



# MOUNTAIN RESOURCE CENTER

## Community Impact Report 2024/25



Thank you to all our volunteers, clients, and donors.  
You make Mountain Resource Center possible!



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# ABOUT MRC

Mountain Resource Center is a vital hub for families and individuals along the Highway 285 Corridor, offering programs that strengthen health, stability, and resilience. Our services provide wraparound support, including a Food Share Market, housing and utility assistance, health and wellness classes, workforce, case management, and veterans' services.

This year, our Community Health Program launched Everyday Eats, providing monthly boxes of nutritious staples to older adults and individuals with disabilities. Our preschool delivered 495 hours of high-quality early learning, and we offered a week of summer camp to 49 students.

Although our communities often appear prosperous, many families face significant financial strain—60% of households served lived below the Federal Poverty Level, with many others just above it and often ineligible for state and federal assistance programs.

In fiscal year 2024–25, we distributed 283,946 pounds of food, provided \$198,782 in housing and utility assistance, and delivered case management services to 353 households. Nearly all clients surveyed reported meaningful improvements—not only in food security (98%) and housing stability (93%), but in their overall ability to meet basic needs (99%). These results affirm that MRC's comprehensive, dignity-centered approach is helping people build stability, confidence, and a stronger foundation for the future.





## A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

Dear MRC Community,

As I reflect on the past fiscal year at Mountain Resource Center, Martin Luther King Jr.'s words come to mind: "Out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope." Times have been challenging for MRC and our clients. With the change in administration, we lost several long-term grants that had strengthened our agency and provided critical support, such as rent and mortgage assistance and access to locally sourced fresh food for our clients. At the same time, the number of community members in need continued to rise. We see new clients every day, and we try to offer them solutions and, above all, hope. This year, we were faced with some difficult choices, but our resolve remains unbroken as we actively reimagine and rebuild our work for the years to come.

This past year has also been a powerful reminder of what can happen when a community unites around compassion and a shared purpose. We are deeply grateful to you, our donors, funders, volunteers, neighbors, and community partners who have mobilized around us and held us up. Your trust in us and belief in our mission are what make this work possible.

Our staff, as always, are a beacon of light for our agency. Every day they move forward with grace, extending kindness that lifts the weight from those around them. In our mountain community, relationships are at the heart of our work, and our staff continue to support our clients with dignity and compassion.

Mountain Resource Center is in our 35<sup>th</sup> year of serving our community and we remain committed to walking alongside the most vulnerable and to empowering all people to thrive. Thank you for helping us build healthier, more just, and more hopeful communities.

In gratitude,



# A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of MRC,

The past year has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging years in the history of the Mountain Resource Center. The nonprofit sector faced unprecedented obstacles as governmental funding for social services saw dramatic reductions, placing immense pressure on agencies like ours that rely on public support to serve the community. Additionally, cuts to vital government programs have further strained resources at a time when they are needed the most.

The increased demand for our services over the past year has been staggering. Whether it was families struggling with food insecurity, veterans in need of economic assistance, or individuals dealing with mental health challenges, the community turned to MRC for help more than ever before. Despite these overwhelming circumstances, our staff and volunteers have risen to the occasion with unwavering dedication and commitment.

Despite these significant challenges, we are continually inspired by the strength and generosity of our mountain community. The strong support we've received has truly been a lifeline in these tough times. Whether it was through financial contributions or donating time, our community has truly rallied behind us. This collective effort has been vital in ensuring that we could continue providing essential services to those who need them most.

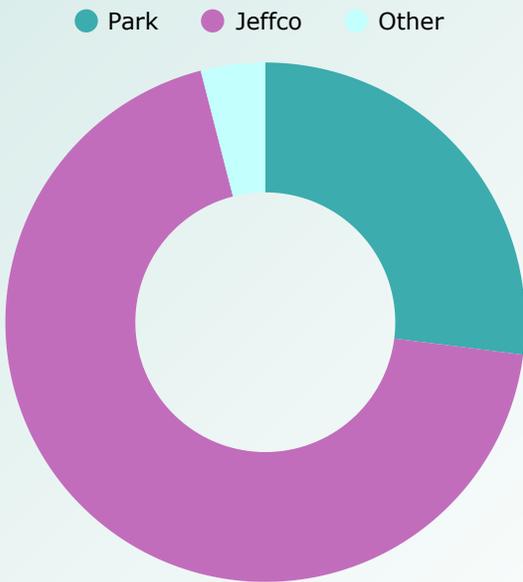
I also want to recognize the exceptional efforts of our employees who have worked tirelessly to meet the needs of those who rely on us. Their compassion, resilience, and tireless work ethic are the foundation of MRC's ability to continue delivering high-quality services, even in the face of adversity. I am grateful for their unyielding devotion to our mission.

