



2021

Annual Report



A Message from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

I am so thankful and humbled by the support the River Center has received over the last several years. 2021 started our eleventh year of providing services in the communities of New Castle and Silt. With COVID funding we were continued to provide services from Aspen to Parachute, but moving into 2022 we will be back to only serving New Castle and Silt families. We are encouraged going into 2022 with the tremendous support we have received over these years from volunteers, donors, clients, and community members. During 2021 we had a change in staff for one position and were blessed that the transition was successful. We saw new faces volunteering as well as new donors.

In the fall of 2021 we did a community survey in order to help us gauge where we are making the greatest impact and where we can continue to grow. We used these results in our 2022 strategic planning and will continue to use them with decisions for each outreach as well as partnering with other agencies.

Moving into 2022 we are working towards purchasing the building we currently rent from. This is a big endeavor, but we feel it will help River Center with long-term sustainability as well as being able to adapt the building to better suit our outreaches and needs. Stay tuned for more information on the building purchase and how you can help!

Thank you for all your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Paulson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Paulson
Executive Director

A wooden sign with a black border, featuring the words "board of directors" written in a bold, black, cursive font. The sign is centered on a light-colored wooden background.

board of directors

2021 Board of Directors

Kayla Towes - Board President

Laura Barbieur - Board Treasurer

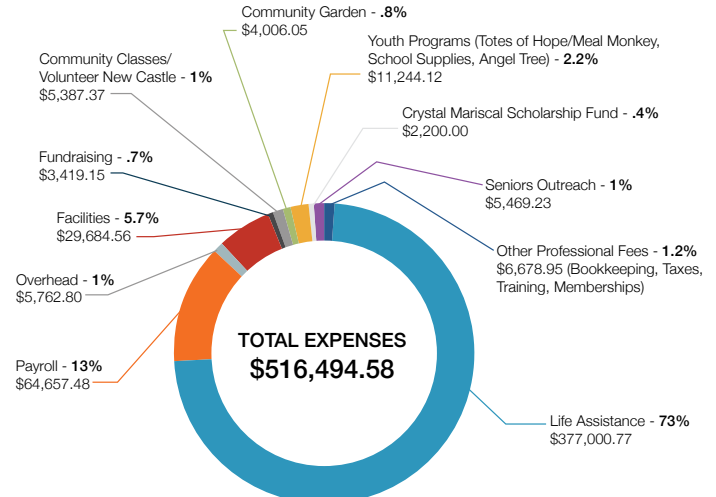
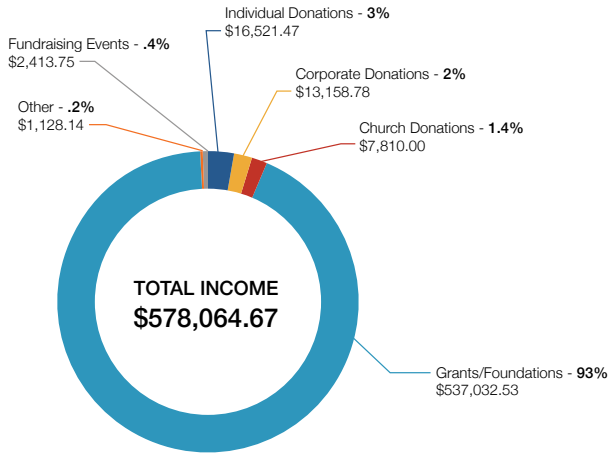
Angela Meraz - Board Secretary

Troy Feese - Member

Emily Jack-Scott - Member

Brenda Kaiser - Member

Income / Expenses





The River Center is a great opportunity for local businesses to volunteer. This summer we had a group from Keller Williams Colorado West Realty, LLC help us with preparing our community garden.

Life Assistance

Our life assistance team provides financial assistance for households primarily in New Castle and Silt. The River Center also oversees funding through Rocky Mountain Health Foundation funds in order to provide financial assistance to Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin counties through multiple agencies. This fund has provided the opportunity for The River Center to collaborate with multiple agencies within the tri-county area bringing more assistance to families in need. River Center was awarded COVID funding again through Aspen Community Foundation where we were able to assist households from Aspen to Parachute.

River Center continues to be one of the community partners that Tom's Door, out of Carbondale, financially supports. Funds we receive assist households in the New Castle/Silt areas.

