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Grantees of The Colorado Trust's Health Professions Initiative gathered in April to network and discuss strategies on how to grow and sustain their efforts to recruit, train and retain health care professionals statewide.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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CommunityConnection is a quarterly e-newsletter from The Colorado Trust

CU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S RURAL HEALTH TRACK

With 51 of Colorado's 64 counties carrying the federal designation of "Health Professional Shortage Areas," a number of rural communities have few or no doctors, dentists or mental health providers to serve their residents.

In response, the **School of Medicine at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center** launched its rural health track program to encourage and support health practice in these isolated, underserved areas of the state. The first such program in Colorado, it is modeled after the Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania – regarded by many as having the best rural health track program in the country – and "beefed up tenfold," according to Jack Westfall, CU's Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Associate Dean of Rural Health. The program was started with support from The Colorado Trust through its **Health Professions Initiative**.



Under The Colorado Trust's Health Professions Initiative, students at the CU School of Medicine have the opportunity to gain experience in rural communities statewide.

All students at CU's School of Medicine are now required to complete a month-long rural rotation, as well as a one-day community health volunteer service. And some students choose the more in-depth four-year rural health track; currently, there are 15 students enrolled in the rural health track for the Class of 2009 and 25 students enrolled in the Class of 2010.

"Among our goals in the rural health track is to debunk such myths as the lower earnings potential in a rural practice, or that rural doctors are somehow less skilled than those who practice in urban areas," said Westfall. "One of the most effective ways to correct such preconceived notions is the school's new requirement that all students spend some time in a rural rotation and get involved in rural communities."

According to Westfall, students have always shown an interest in rural health, but there have been no opportunities for students to focus on this specific area of care for which there is a tremendous need in Colorado.

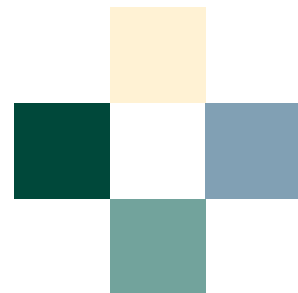
"One of our main goals is to de-mystify rural health care practice," he said. "So we provide one-on-one time with rural docs and we teach the students about rural clinical issues, financial issues

REALLIFE, *continued*

and cultural issues ... we try to provide insight into what it means to succeed as a person and as a professional in a rural community. We also do workshops on the financing of health care, and we explore the differences and similarities between rural and urban health care.”

Under The Colorado Trust’s **Health Professions Initiative**, the school’s rural health track also helps coordinate students’ hands-on experience with rural health care providers.

For additional information, contact Laurel Petralia, Program Officer, 303-837-1200, laurel@coloradotrust.org.



GREETINGS FROM IRENE M. IBARRA *TIME TO IMPROVE KIDS' HEALTH CARE ACCESS IS NOW*



*Irene M. Ibarra, President and CEO
of The Colorado Trust*

What a wonderful welcome back to Colorado and to The Colorado Trust I have received from so many people! Already I have had the opportunity to meet with many of our grantees, as well as community, business, foundation and government leaders. With the snows mostly behind us and spring in the air, my goal is to meet personally with many more people across the state over the coming months. I hope to learn first-hand about health needs, as well as the work that is taking place to address these needs.

With what I've learned to this point, I truly believe it is the ideal time to be stepping into my new role as President and CEO of The Colorado Trust. Many committed individuals and organizations have worked diligently over the past few years, and remain dedicated to improving health care access in Colorado. Their efforts have received a terrific boost with our new governor's stated commitment to provide health care coverage for everyone statewide by 2010. Further contributing to this momentum is The Trust's partnership with three other foundations – **Caring for Colorado Foundation**, **The Colorado Health Foundation**

and **Rose Community Foundation** – to determine how we can best help to bring about improved health care access. Our study and resulting report, *Kids' Health Care Access: Diagnosis and Prescription for Improvement*, was released in February and is being used to help inform thinking about how to make essential changes to provide all children with quality health care.

I am optimistic about the possibility of achieving this goal. Over the past 10 years, I have had the opportunity to be a part of leading community efforts to provide health coverage for all children in Los Angeles and Alameda counties in California. Some of the significant lessons we learned were that the involvement of a broad range of community leaders is essential; a streamlined approach to enrollment in public programs must be a focus of improving access; and policy solutions should include access to quality preventive care that will improve the health of all children. Together, with other committed partners across the state, we can make the vision of health care for all children a reality in Colorado.

TRUSTEE PROFILE: SISTER LILLIAN MURPHY

Sister Lillian Murphy, RSM, President and CEO of *Mercy Housing, Inc.*, served as a Trustee of The Colorado Trust from 1996 through 2006. At the conclusion of her tenure as a board member, Sr. Lillian shared her thoughts on Trust grantmaking efforts over the past decade, as well as her hopes for the future.

CommunityConnection: What did you know of The Colorado Trust 10 years ago when you were asked to serve as a Trustee?

Lillian Murphy: I learned about The Colorado Trust initially through one of my board members at Mercy Housing. I was impressed that The Trust's broad view of health went well beyond medical care to include family and community factors. So I was really excited about the opportunity to play a role in moving that concept forward.

