods that are nutritious and age-appropriate (359 served)

# What We Accomplish

Mountain Resource Center's overarching model of **integrated services** allows clients to enter through any "door" of service and access all agency resources. Research shows clients who access bundled services are three to four times more likely to achieve major economic outcomes as compared to those accessing one or two services (Abt Associates, 2010). In 2015, 86 percent of food pantry clients received two or more services.

Those accessing integrated services with case management made the following gains:

- **58% improved their employment**
- **55% increased their income**
- **45% improved housing stability**

Parents in our home visitation program agreed or strongly agreed with the following results:

- **96% increased their understanding of their child's development**
- **92% were motivated to try new parenting strategies**
- **92% strengthened their relationship with their child through program activities**
- **88% reported that program participation reduced their stress**

## On-Site Partners

AARP Tax Assistance  
American Job Center  
Conifer Counseling  
Conifer Rotary  
Jefferson Center for Mental Health  
Jefferson County Public Library  
Mount Evans Foot Care Clinic  
mpowered financial coaching and education  
Women, Infant and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC)



## A Veteran's Story

(As highlighted in a Denver Post article by Josie Klemaier): *When Jack came home from active duty in Iraq, he was on top of the world. During his duty, he went into a combat zone; he did not get injured; he did not get killed. What could be better? But, six months later his world came crashing down, a delayed reaction to a world different from the one he knew before combat. Jack suffered from depression in the years following his return and got help from therapists with the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).*

*When his DVA visits were cut back to once every other month and a half, he stopped going. "That was a waste of time because I have 1 ½ months built up ready to talk," Jack said. Soon after, he sunk back into depression and quit his job. That's when someone suggested he go to Mountain Resource Center.*

*Jack now comes to Mountain Resource Center every week and calls it his lifeline. "They can be there for the tiniest thing on my mind or the biggest thing on my mind," he said.*





## Resale Store

Neighbors helped neighbors through donations to provide low-cost clothing and household items. Volunteers are vital to the successful operation of the store. Sales from the resale store contribute to Mountain Resource Center services.

## How You Help

**THANK YOU** to our neighbors who supported our fundraising events throughout the year. Volunteers and the community came together to support both signature events, Mountain Bowls and our new Bowls After Dark by graciously:

- **Hosting and participating in bowl painting parties to supply bowls for the events**
- **Creating artwork and providing gifts for our auctions**
- **Donating soup, bread and dessert (local restaurants and food providers)**
- **Purchasing tickets and inviting friends to attend our events**
- **Volunteering before, during and after our events**
- **Advocating on behalf of Mountain Resource Center**



We appreciate the **local businesses and churches** that support our work year-round through in-kind donations. The following organizations gave non-cash items valued at \$500 or more:

Amy Johnson Photography  
The Bagelry  
Blue Spruce Toys  
Buster's Natural Pet Supply  
Conifer Community Church

Conifer King Soopers  
Conifer Natural Grocers  
Conifer Safeway  
Montessori School of Evergreen  
Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church

Pleasant Park Grange  
Starbucks – *Conifer Town Center*  
Taspen's Organics

**167** Volunteers

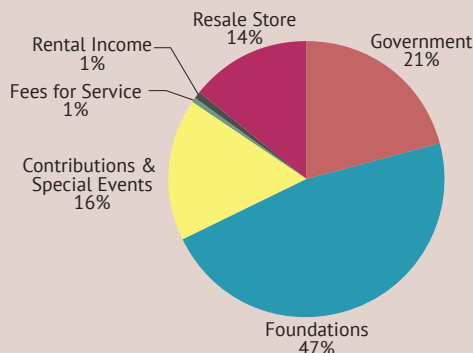
**10,000** hours of services

**\$230,700** value (based on the National Volunteer Value of \$23.07 per hour determined annually by The Independent Sector)

# Financial Snapshot

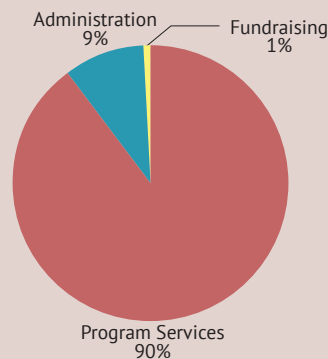
## 2015 Income

Government	\$348,429
Foundations	\$785,606
Contributions & Special Events	\$276,289
Fees for Service	\$11,257
Rental Income	\$11,680
Resale Store	\$235,394
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,668,655*</b>



## 2015 Expenses

Program Services	\$1,462,384
Administration	\$155,930
Fundraising	\$10,181
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,628,495*</b>



\*Income and Expenses are based on unaudited numbers and include in-kind donated goods

## Turning Around a Life

*When Sara first came to Mountain Resource Center, she said she mainly needed food. After learning about the breadth of support available, Sara revealed that she recently escaped from a violent relationship and was living in a homeless shelter. She had left her home and her job behind to be safe, but the reality of starting over was terrifying. Sara began participating in Mountain Resource Center's Workforce Program. She learned about trends in job searching, resume writing, and interview skills. She met one-on-one with a Workforce Advocate and opened up about her experience as a successful architect. The Advocate asked her if she was willing to explore jobs as the person she used to be, rather than the person she felt like right now. Sara decided she wanted to try. She and her advocate rewrote her resume and put together a portfolio of past accomplishments. Sara applied for a position with an architecture firm in Grand Junction. She got a call for an interview. However, her car was in no condition to make the trip. Mountain Resource Center paid for her car repairs and provided a gas card to fill up her tank. Sara picked out a professional outfit from the Career Closet. She drove to Grand Junction for an interview and was offered a job on the spot! Within two weeks, Sara found an apartment and moved to Grand Junction to start her new life.*

# We Appreciate Our Supporters

## 2015 Board of Directors

Sarah Kalmin, President  
Holly Simon, Vice President  
Claire Moore, Secretary

David Hood, Treasurer  
Kathleen Robinson  
Gary Antweiler

Jennifer Richey  
Brett Stewart  
Tekla Lake Taylor

## Funders

Albertsons/Safeway Foundation  
Anschutz Family Foundation  
The Anschutz Foundation  
Bank of the West Foundation  
Bike & Build  
Sam S. Bloom Foundation  
Buell Foundation  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
Colorado Dept. of Health Care  
Policy & Financing  
Colorado Dept. of Human Services  
Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs  
Colorado Dept. of  
Military & Veterans Affairs  
Colorado Health Foundation\*  
Conifer Newcomers & Neighbors

Conifer Rotary Foundation  
Connect for Health  
Daniels Fund  
DAV Charitable Service Trust  
Denver Active 20/30  
Children's Foundation  
Denver Foundation  
El Pomar Foundation  
Energy Outreach Colorado  
Evergreen (Blue Spruce) Kiwanis  
Evergreen Christian Church  
Evergreen Lutheran Church  
J.M. McDonald Foundation  
Jefferson County  
Dept. of Human Services  
Metro Denver Emergency  
Food & Shelter Program

Mile High United Way  
Nichols Foundation  
Our Lady of the Pines  
Catholic Church  
Jay & Rose Phillips Family  
Foundation of Colorado\*  
Rose Community Foundation\*  
St. Lawrence Episcopal Church  
TWC Foundation  
United Methodist Church  
of Evergreen  
United Way Workplace Giving  
Valmark Securities  
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Veteran's Passport to Hope  
Xcel Energy Foundation

*\*Made possible through the agency's membership in the Colorado Family Resource Center Association*

## Corporate Sponsors and Donors (\$500+)

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**Also, thanks to the more than 340 individual donors who support  
Mountain Resource Center. We cannot do it without you!**

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