



2022

Annual Report



A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for making 2022 yet another remarkable year for The River Center and our community! Our dedicated volunteers and staff have done an incredible job for our outreach programs. The River Center is stronger than ever due to our continually expanding community who comes together to donate time, resources, and talent in support of our mission. Our volunteers logged over 1,563 hours which equals \$48,923.33 in value; and our Board of Directors has continued to assist in ensuring the integrity of our vision and mission is met. Contributing to our ongoing efforts to give community members a “hand up”, not a “hand out”, helps our society as a whole. As we wrap up the year, I give you my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your generosity. Seeing lives transformed because of the generosity of this community is truly heartwarming.

2022 was a big year for the River Center with the purchase of our building in June. Thank you to the support we have had towards our capital campaign. We have began modifications within the building already to better serve our outreaches, provide double the space for the Lift-Up food pantry, and allow for us to house all our outreach supplies within the building vs paying for storage units monthly. We still have some modifications to make with the largest being an addition of an elevator. This will allow full access to the whole community to the entire building. We have a goal to pay off our mortgage within ten years which will save us money and keep overhead extremely low for the River Center. I invite you down to the River Center to see how you have helped make a difference in our community.

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

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

Heather Paulson
Executive Director

Board of Directors

2022 Board of Directors

Kayla Toews - Board President

Laura Barbieur - Board Treasurer

Angela Meraz - Board Secretary

Emily Jack-Scott - Member

Brenda Kaiser - Member

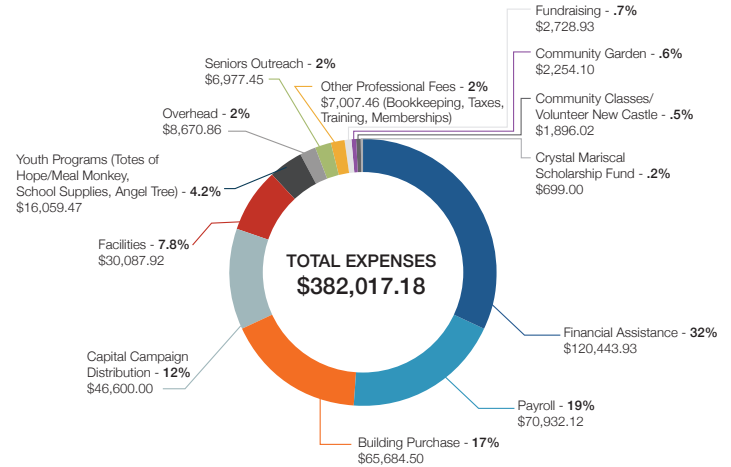
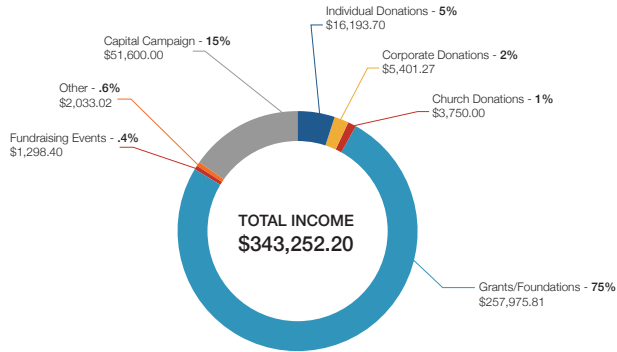
Ryan Feeney - Member

Aaron Massimer - Member

“This year was filled with some cool ideas brain stormed as we added some fun new board members. I also feel like we worked hard to help the community know we are here helping out.”

- Kayla Toews, Board President

Income / Expenses



Funding for the building purchase came out of our general funding. With the purchase of the building, we were able to secure a loan for the balance and have our mortgage payment be less than monthly rent, saving us money each year.

Financial Assistance

Our financial assistance team provided a total of \$120,443.93* in financial assistance to 115 households. 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.

We continue 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.

We continued to partner with the City of Glenwood Springs through June of 2022 providing water utility assistance to households that applied.

*A total of \$1,098.74 was spent on misc. expenses for our financial assistance team.