CC: From your perspective, what are some of the most important issues The Trust has addressed over the last decade?

LM: I think The Trust's work in youth violence prevention has been critical. It's so important to start early with kids, and to work with schools.

The work with immigrant and refugee families is also close to my heart. The current focus of this work – having established residents working hand-in-hand with immigrants – is a much-needed approach. So much of the time we focus only on those who have needs, but others also should be involved and supportive. And finally, I believe another important strategy has been The Trust's focus on building the capacity of nonprofit organizations. From early on, The Colorado Trust understood that grant monies can't just be used to support programs, but also for staff and infrastructure to ensure organizational stability.

CC: What are some of the toughest decisions you and the Board have grappled with?

LM: Choosing which social needs to focus on when there are so many needs has been challenging, yet critical. Another big challenge was in choosing a new leader for The Trust. John Moran was a hard act to follow; he had such a reputation for integrity and being a fine man. We knew it would be hard to find a successor, but I feel like we did a good job in selecting Irene Ibarra, in part because it was such a deliberate process.

CC: What do you see in the future for The Trust?

LM: The future will continue to hold challenges for setting priorities and making sure that proposed



Sister Lillian Murphy served as a Trustee of The Colorado Trust for 10 years

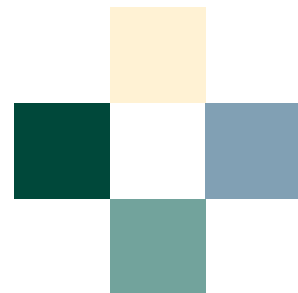
TRUSTNEWS, *continued*

solutions get at the root causes of social issues. For example, no one will be surprised to read that I see affordable housing as a root cause to solving homelessness. As housing prices go up and wages stay stagnant or go down further, there are an increasing number of families that can't afford decent homes. We need targeted programs to help nonprofits expand the scale of their work on these types of efforts. The Trust should also continue to be very clear that its grantmaking efforts are focused on specific outcomes that can bring about significant social change. The challenge will be to continuously test how it makes grants to see if it's effective, and to share outcomes with other foundations.

CC: What have you most enjoyed about your role as a Trustee?

LM: I most enjoyed getting to interact with members of the board and staff. Each board member is so committed to the mission of The Trust, and they give an incredible amount of time and talent. It has truly been a pleasure and privilege to do this work.

Trust Board members may serve up to two, five-year terms. Jean Jones, President and CEO of Girl Scouts – Mile Hi Council, also retired at the end of 2006 following 10 years of service to The Colorado Trust; she was profiled in the last edition of CommunityConnection.



IN MEMORY OF BILL BEATTIE

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of a founding trustee of The Colorado Trust, William F. Beattie. Following a courageous battle fighting cancer, Bill passed away at home from a stroke on April 10, 2007. He was 78 years old.

Bill served The Trust from 1985 to 2000. From 19987-1989, when many key initial decisions were being made about The Colorado Trust, he served as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

From rancher to businessman to venture capitalist, Bill Beattie had a varied career that spanned many professions. This proved a remarkable asset for The Trust. His wisdom and experience assisted The Trust in building a team of professionals who shared his dedication to the foundation. His attributes helped create an atmosphere of cooperation and dedication to the mission that still permeates our work.

“Without exception, since I arrived at The Trust, everyone who has talked to me about Bill has referred to him as one of the nicest people they have ever met. What a remarkable legacy, to be known best for your kindness,” said Irene M. Ibarra, President and CEO, The Colorado Trust.

Bill Beattie is survived by many family members, and our condolences go especially to his wife, Phyllis. He will be dearly missed by his friends at The Colorado Trust.



*William F. Beattie helped found
The Colorado Trust in 1985*



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

VOLUME VI • 2007 SPRING EDITION

RETIREMENT OR RE-ENGAGEMENT: COLORADO BOOMER SURVEY ASKS “WHAT’S NEXT?”

In January 2006, the front end of the Baby Boomer generation began turning 60 at the rate of one every eight seconds, and will continue to do so until the end of 2024. With age 65 on their horizon, what’s ahead for Boomers?

The Colorado Trust and **Rose Community Foundation** are conducting a survey of 55- to 65-year-old Coloradans to understand how they envision their futures, and how Boomers’ decisions about their next stage of life will have an impact on their communities.

“It’s expected that the older population in the United States will double in size over the next 25 years. With this in mind, it’s important that we understand both emerging and anticipated health needs of this group, as well as how we can best harness Boomers’ energy for the health of our communities,” says Irene M. Ibarra, President and CEO, The Colorado Trust. “Collecting information through this survey from Boomers across all walks of life in Colorado – different ethnic groups, those in small towns to large cities, and across economic and educational spectrums – is an important first step in this process.”

The **Colorado Boomer Survey** is open to Colorado Boomers and takes about 10 minutes to complete. The survey will be online through Monday, April 30 at www.coloradoboomers.com.

