



2023

Annual Report



A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for being a part of the River Center family and making a difference in our community! Our dedicated volunteers, staff, and board are looking forward to this upcoming year and continuing our outreach programs. We have remained a grassroots organization and I would like to say thank you to our remarkable volunteers for making such an impact. Our 100+ volunteers logged over 1,697 hours which equals \$53,472.47 in value; and our Board of Directors has continued to assist in ensuring the integrity of our vision and mission is met. Our primary focus has remained that we provide a “hand up”, not a “hand out” for residents of New Castle and Silt. Please know how much your time and financial contributions mean to the families we serve as well as those providing the service.

We were able to make the remaining modifications to the building, including a new boiler this year! Thank you to those who have contributed towards our capital campaign improvements. We are still working towards paying off our mortgage with the goal of achieving that goal in the next eight years.

Thank you for wholeheartedly being a part of The River Center,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Paulson".

Heather Paulson
Executive Director



2023 Board of Directors & Staff

Kayla Toews - Board President

Laura Barbieur - Board Treasurer

Angela Meraz - Board Secretary (Not pictured)

Emily Jack-Scott - Member

Brenda Kaiser - Member (January)

Ryan Feeney - Member

Aaron Massimer - Member

Larry Metzger - Member (Not pictured)

Ana Gaytan - Member (Not pictured)

Nathan Newton - Member (Not pictured)

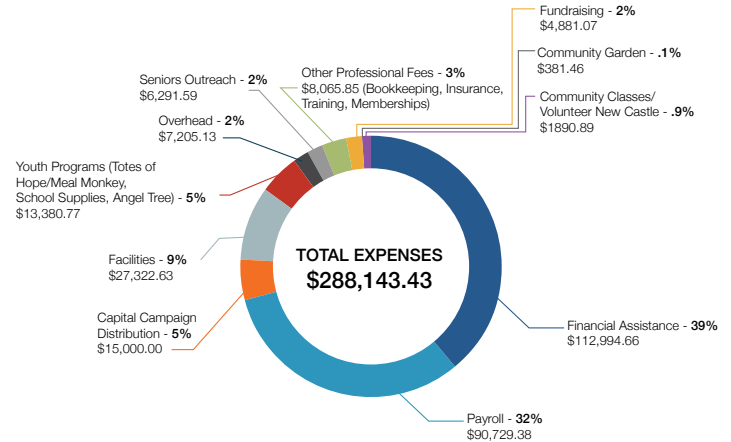
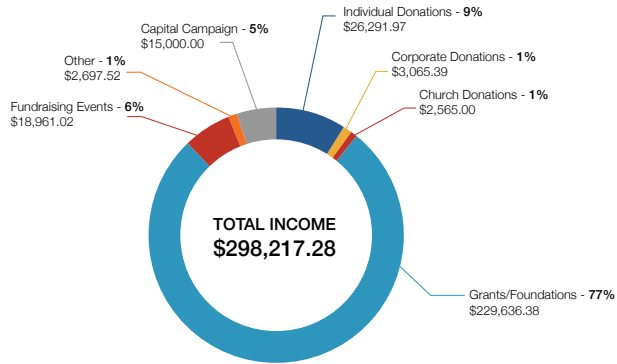
Isaac Thompson - Member (Not pictured)

Heather Paulson - Executive Director

Liz Gabuardi - Assistant Director

Astrid Bejarano-Vega - Financial Assistance Coordinator

Income / Expenses



Financial Assistance

Our financial assistance team provided a total of \$61,165.67 in financial assistance to 62 households (283 individuals) that reside in New Castle and Silt. We continue to be one of the community partners that Tom's Door, out of Carbondale, financially supports each month for the New Castle and Silt area.

The River Center also collaborates with multiple agencies to oversee and provide assistance through Rocky Mountain Health Foundation. \$51,828.99 was distributed throughout Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin counties. 110 households (383 individuals) were assisted with rent, utilities, medical equipment, vehicle repairs, dental costs, food, and clothing.