A total of 203 households were assisted amongst the funds. Agencies we worked with in 2020 through the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation include: Family Resource Centers (Roaring Fork Valley & District 16, Catholic Charities, Center for Independence, Garfield County Public Health/Human Services, City of Rifle, Reach Out Colorado, Mountain Family Health, Centro Colorado, Family Visitors Program, CASA of the Ninth, River Bridge, Response, MIRA Bus, Vail Valley Charitable Fund, and the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation.

In the summer of 2020 we were approved by the Glenwood Springs City Council to partner with them to provide assistance to Glenwood Springs residents with the increase in their water bills. This is a one-year contract to provide monthly assistance to approved households. The anticipation of households needing to apply was high, but only a small amount of applications were submitted with majority approved. With the lack of response from the community on needing the assistance. River Center sent back any funds that will not be needed through June of 2022.

Areas of Funding:



Rent / Motel
\$127,415.05



Utilities
\$33,498.53



Food Subsidy
\$11,626.65



Medical
\$5,225.24



Transportation
\$8,936.09



Handyman
\$3,700.00



Other Misc.
\$1,357.12



Cloting/
Personal Care
\$415.47

Community Gardens

We had our most successful garden season this year with over 500 pounds of produce harvested! Our dedicated volunteers worked hard each week to harvest and deliver food to local families through our office and the New Castle/ Silt Lift-Up pantry located in the River Center building as well as Apple Tree Park office.

Twelve individual plots were provided to the community and Liberty Classical Academy. Liberty Classical Academy was able to utilize the garden in Apple Tree for educational purposes as well.

Moving into 2022 we will be partnering more with the CSU Master Gardener Program and the New Castle Garden Club. Stay tuned for a session of four classes on gardening beginning in March of 2022!



School Outreaches

Totes for Hope was back in swing this year with dedicated volunteers meeting each Wednesday to bag the produce and deliver to local schools. Pepsi has continued to partner with us for food deliveries. Thank you Pepsi! A total of

Meal Monkey lunches averaged 84 each week and continued each Friday for four locations throughout New Castle and Silt with a total of 4,352 lunches provided. Our wonderful volunteers would meet Thursday's and Friday's to prepare the sack lunches each week and our team of delivery volunteers stayed strong.

Angel Tree provided 330 Christmas gifts to children in Silt, New Castle, and Glenwood Springs. We are extremely grateful for the overwhelming support the community gave with donations of toys and funding. Thank you to the local businesses who partnered with us for collection boxes.

Over \$1,800.00 in **school supplies** were provided to all six area schools. We continue to meet direct needs for students that are referred to the River Center as well.



Seniors

Our weekly luncheons were brought back in April of 2021. It has been wonderful being able to fellowship again. We have been supporting the local businesses by purchasing the weekly meals and thank them for their discounts. Lunches have been purchased from 88 Grill, Two Coronas, Tapatios, Hogback Pizza, Hunt Brother's Pizza, Burning Mountain Pizza & Subs, and City Market.

We were able to do a couple monthly activities up to Glenwood Caverns, Iron Mountain Hot Springs, a library concert, and the Symphony in the Valley concert.

Lunches continue to be each Wednesday from 12:00 - 1:00 PM here at the River Center.



Volunteer New Castle

We were happy to be able to bring back our celebration in 2021 during Burning Mountain Days. Our Volunteer New Castle team worked hard to celebrate our individual, business, and organization of the year. Each award recipient(s) were part of the Burning Mountain Parade and announced the first evening of Burning Mountain Days. Thank you to this year's award recipients.



Volunteer of the Year
Ines Baquero



Business of the Year
Hogback Pizza



Organization of the Year
New Castle Lions Club

Crystal Mariscal Scholarship Fund

This scholarship is based on the belief of education as the initial foundation to defeat poverty and break systematic barriers. It provides an opportunity for growth in your current career or as a way to enrich your life, your family's life, or your community. 2021 was our first round of scholarships with a total in \$2,200.00 being awarded.

2021 award recipients:



Cindy Kelly

Obtaining an accounting degree through Colorado State University Global Online Program.

Priscilla Rodriguez

Obtaining certificate in billing and coding as well as receiving Associates in Business through Colorado Mountain College.

Pictured: Brenda Kaiser, River Center Board Member / Scholarship Committee, Cindy Kelly, Heather Paulson, Executive Director

Community Classes

We were able to partner with Liberty Classical Academy to provide a parenting class in the spring. We had a full turnout with the class which was taught by Pete and Patty Schaffner. Thank you to the Schaffner's and LCA for partnering with us.

A Spanish cooking class, "Cooking with Norma", was offered in the fall with a full graduating class. Thank you Norma Teran for doing an amazing job with these classes.