\$600.00 - Community Resource Network portal membership
\$468.78 - Mobile phone membership when working remotely
\$29.96 - Clothing

Areas of Funding:



Rent / Motel
\$65,786.88



Utilities
\$21,304.44



Food Subsidy
\$12,156.06



Medical
\$10,853.50



Transportation
\$7,889.31



Handyman
\$1,355.00



Our local Kum & Go staff volunteered a day of service to the River Center and helped us prepare our community garden. Thank you!

School Outreaches

Totes of Hope® is one of our longest running outreaches serving the elementary and middle schools in New Castle and Silt. 1,810 bags of non-perishable food items were delivered to the schools for weekend meals in 2022. We also provide food to the local high school for students to access.

Meal Monkey provides a nutritious lunch to kids 18 and younger each Friday due to schools not being in session on Friday's. Meals are prepared and delivered by volunteers to four locations within New Castle and Silt each week. A total of 5,542 lunches were delivered in 2022.

Angel Tree provided 148 Christmas gifts to children in New Castle and Silt. We continue to partner with other volunteers and organizations who provide gifts to the other areas within the valley. 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 \$2,000.00 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.



Community Gardens

We had our most successful garden season this year with over 705 pounds of produce harvested! 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.



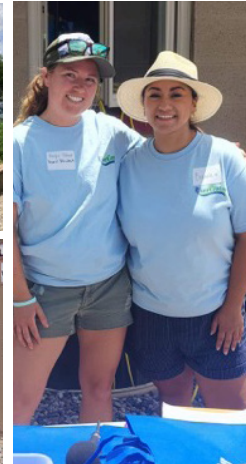
Seniors Luncheon

Our weekly lunches have continued each Wednesday. We have been supporting the local businesses by purchasing the weekly meals and appreciate them discounting these meals for us. We were not able to do as many monthly activities as we had hoped, but are looking forward to doing more in 2023.



Open House

We were fortunate to purchase the building we have called home in June. We had a wonderful open house to celebrate with the community. Thank you to everyone who came and a huge thank you to all those who have donated towards our capital campaign for the building purchase and building modifications. We are hopeful to have the mortgage paid off within the next ten years.



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(s) of the Year
Mary Johnson &
Tom Elder



**Volunteer of the Year
(Posthumously)**
Mary Metzger



Business of the Year
New Castle Liquors



Organization of the Year
Cub Scouts / Boy Scouts
Troop 221

Crystal Mariscal Scholarship Fund

The Crystal Mariscal Scholarship Fund is our newest outreach and had it's second round of scholarships given out. It is based on the belief of education as the initial foundation to defeat poverty and break systematic barriers. It is offered to single parent households within the valley to apply. Congratulations to our 2022 recipients.



Jennifer Jackeline Garcia Ruiz



Nicole Gray

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. Master Gardener, Jennifer Prosser, who also is a co-leader for our community gardens taught a class on gardening to the Apple Tree Mom's Circle.

Our four-part gardening class was a great learning opportunity for the community. Thank you to our volunteers for their hard work putting these classes together, including Literacy Outreach for translations. As part of the class they learned how to properly plant and harvest the gardens as well.





River Center Leadership Meet & Greet

Our staff, Board of Directors, and outreach team leaders met earlier in the year for a meet & greet. During this event our leaders were able to get to know each other better as well as have a better understanding of what each team has been doing.

Fire in the Hole 5K

Our second “Fire in the Hole 5K” was hosted during Burning Mountain Days. Thank you to our Board of Directors President, Kayla Toews, for her hard work putting it together. Thank you to all the participants. We look forward to seeing this 5K grow in the years to come.



2022 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.