River Center Areas of Funding:



Rent / Motel
\$34,377.84



Utilities
\$8,096.08



Transportation
\$6,735.27



Food/Subsidy
\$4,585.00



Medical
\$2,736.81



Personal Care
\$2,482.02



Handyman
\$2,152.65

Rocky Mountain Health Foundation Areas of Funding:



Rent / Motel
\$29,202.09



Utilities
\$1,183.60



Food/Subsidy
\$5,525.00



Medical
\$9,281.69



Transportation
\$6,66.61

School Outreaches

Totes of Hope® is one of our longest running outreaches serving the elementary and middle schools in New Castle and Silt. 2,301 bags of non-perishable food items were delivered to the schools for weekend meals in 2023.

Meal Monkey provides a nutritious lunch to kids 18 and younger each Friday. Meals are prepared and delivered by volunteers to four locations within New Castle and Silt each week. A total of 5,771 lunches were delivered in 2023.

Angel Tree provided 135 Christmas gifts to children in New Castle and Silt.

Over \$1,900.00 in gift cards for 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.

We were able to fulfill remaining needs for Coal Ridge High School's needs tree. We assisted five families with gift cards for food and clothing. Fourteen students were also given gift cards for clothing.





Senior Network Luncheon

Our weekly lunches have continued each Wednesday. We have been supporting the local businesses by purchasing weekly meals and we appreciate them discounting these meals for us. Presenters came in to discuss a variety of topics throughout the year. We held a few activities; they painted plates, had a drawing contest, made jewelry, and had students from Elk Creek Elementary come sing. The week before Christmas, the seniors had a white elephant gift exchange. We continue to celebrate birthday's on the first Wednesday of the month.



Volunteer New Castle

We celebrated our volunteers throughout the community again during Burning Mountain Days. Thank you to our Volunteer New Castle team and for these individuals, businesses, and organizations for all the support you give to our community.



Volunteer of the Year
Kevin Hansen



Business of the Year
Colorado Drifters



Organization of the Year
New Castle Dog park



Community Gardens

Over 466 pounds of produce was harvested and given to families coming in for food assistance! Our dedicated volunteers worked hard each week to harvest and deliver food to local families through the Lift-Up Pantry located in the River Center.

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.



Handyman Outreach

Several homes in Apple Tree Park, primarily disabled or senior residents, needed repairs to their homes to ensure their safety. We partnered with Apple Tree Park and several volunteers to make these changes happen. Thank you to ALL the volunteers who helped make this a reality. In addition to the multiple volunteers from the area, Valor Missions youth group helped with this project for multiple days.

We worked on four homes in the area and have plans to finish the remaining homes in the spring of 2024. These are a few of the homes and volunteers that gave their time and talents.

Before



After



Before



After



Adult Prom Fundraiser

Our first Adult Prom fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who participated. We are looking forward to this being a continuing fundraiser.



Fire in the Hole 5K

Our third “Fire in the Hole 5K” was hosted during Burning Mountain Days. We had a higher number of participants this year and are excited to see it continue to grow. Thank you to all the participants and congratulations to our winners.



Movie in the Park Fundraiser

We held our first Movie in the Park event, as a way to bring the community together. Thank you to all who joined us!



2023 Volunteer Spotlights

We started a volunteer spotlight in 2021 to highlight the amazing work that some of our volunteers are doing on a regular basis through The River Center and throughout New Castle and Silt.



Lilas Robinson
January - Angel Tree



Ryan Feeney
February - Board of Directors
/ Handyman Team



Mary Johnson
March - Angel Tree / Meal
Monkey / Community Garden
Totes of Hope / New Castle
Lion's Club, Garden Club,
and more!