As we look toward the future, we are filled with hope and determination. Although the road ahead may remain difficult, we are confident that together—with the continued support of our incredible staff, volunteers, and community—we will continue to meet the challenges head-on and provide the necessary resources to those who need them. Thank you for standing with MRC during these trying times. Your support means everything to us, and it makes all the difference to the individuals and families we serve.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## Services Provided by County



15,667

Services Provided

1,134

Households Served

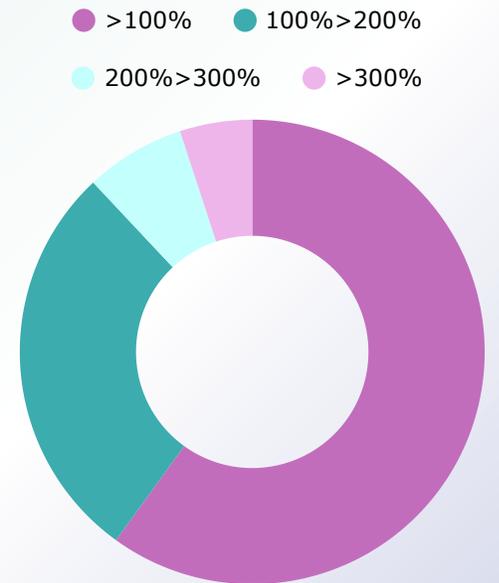
2,422  
Household Members Served

659  
Children Served

181  
New Households Served

4,663  
Referrals Made

## Households Served by % of Federal Poverty Level



## IN THEIR WORDS

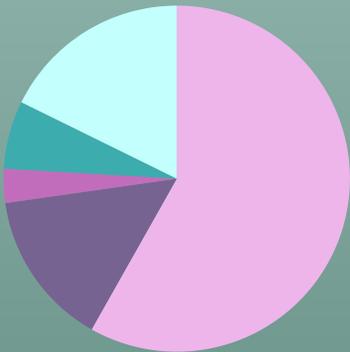
- "These folks and services are such a blessing."*
- "Very convenient and helpful."*
- "This is our community and one of the best food banks I've ever encountered."*
- "You guys save[d] me in time of need. Thank you."*
- "Staff is absolutely wonderful, and food provided has an amazing variety."*
- "[You] are a wonderful and very helpful organization! Thank you so much for everything you do!"*



# FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIALS

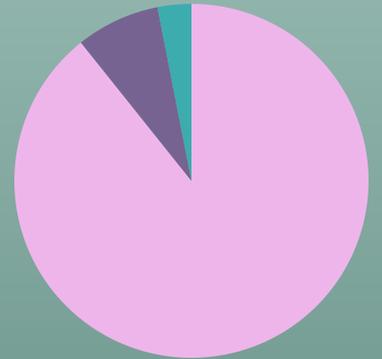
## INCOME

- Foundations and Gra...
- Individual Donors
- Universal Preschool
- Special Events
- Other



## EXPENSES

- Program Services
- General and Administ...
- Fundraising



## MONETARY AMOUNTS

	\$	%
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,450,058.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
Foundations and Grants	\$843,608.00	58%
Individual Donors	\$211,275.00	15%
Universal Preschool	\$46,064.00	3%
Special Events	\$92,149.00	6%
Other	\$256,962.00	18%
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,821,989.00</b>	<b>100%</b>
Program Services	\$1,626,544.00	89%
General and Admin	\$139,368.00	8%
Fundraising	\$56,077.00	3%





# COMMUNITY HEALTH

In fiscal year 2024/25, Mountain Resource Center's Community Health Program served 693 households at our Food Share Market, and 281 through our Mobile Food Share Program, distributed 283,946 pounds of food, hosted nine Culinary Adventures cooking and nutrition classes, and offered 11 volunteer-led Thrive in Wellness sessions promoting healthy living.

This year, we were proud to introduce the Everyday Eats program, expanding our commitment to food access and community wellness. Everyday Eats provides monthly boxes of nutritious, diabetic-friendly, low-sodium pantry staples to eligible older adults and individuals with disabilities, helping ensure a steady supply of healthy food.