Fire in the Hole 5K

Our first “Fire in the Hole 5K’ was hosted during Burning Mountain Days. The plan is for this to be an annual fundraiser for the River Center. Thank you to our Board of Directors President, Kayla Toews, for her hard work putting it together. Thank you to all the participants and we look forward to seeing this 5K grow in the years to come.

River Center participated in the Burning Mountain Parade this year as well. Thank you to our community members and volunteers that walked with us.



2021 Volunteer Spotlights

We started a volunteer spotlights in 2021 to highlight the amazing work that some of our volunteers are doing on a regular basis.



Michelle Williams
Totes of Hope, Meal Monkey



Adria Milton-Baker
Senior Luncheon



Lee Price
Board Member



Mari Riddle
Totes of Hope, Angel Tree



May Rochon
Community Garden



Val Williams
Meal Monkey



Roclynn Simms (Rocky)
Meal Monkey



Kayla Toews
Board Member



Jennifer Prosser
Community Garden



Anne Andersen
Meal Monkey

Thank you to our Donors

Alan and Liam

Alisha Riddile-Realtor with Embryn at KW

Alpenglow Foundation

Alpine Bank

Amazon Smiles

Amy Luetke

Amy Treese

Anderson Structural Engineering

Ashlee Taylor

Aspen Community Foundation

- Aspen Skiing Company Family Fund

- The Baguettes

- City of Aspen

Audrey Turner

A.V. Hunter Trust

Berthod Motors, Inc.

Bill and Karen Wentzel

Bill Schoenecker

Blythe Tardie

Bradley/Borum & Erica Snyder

Bruce & Eileen Leland

Bruce Robinson

Carley Clements

Carolyn Zodrow

Charlie & Patty Ringer

Christine Burke & Mike Gross

City of Glenwood Springs

Claire M Nielsen

Colorado Housing & Finance Authority

Cottle Carr Yaw Architects LTD

Cynthia Colebrook

Dalby, Wendland & CO

Dana Yerian & Joan Drake

Daybreak Enterprises LLC

Dean & Tish Fliss

Deb & Mike Bonkiewicz

Dodson Engineered Products

Eddie & Denise Piker

Eileen Wysocki

Elizabeth Russo

Eric Vaughan

Garfield County Human Service Commission

Gary & Terri Knob
Girl Scout Troop 15006
Glenwood Springs Subaru
Gloria Castillo
Grady Hazelton
Heather Paulson
Holy Cross Energy Round-Up Foundation
Iglesia Cristo La Roca
Jeff & Brenda Kaiser
Jennie Knob
Jennifer Kremer
Jennifer Ottersen
Joe and Julie Gavito
John & Joni Harcourt
John & Donna Russo
Jolley Family Foundation
Joseph Bower
Julie Nesbit
Julie Olson
Justin & Sarah Windholz
Karen Garrison

Kathleen Clark
Kathleen Dykstra
Kayla Toews
Keller Williams Colorado West Realty
Kinsey Roberts
Kyle & Sherry Whitaker
Larry & Constance Theisen
Larry & Mary Metzger
Laura Barbieur
Lee & Jana Price
Lee Rimel
Lisa Pierce
Loran & Sue Randles
M.A. Ligon
Mary Glode
Mike & Karen Peppers
Nancy Page
New Castle Lions Club
New Hope Church
Network for Good
New Castle Coffee Company

Thank you to our Donors Cont.

New Castle Liquors

Nikki Fender

Paula Kellaway

Paul & Maura Carlson

Patricia Tomasko

Perla Silva

Peter Bagley

Pete & Patty Schaffner

Renee Miller

Phillip & Judy Shaffer

Rifle Community Foundation

Rita Coder

Robert DuBois

Rocky Mountain Health Foundation

Rodger & Janice Day

Rodney Kiser

Rosemary S Keough

SGM

Sheri Atkinson

Skin to Soul Holistic Massage, LLC

Sharon Pennington

St. John's Episcopal Church

Superior Home Concepts LLC

Talbott Enterprises, Inc.

Ted & Hilda Vaughan

The Colorado Trust

The Metta Giving Foundation

The TJX Foundation, Inc.

The Town of New Castle

Toboggan Creek, LLC

Tom's Door

Troy & Kim Feese

Valerie Williams

Vance & Elyse Hutchinson

Waste Management

Wendy Caldwell

Western Colorado Community Foundation - T.R.U.E. Fund

Zane Degraffenried



Neighbors Helping Neighbors