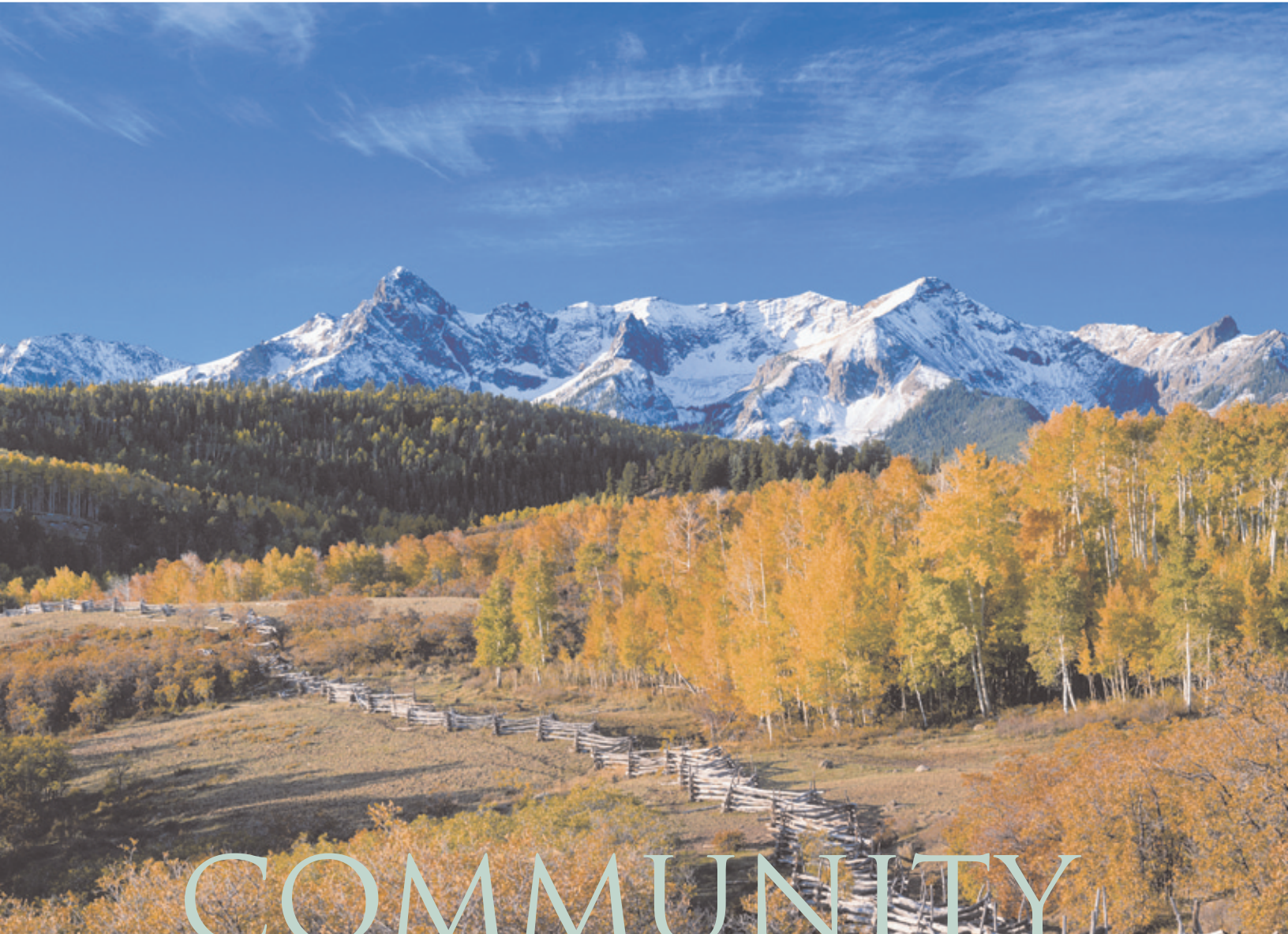




VOLUME IV • 2005 SUMMER EDITION



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

WWW.COLORADOTRUST.ORG

CommunityConnection is a quarterly e-newsletter from The Colorado Trust.

HELPING HOSPITALS IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE



*Arja P. Adair, President & CEO,
Colorado Foundation for Medical Care*

Improve Care in Hospitals.)

When the Institute for Healthcare Improvement launched its national 100k Lives Campaign in December 2004, some of its recommendations to help hospitals prevent avoidable deaths were already being implemented by the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care (CFMC).