Clients can pick up boxes at our Food Share Market, or, to remove barriers for those with transportation challenges, MRC delivers Everyday Eats boxes to designated pickup sites in Evergreen and Bailey—bringing support directly to where our neighbors live.

The introduction of Everyday Eats has allowed MRC to expand our reach and provide holistic, dignity-centered care that nourishes both body and community. By bringing this program to our mountain region, we continue to move toward our vision of a thriving, food-secure, and healthy community for all.



## CULINARY ADVENTURES: CLEM'S STORY



For Clem, the Culinary Adventures classes at Mountain Resource Center are more than just lessons—they're a lifeline. Living alone in a rural area, Clem often feels isolated. But when he walks into the kitchen at MRC, that changes.

"The cooking classes here are very fun, educational," Clem says. "I learn new things—how to make pierogis, tortillas, chicken tetrazzini—and they usually bring in an authentic chef from the region they're teaching that day."

Beyond recipes, Clem has discovered new knife skills and healthier cooking techniques. He shares his own expertise too, teaching others how to julienne peppers or prepare stuffed bell peppers without damaging the shape. "It's all very interesting and educational," he explains. "We learn how to cut down on salt and sugar—things that are good for us at our age."

For Clem, these classes are about connection as much as cooking. "It's a very community thing," he says. "We learn together, share together, and help each other."

### FOOD SHARE FEEDBACK

*"I'm able to feed my family."*

*"During our time here, [the Food Share Market] has helped us alleviate the pressure of inflation. Our family bond has been kept intact with the meals."*

*"The food, and the human contact and interactions, are so encouraging."*

*"[The food] relieves [the] pressure of rising costs."*



# FAMILY EDUCATION

## PRESCHOOL

Mountain Resource Center's new Preschool Program launched this fiscal year, offering high-quality early learning rooted in play, discovery, and individualized instruction. Children received about 495 hours of classroom learning supported by an experienced teaching team known for collaboration and hands-on activities.

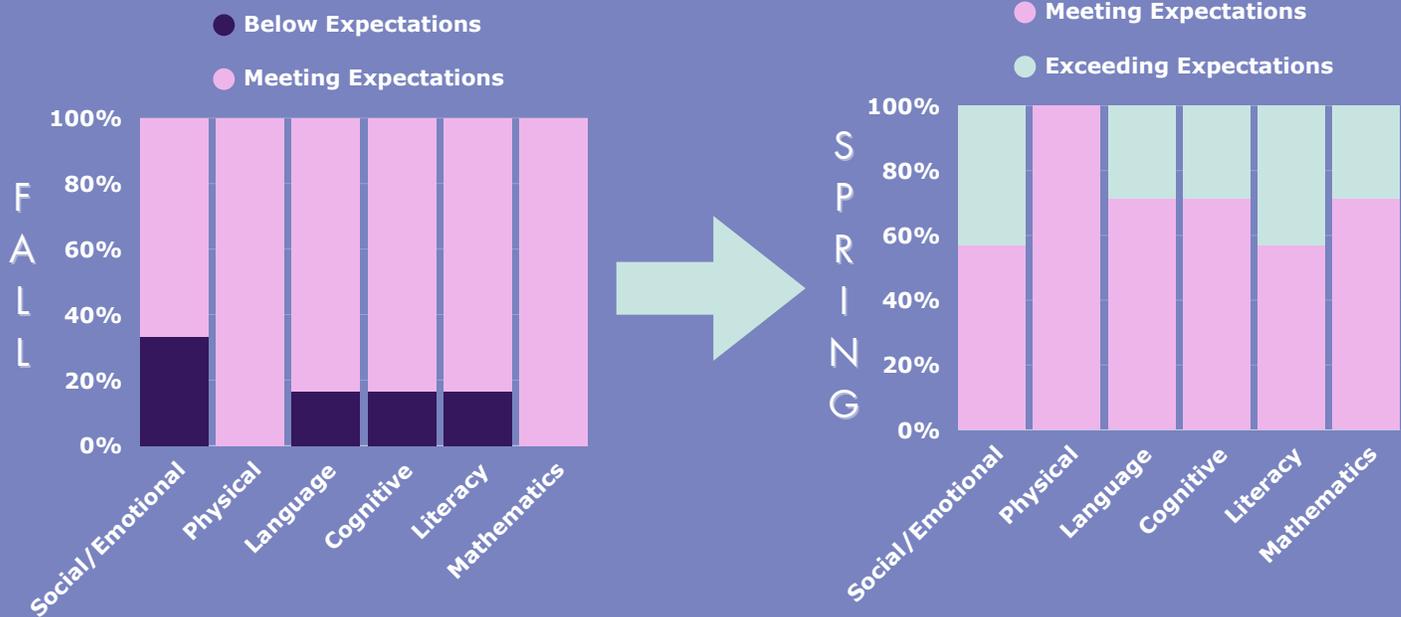
Students explored science by planting arugula, practiced fine motor and literacy skills through Mother's Day cards, and engaged in projects that encouraged creativity and curiosity. Our program emphasizes crucial social-emotional skills—cooperation, empathy, and self-regulation—which lay the foundation for classroom success.