Brenda Kaiser
April - Board of Directors
Angel Tree / SANA / Meal
Monkey



MaryAnn Ligon
May - Meal Monkey / Senior
Luncheon



Patty Schaffner
June - Financial Emergency
Assistance Team / Senior
Luncheon / Community
Classes / Angel Tree



Jack Oulund
July - Senior Luncheon, New
Castle Lion's Club, Meals on
Wheels



Charis "Reese"
Bennett
August- Totes of Hope



The Welk Family
September - Meal Monkey



John Harcourt
October - Volunteer New
Castle / New Castle Cub
Scouts



Larry Metzger
November - Board of
Directors / Volunteer New
Castle



Julie Nesbit
December - Meal Monkey

Thank you to our Donors

A.V. Hunter Trust	Anonymous	Bruce & Eileen Leland
Adam Decker Insurance Agency	Anonymous	Bruce Robinson
Ajax Energy Solutions	Anonymous	Cactus Valley Elementary
Alan Borrett	Anonymous	Carol Bates
Alpenglow Foundation*	Anonymous	Carolyn Cipperly
Alpine Bank*	Anonymous	Charlie & Pattie Ringer
Alpine Bank (Angela Meraz, Mary Stewart, Rosana Garcia)	Anonymous	CHFA
Amanda Gauldin	Anonymous	Chrissy Lee-Manes
AmazonSmile Foundation	Anonymous	Christine Burke
American Online Giving Foundation	Anonymous	Christine Goodendorf
Amy Luetke	Aspen Community Foundation	Coal Ridge High School
Anderson Structural Engineering	Aspen Skiing Company Family Fund	Colorado Mountain College
Angela Meraz	Baguettes Advised Fund at Aspen Community Foundation	CO First Community Foundation
Anita Bishop	Barbara Guy	Credit Union of Colorado
Anonymous	Bill & Karen Wentzel	Dale & Julie Nesbit
Anonymous		Dana & Joan Yerian
		Dave and Suzan Andrus

Dean & Tish Fliss	John Harcourt	Larry & Constance Theissen
Donald & Shelley Gardineer	Jack Oulund	Larry Metzger
Doug Estes	Jolley Family Foundation	Laura Barbieur
Eileen Wysocki	Joseph & Julie Gavito	Lee & Jana Price
Elissa & Vance Hutchinson	Julie Olson	Loran & Sue Randles
Emily Hisel	Julie Rodriguez	Maria judith Alvarez
Emily Jack-Scott	Justin & Sarah Windholz	Mary Glode
Eric Vaughan	Karen Fullbright	Merle Detweiler in memory of Lisa Detweiler
Garfield County BOCC - Human Service Commission	Kathleen Dykstra	Mike & Deb Bonkiewicz
Gina Thompson	Kathryn E. Williams Advised Fund at Aspen Community Foundation	Misty Kearns
Heather Paulson	Kayla & Wesley Toews	Nancy Page
Holy Cross Energy Round-Up Foundation	Keith & Sheila Maurer	New Castle Chamber
Investment Property Group (IPG)	Kevin Kelly	New Castle Dental
Jay Guengerich	Kimberly Letzinger	New Castle Lions Club
Jeanette Steckel	Kroger	New Castle Liquors
		New Hope Church

Thank you to our Donors (cont.)

Nicole Gordon

O'Reilly Auto Parts

Pat Tomasko

Paula Kellaway

Peter and Patti Schaffner

Peter Lee Bagley

Property Professionals

Reese Henry & Company

Rifle Community Foundation

Rita Coder

Rocky Mountain Health Foundation

Saint John's Episcopal Church

Sheila & Keith Maurer

Sheri Atkinson

Sherry & Kyle Whitaker

Siobahn & Jeffrey Milholm

The Colorado Trust

The Metta Giving Foundation

The Property Shop

Tiffanie Miller

Tom's Door

Town of New Castle

Travis Petersheim

Troy & Kim Feese

Troy Thulson

Vergaras Fencing LLC

Western Colorado Community
Foundation - Bruce Dixson Fund

* Donated towards our capital
campaign



Neighbors Helping Neighbors