Brandi Smythe
January - Angel Tree



Chera Kearns
February - Financial Assistance Team



Joe & Lorraine McNeal
March - Meal Monkey / Senior Luncheon / New Castle Museum



Ruth Fletcher
April - Totes of Hope / Angel Tree



Val Williams
May - Meal Monkey / Senior Luncheon / Lift-Up



Laura Barbieur
June - Board of Directors



Marie Leavitt
July - Senior Luncheon



Roclynn "Rocky" Simms
August - Meal Monkey / Senior Luncheon / Lift-Up



Brandon, Dylan, & Connor
September - Meal Monkey / Lift-Up



Sue & Loran Randles
October - Volunteer New Castle



Angela Meraz
November - Board of Directors



Mandy Gauldin
December - Totes of Hope / Volunteer New Castle

Always in our Hearts

2022 came with losses to the River Center with the loss of Mary Metzger, who helped with the startup of The River Center and Volunteer New Castle, and Lisa Detweiler, a River Center staff member. Both of these ladies were an example to us all of servant hearts and brought so much to our communities. They will both be missed tremendously. Thank you to those who donated in the memory of these two in order to carry on helping those within the community they loved dearly.

Thank you to our Donors

A.V. Hunter Trust

Alpenglow Foundation**

Alpine Bank*

AmazonSmile Foundation

American Online Giving Foundation

Amy Luetke

Anderson Structural Engineering

Anita Bishop

Aspen Community Foundation

Aspen Skiing Company Family Fund

Baguettes Advised Fund

Bill & Karen Wentzel

Bolitho Family Trust

Bruce & Carol Campbell

Bruce & Eileen Leland*

Bruce Robinson

Cactus Valley Elementary

CO First Community Foundation

Coal Ridge High School Booster Club

Colorado Garden Foundation

Community First

Credit Union of Colorado Founda-
tion

Cub Scout Troop 221

Dale & Julie Nesbit

Dana & Joan Yerian

Dean & Elizabeth Filiss

Diane Webster

Donald & Shelley Gardineer*

Doug & Michelle Williams

Emily Hisel

Eric Vaughan

Evelyn McGill

First Citizens Bank & Trust
Company

Friedman Family Foundation
Advised Fund

Garfield County BOCC - Human Service
Commission

Garfield County Public Library District

Gina Thompson

Heather Paulson

Hilde Hottendorg

Holdeman Mennonite Church

Holy Cross Energy Round-Up
Foundation

James Yoder & Anna Marie Guengerich

Jennie Knob

Jennifer Holton

Joan & Tim Hayes

Joe & Lorraine McNeal*

John Oulund

Jolley Family Foundation*

Joseph & Julie Gavito

Joseph Bower

Joseph Erickson

Kathryn E. Williams Advised
Fund

Kayla & Wesley Toews

Kelly & Jim Lord*

Kimberly Leitzinger*

Knights of Columbus Council
No. 2308

Krista Eddy*

Kroger Community Gives Program

Kyle & Sherry Whitaker

Larry & Connie Theisen

Laura Barbieur

Lee Price

Lew & Sally Kingdom

Loran & Sue Randles

Mary Anne Ligon

Mary Rippy

Mike & Deb Bonkiewicz

Mountaineer Electric

New Castle Coffee Company

New Castle Lions Club

New Castle Liquors

New Hope Church

Patricia Ringer

Thank you to our Donors (cont.)

Paul & Maura Carlson*

Paula Kellaway

Pete & Patty Schaffner

Philip & Judy Shaffer

Reese, Henry & Company

Richard & Elaine Kauffman

Robert & Barbara Spengler

Rocky Mountain Health Foundation

Ross & Rebecca Talbott*

Sara Dodero*

Sara Gentry

Sarah Windholz

Sharon Price

Sheila Daley

Steve and Christy Nilsson

Steven Burkhalter

T. Carter & Nancy Page*

T.R.U.E. Grants Fund

Talbott Enterprises, Inc.

Ted Vaughan

The Benevity Community
Impact Fund

The Colorado Trust

The Kroger Co.

The Metta Giving Foundation

The Property Shop*

The TJX Foundation

Tom's Door

Town of New Castle

Troy & Kim Feese

Vance & Elyse Hutchinson

Vista View Events

Walmart

Western Colorado Community
Foundation - Bruce Dixson Fund

Western Colorado Community
Foundation - COVID19 Response
Grants



Neighbors Helping Neighbors