In addition to all of the licensing requirements, our preschool has achieved the highest possible QRIS rating for its first year. That rating, given through Colorado Shines, assures parents that they are getting the best quality preschool education for their children, and helps us secure funding for the future.

*"They pretty much know their entire alphabet and can write it—and now they walk around sounding out words, thinking about what letter everything starts with."* - Jessie Funk, Preschool Parent



## Preschool Successes in the AM Class



## SUMMER CAMP

In addition to preschool, MRC offered four week-long summer camp sessions in June, serving 49 children with enriching, play-based experiences.

### Summer Camp Feedback from Parents

*"Thank you for providing a safe and fun summer camp for my girls."  
 "[She] had a great time, the program was well-run, and I felt confident in the setting & staff. Also very much appreciate a free week of camp!!"*

*"Loved making crystals, Miss Lily was a great help on her first day!"*





# VETERANS' SERVICES



In fiscal year 2024/25, Mountain Resource Center provided critical support to 145 veteran households, ensuring stability and well-being. Beyond rent, mortgage, and utility assistance, our Disabled American Veterans (DAV) grant allowed us to meet urgent needs that go far beyond basics. We covered medication for three months, assisted with dental care, funded car repairs and new tires, pumped septic systems, and handled electrical and plumbing fixes—including installing water filters. MRC also supplied firewood and propane for winter and connected veterans to therapy sessions. These comprehensive services helped create safe, healthy homes and strengthened resilience for those who served and their families.

*"I'm a military veteran, and Mountain Resource Center has helped me for years. They've covered utilities, bought tires, paid for my wife's medicine, and even handled major home repairs. They go far beyond for veterans like me—taking stress off and providing resources that truly make a difference." - Robert, Veteran*



# CASE MANAGEMENT



This year, Mountain Resource Center's Case Management Program supported 353 households with personalized services, including benefit applications, referrals, and goal-setting, to significantly improve individual and family circumstances. Through our Extended Case Management program, new this year, clients receive at least three months of support to set goals and track their progress. When needed, financial support to stabilize and thrive is available.

This best-practice model works toward reducing reliance on future assistance and empowering families and individuals, while meeting urgent needs. In total, 182 individuals received \$198,782 in assistance, including \$96,392 for rent or mortgage payments, \$76,468 for utility support, and \$25,922 for other urgent needs—keeping people housed, lights on, and homes heated during winter months. These resources foster lasting resilience and a pathway to long-term stability.

Through this program, 94% of clients reported making progress on goals ranging from improving mental and physical health, to extending social supports and financial resources.

We also provided 236 households with \$21,960 in gift cards, giving families flexibility to meet emergency needs and celebrate holidays with dignity and less financial stress.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



In 2024/2025, Mountain Resource Center strengthened community connections by participating in local events such as Elevation Celebration and the Conifer Holiday Parade, and by hosting both a Community Café and a Veterans' Café. These outreach efforts, along with daily engagement at our facility, helped us connect neighbors to vital resources. Through these interactions and connections at our facility, we provided 4,633 referrals, ensuring families could access essential services and support for lasting stability.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY MARKET



Mountain Resource Center's annual School Supply Event ensured local students started the year prepared and confident. This year, we provided essential supplies—from backpacks and notebooks to pencils and erasers—to 125 students from 57 households. By reducing the financial burden on families and equipping children with the tools they need to succeed, the event strengthened educational readiness across our mountain communities. This collective effort reflects MRC's commitment to helping every child thrive.



# WORKFORCE AND JTP

The Workforce Program provides essential support through resume development, interview preparation, job search assistance, and more. This year, the program served 19 individuals with 32 services. It also includes the 24-week Job Training Program (JTP), which offers hands-on experience and coaching to build workplace skills. During the fiscal year, five Associates participated in JTP, all successfully completing the program. Every participant reported increased confidence in computer and communication skills, highlighting the program's impact in preparing individuals for employment and fostering resilience.