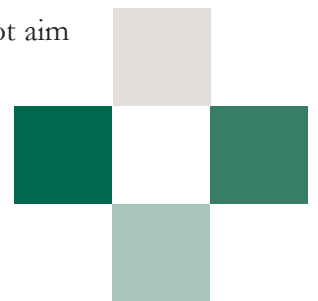
“Before we joined the campaign, acute myocardial infarction, pneumonia and surgical infection prevention were on our radar,” said Arja P. Adair, President and CEO of CFMC, one of the most experienced and respected medical quality improvement organizations in the United States.

CFMC has been selected by The Colorado Trust to serve as the coordinating agency, or “node,” for the Colorado 100k Lives Campaign, a statewide effort to prevent medical injuries from occurring in hospitals. This \$3.8 million Trust campaign is based on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s (IHI) national effort. (See associated article, *Colorado Campaign to*

“We’re excited that The Colorado Trust will contribute even greater energy to this effort to improve care and ensure appropriate health outcomes,” said Adair. “The focus of senior leadership at Colorado hospitals is to look at their processes of care and make critical improvement changes. The Trust’s support of the IHI campaign offers an opportunity to systematically understand what we can do to provide better care.”

“The really important thing is that improvement efforts are not just focused on nurses and doctors, but also on medical directors and boards of directors,” Adair continued. “There is an increasing acceptance and commitment of physicians and health care professionals to objectively measure their processes and — in a non-defensive way — identify opportunities for improvement.

“Over time, we should be looking at trends that show continual improvement ... why not aim for 100%? That’s my hope.”



COLORADO CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE CARE IN HOSPITALS (NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY)

The Institute of Medicine estimates that nearly 100,000 people nationwide die each year as a result of preventable medical injuries that occur in hospitals, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about two million patients contract hospital-acquired infections annually.

To mitigate these alarming trends, The Trust announced in July that it will contribute \$3.8 million to help all Colorado hospitals save lives by improving the quality of care. This 18-month, statewide initiative is based on the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) 100k Lives Campaign to save 100,000 lives nationwide by implementing proven health care improvements in hospitals.

The campaign aims to enlist hospitals nationwide to achieve this goal within 18 months; since the campaign launched on December 14, 2004, over 2,200 hospitals have signed on.

The Trust has invited all 69 acute care hospitals in Colorado to apply for grants of \$35,000 each to join the effort (visit www.coloradotrust.org for the application requirements *(please note this funding is available only to Colorado acute care hospitals)*; applications are due to The Trust by July 25, 2005). The Trust is also providing funding to IHI to help measure the progress of the national campaign, and will provide information about the statewide effort across Colorado (visit www.coloradotrust.org for the Public Awareness Campaign Request for Qualifications; responses are due to The Trust by July 18, 2005). Additionally, the Colorado Foundation for Medical Care — a leading Colorado health care quality improvement organization — has been selected to serve as the coordinating agency (or “node”) for this effort.

This campaign to help health care providers reliably transfer best-known science into practice will focus on such changes as rapid response at the first sign of patient decline, making certain prescribed medications work well when combined, and following guidelines to prevent heart attacks, infections and ventilator-associated pneumonia.

A kick-off event and announcement of participating Colorado hospitals will be held on August 30.

Visit www.coloradotrust.org for more information about The Trust's Colorado 100k Lives Campaign, and learn more about the national 100k Lives Campaign by visiting www.ihl.org.

EQUALITY IN HEALTH INITIATIVE

(NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY)

Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by disease, disability and death. Indeed, the Institute of Medicine's groundbreaking report, *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, states that "although myriad sources contribute to these disparities, some evidence suggests that a trend in bias, prejudice and stereotyping on the part of health care providers may contribute to differences in care." Other studies indicate that even when minorities have the same insurance status, age, income and chronic conditions, they still tend to receive a lower quality of health care than Caucasians, affecting health outcomes in a number of disease areas including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, mental illness and HIV/AIDS, among others.

At its June meeting, The Trust's Board approved a new seven-year, \$13 million Equality in Health Initiative, extending its Colorado Healthy People 2010 Initiative. This new effort will address health disparities by promoting good health and preventing disease among Colorado's growing medically underserved minority population. A key component of the Equality in Health Initiative will be on cultural competency, helping grantees to develop and strengthen their programs in a manner that removes barriers for accessing health care services.