For additional information, contact Ginger Harrell, Program Officer, 303-837-1200, ginger@coloradotrust.org.



TRUSTNEWS

BULLYING PREVENTION EFFORTS HIGHLIGHTED AT TRUST EVENT

Sixteen-year-old Brittni Hernandez gets frustrated when her classmates are afraid or unwilling to take action when they see bullying going on around them.

“Bullying at my school isn’t so much people pushing each other around, but gossiping and spreading rumors,” said the junior from University Schools in Greeley during a Learning Lunch hosted by The Colorado Trust on March 14. “So we decided to do something about it at my school. We have a process where students and school staff take on bullying by discussing appropriate reactions. Every year, we teach our freshmen that bullying just isn’t tolerated at our school and then practice new skills that help them to prevent bullying.”

Kirk Williams of the University of California in Riverside, who is partnering with JVA Consulting to conduct an independent evaluation of The Trust’s **Bullying Prevention Initiative**, also shared preliminary evaluation findings. Williams noted that programs put in place by grantees of the initiative – which is estimated to reach more than 50,000 young people and adults across 40 Colorado counties – are making a difference. Based on data collected for 62 schools, 49% of the schools had reductions in negative bullying and bystander behaviors among youths; and 63% had improvements in school context (e.g., greater trust, respect and support from teachers and peers) and school culture (e.g., disapproval of bullying behaviors and perceived willingness of others to help out in bullying situations).

For additional information about the **Bullying Prevention Initiative** contact Ed Lucero, Senior Program Officer, 303-837-1200, ed@coloradotrusted.org. For more information about the related evaluation, please contact Nancy Csuti, Director of Evaluation, 303-837-1200, nancy@coloradotrusted.org.



Brittni Hernandez of University Schools in Greeley spoke on efforts to prevent bullying

TRUST WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT PROGRAM OFFICER



*Deidre Johnson, new
Assistant Program Officer
for The Colorado Trust*

Welcome to Deidre Johnson who has joined The Trust as Assistant Program Officer. Deidre comes to The Trust from Qualistar Early Learning where she served as Vice President of Development and Marketing. Previously, she worked as a senior consultant with JVA Consulting, and she also held various leadership positions in development and communications with the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver, the Mile High Child Care Association and the Colorado I Have a Dream Foundation. Deidre earned a Master of Public and Private Management at Yale University, as well as an A.B. in English from Princeton University.

COLORADO AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK NAMES NEW DIRECTOR

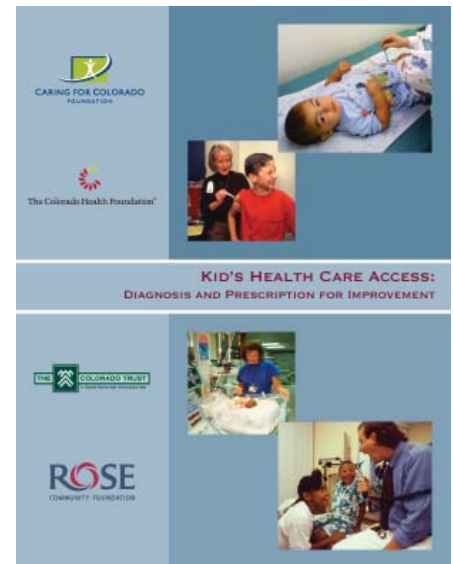
Frederick Franko has been named the new Director of the **Colorado AfterSchool Network**. Previously, Franko managed public affairs for the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, directed state public affairs for the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses and worked for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. His breadth of experience includes expertise in public and government affairs as a policy analyst, researcher, program planner and lobbyist, as well as representing numerous interests to federal, state and local decisionmakers. While he has worked in a variety of policy areas – including health and transportation – he specializes in education at the K-12 and postsecondary levels. Franko holds a Master of Public and International Affairs degree from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a B.A. from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



*Frederick Franko, new
Director of the Colorado
AfterSchool Network*

KIDS' HEALTH CARE ACCESS: DIAGNOSIS AND PRESCRIPTION FOR IMPROVEMENT

A new report, *Kids' Health Care Access: Diagnosis and Prescription for Improvement*, examines the current state of health care access, coverage, provider capacity and quality of care for all children in Metro Denver, and proposes solutions to providing care for all of Colorado's uninsured and under-insured children. The study was conducted by Health Policy Solutions, Inc. on behalf of The Colorado Trust, **Caring for Colorado Foundation**, **The Colorado Health Foundation** and **Rose Community Foundation**.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Efforts by The Colorado Trust and its grantees to advance the health and well-being of the people of Colorado included Trust support for the following recent events:

- Advancing Colorado's Mental Health Care Reception
- Arapahoe House – 13th Annual Pillars of the Community Gala
- Asian Pacific Development Center – Annual New Year's Banquet
- Colorado Healthcare Communicators – Health Care Legislative Review
- Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce – Health Care Policy Breakfast
- Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado – Black Tie & Boots Gala
- Mental Health Association of Colorado – Legislative Education Day 2007
- Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado – Prisms of the Heart Annual Dinner