## MEG'S STORY



After retiring from nursing, Meg never expected to return to work. Living alone and facing financial strain, the idea of job hunting after years away felt overwhelming. "Accepting what is has been tough," Meg shared. She turned to Mountain Resource Center for part-time work close to home and enrolled in the Job Training Program (JTP), gaining hands-on experience at the front desk, in the Food Share Market, and in community engagement—rebuilding habits, strengthening skills, and adapting to new technology and communication tools. After completing JTP, she was hired by a local grocery store, where her refreshed customer-service and merchandising experience proved invaluable. Today, Meg is thriving, grateful that MRC helped turn a challenging time into opportunity. 15



# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Our volunteers make MRC's mission possible! This year, they generously donated 6,429 hours, valued at \$223,664.91 based on the 2025 estimated hourly rate from Maryland's Do Good Institute. Their time and dedication strengthen our programs and ensure neighbors receive the support they need to thrive.

## BARBARA'S STORY

For Barbara, volunteering at MRC is about more than meeting friends—it's about connection and purpose. At the food bank, she values listening to people's stories and sharing in their gratitude. Simple acts bring joy: offering someone ice cream and seeing their delight, or giving a larger package of meat to a family with many children. These moments remind Barbara that volunteering isn't just service—it's building community and fostering lasting relationships.



## SAM'S STORY

Sam is both a Food Share Market client and volunteer, using his skills with motors to repair our food pickup bus and to keep our freezers running—saving MRC thousands and showing that there are many different ways to give back to the community.





## VOLUNTEER QUOTES

*"I love being at this preschool because of its uniqueness and the way it serves families in our mountain community. Reading is my passion, and sharing that with children here brings me joy. I also love being part of this community—it makes volunteering even more meaningful."*

- Susie, Volunteer

*"I volunteer because it's really good to give back. My mom was always a volunteer—she fit it in no matter what. I've done something since my 30s, and now at MRC, I love chatting with people in line, meeting new faces, and watching preschoolers grow. It's fun and rewarding."*

- Nancy, Volunteer





# DONOR PROFILE

## JON AND ROXANNE



After decades as educators, Roxanne and Jon have carried their passion for learning and community into retirement.

They moved to Colorado 13 years ago and quickly connected with Mountain Resource Center, drawn to programs that reflect their values.

***“I really support the preschool and the food pantry. Nutrition is so important, and I believe early childhood education lays the foundation for lifelong success.”***

**- Roxanne**

Roxanne once volunteered with preschool activities and Culinary Adventures classes, and although health challenges prevent her from volunteering now, she continues to champion early childhood education and nutrition through generous giving. She believes preschool lays the foundation for lifelong success, helping children build confidence and social-emotional skills alongside academics.

Their support ensures families have access to nutritious food and children start school prepared. For Roxanne and Jon, giving is a way to strengthen community and create opportunities for others.



# THE MET IN THE MOUNTAINS

The MRC Annual Gala remains the hottest ticket on the 285 Corridor, and this year was no exception with Met in the Mountains at the spectacular Woodlands venue. Guests enjoyed an elegant evening with live music, a fabulous wine pull, and an enormous silent auction featuring incredible items—all paired with a delicious dinner and the chance to support MRC's new preschool program in one unforgettable evening.





# THANK YOU!

*"Fresh produce is a huge gift... To get an eggplant, to get squash, to get fresh lettuce from the community garden... that's really a luxury. And I probably would not have access to those items... if they were not offered here." - Kathleen*

## KATHLEEN'S STORY

When Kathleen's husband became physically challenged and unable to work, their financial security vanished. "We suddenly found ourselves with little or no income, and neither one of us knew how to handle that. It was unfamiliar territory." At first, Kathleen hesitated to seek help, but a friend encouraged her to visit Mountain Resource Center.

What she found was more than food—it was a lifeline. "It gives you hope when you feel like 'I have nowhere to turn, I have no options. What am I possibly going to do?' When someone says, here, here's 2 or 3 places, why don't you contact them? So that first gift, I think, is hope, which is extremely important when you're in a difficult situation, whether it's physical or financial."

That hope sparked resilience. With MRC's support, Kathleen accessed food, energy assistance, and referrals for additional resources. "Mountain Resource Center has been helpful in lots of ways—hope being number one, food being number two, and [three being] knowledge of other resources." Today, she shares what she's learned with others, paying forward the encouragement she received. "It feels like you have to share the wealth. Mountain Resource Center is a wealth to me."