Through a Request for Letters of Intent, up to 15 grantees will be selected for the first cycle of funding through a competitive process (visit www.coloradotrust.org for the Request for Letters of Intent; letters are due to The Trust by August 8, 2005). A second cycle, mid-way through the initiative, will provide funding to an additional 15 grantees. All grantees will receive grants averaging \$60,000 annually for five years. Grantees will work to bring about improvements in one or more of the following areas: equality in treatment in medical services, equal access to care, equal environmental conditions and healthy behaviors among racial and ethnic minorities.

The Colorado Foundation for Families and Children will serve as the statewide coordinating agency for this initiative, providing day-to-day management and technical assistance to each grantee in the areas of cultural competency, program development and program implementation.

An independent evaluation of the Equality in Health Initiative will determine whether the cultural competency of the grantees changes over time and how these changes influence grantees' implementation of strategies and resulting outcomes. The evaluation will also identify what factors and conditions should be in place for an organization to bring about positive changes in cultural competency (visit www.coloradotrust.org for the Request for Qualifications for the evaluation of this initiative; responses are due to The Trust by July 21, 2005).

PALLIATIVE CARE EVALUATION REPORT

In early June, The Colorado Trust released the evaluation report summary of its Palliative Care Initiative. Palliative care is compassionate, comprehensive care for people with progressive, chronic, life-threatening or terminal medical conditions.

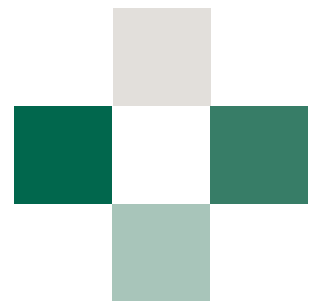
The three-year, \$3.7 million initiative was designed to stimulate the development of comprehensive palliative care networks across Colorado. These networks joined together palliative care service providers to address the complex and changing medical, social and spiritual needs of patients and their families. Participants included hospitals, hospices, nursing homes, mental health centers, faith communities and other cultural and civic organizations.

An independent evaluation of the initiative was conducted by the National Research Center. The evaluation sought to determine which factors led to more positive experiences for palliative care patients and their families, if the networks of providers improved end-of-life care and whether strong networks resulted in better outcomes.

Evaluation findings show that good palliative care services can be provided in a variety of settings. While this initiative was structured to provide services via networks — and the evaluation of this initiative found that palliative care networks can be considered a promising approach for improving end-of-life care — collaboratives are by no means necessary to the provision of high quality palliative care.

The evaluation also showed that patients and their families were generally satisfied with the care provided. Networks met the needs of the vast majority of patients and caregivers involved in this effort, providing better end-of-life care than what is generally observed in the U.S. At the same time, patient and caregiver ratings of quality of care did not significantly improve over the three-year course of the initiative — perhaps because, even with its inadequacies, Colorado provides better end-of-life care than most states.

Visit www.coloradotrust.org for the *Palliative Care Initiative Evaluation Report Summary*.



CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION WHITE PAPER RELEASED

In 2002 and 2003, Colorado placed 50th among states for childhood immunizations in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's rankings.

To identify the underlying factors of this ranking, and to better inform future grantmaking, The Trust — along with the Caring for Colorado Foundation — asked the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) to examine immunization policy and practice in Colorado. The resulting paper, *Colorado Childhood Immunization Rates: Policy and Practice*, analyzes Colorado vaccination trends, identifies gaps in current immunization efforts and provides options for improvement.

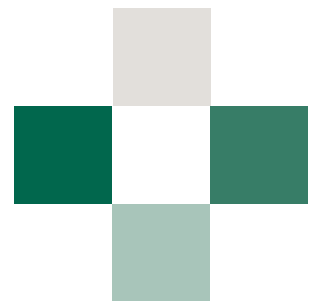
Released June 9, the report notes that the state's immunization rates for 2-year-olds are at or near the federal government's Healthy People 2010 objectives for all recommended individual vaccines, except for the fourth dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP). The study also found that recommended vaccines often are not provided at the suggested age and that certain population groups have vaccination coverage rates that are lower than the statewide average.

The paper outlines three recommendations for improving Colorado's immunization rates:

1. Create a state-level vision and plan that strengthens coordination between the programs administered by the Department of Public Health and the Environment and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, and includes private sector stakeholders such as health plans and the physician community.
2. Invest in information systems to improve data for planning, evaluation and immunization program monitoring purposes.
3. Make strategic investments that improve access to immunizations and address Colorado priorities.

The CHI immunization study is available both as a full report and a policy brief.

Visit www.coloradohealthinstitute.org for more information.



TRUST CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

This year, The Colorado Trust celebrates 20 years of grantmaking dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado. To recognize this milestone, we developed a special poster, with a beautiful John Fielder photo of Dallas Divide in southwestern Colorado on one side (also shown on the cover of the newsletter), and a 20-year timeline of Trust grantmaking highlights on the other side.

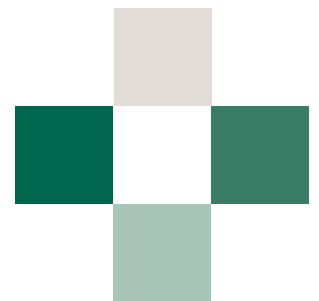
CELEBRATING

20
years

The timeline notes some of the areas in which we have had the privilege of helping to bring about change and improvements, including:

- Creating a new climate for domestic violence avoidance in the state
- Educating Colorado's youth about their health
- Improving prenatal and maternal health care
- Strengthening health care in rural and isolated parts of the states
- Strengthening Colorado's nursing workforce
- Helping communities identify and address their own health issues
- Making 9-1-1 emergency medical care available in 38 Colorado counties
- Improving the quality of life and health care for older adults
- Preventing youth violence
- Supporting schools through increased safety and after-school programming
- Shifting statewide focus on youth from being "at risk" to capitalizing on their strengths and assets
- Supporting and evaluating early childhood care and learning
- Increasing access to health care and advocating on behalf of the medically underserved
- Partnering nurses with at-risk families to improve child rearing
- Collaborating with other grantmakers to establish a statewide health data institute
- Helping immigrants and refugees to become contributing members of their new communities
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and the prevention of disease
- Encouraging people at risk of attempting suicide to seek care
- Improving the coordination of mental health care services.

To receive a copy of The Colorado Trust 20th anniversary poster, e-mail receptionist@coloradotrust.org.





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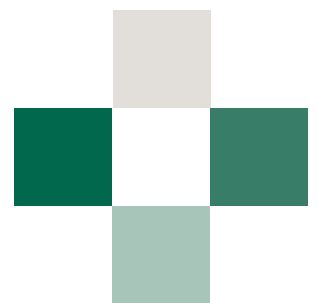
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS LEARNING LUNCH

The Colorado Trust, in conjunction with the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, will host a community Learning Lunch in Steamboat Springs on July 15.

Community leaders and Trust grantees in northwestern Colorado will gather to learn more about current Trust initiatives, and to hear from grantees working in the area, including:

- Carol Jarbo, Grant Coordinator with Kremmling Memorial Hospital, who will talk about the hospital's program to provide training and continuing education to increase and retain health professionals in Grand County, and
- Elisa Shackelton, County Director of the CSU Cooperative Extension, who will detail the successful implementation of a multi-agency approach to prevent obesity in Moffat County.

For more information about this event, please contact Susan Downs-Karkos, Senior Program Officer at 303-837-1200 or susan@coloradotrust.org.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

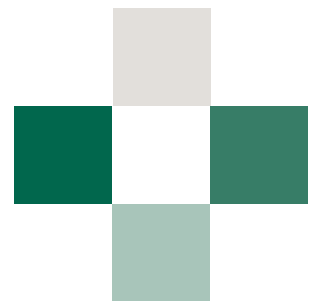


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GRANTEE NEWS

The Suicide Prevention Partnership — a grantee of The Trust's Preventing Suicide in Colorado Initiative — was featured on KRDO-TV's "Heartbreak of Suicide," a documentary and five-part series which aired in November and December 2004. KRDO-TV won the 2004 Best Documentary Outside of a Regular Newscast award. The award for this documentary was presented by the Colorado Broadcasters Association on June 11. Congratulations!



GRANTEENEWS

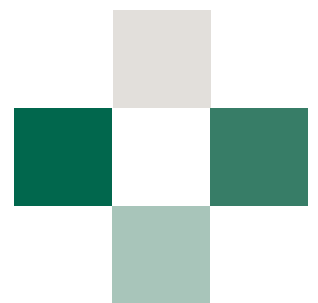


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2004 TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

The 2004 Annual Report of The Colorado Trust is now available. To receive a copy, call 303-837-1200, or request a copy by e-mailing receptionist@coloradotrust.org, or download it from www.coloradotrust.org.



WEBEXTRA