Community Connection

DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER

Apr – Jun 2022

Picturesque Ravenna Golf Course was the idyllic setting for Douglas County Community Foundation’s inaugural golf tournament fundraiser, Drive FORE DCCF. Eighty golfers participated in the scramble tournament, bringing together players of all skill levels for a fun yet competitive morning of 18 holes of golf.

“This tournament was top notch,” said presenting sponsor Tim Maloney, who is senior vice president of Kraemer North America. “From the prime rib to the pristine course, we couldn’t have asked for a more successful event.”

The Club at Ravenna is a 634 acre private golf and resort-style community located in the foothills southwest of Denver by the Platte River in Waterton Canyon. From the various holes on the golf course, players were treated to breathtaking views of the Dakota Hogback’s red rock outcroppings, the Pike National Forest, the distant Denver skyline and the golf course itself.

The event raised $64,491. Special thanks to our Ravenna hosts, President and CEO Kevin Collins and Director of Golf & Club Operations George Kahrhoff; we look forward to returning in August next year.
Sources of Strength is an internationally recognized youth suicide prevention program that has been implemented in many schools across the Douglas County School District (DCSD), primarily at the middle and high school level.

According to Kimberly Moore, DCSD health, prevention and social emotional learning lead, the overarching goal of the program is to send the message to students that there is hope, help and strength during times of adversity; that there are people willing to help; and that each individual person has strength in their life.

The eight “slices” of the program’s strength wheel are family support, positive friends, mentors, healthy activities, generosity, spirituality, physical health and mental health. “We all have strengths but don’t necessarily have them all at the same time,” shared Moore. Using the wheel as a guide, students can lean into other areas of strength when things are difficult in another.

The schools with Sources of Strength programs in place have a core group of adult advisors and student peer leaders who are trained by Moore and her team. Peer leaders are nominated and represent all corners and cultures of the school community. The school-based team then focuses on connection through activities and messaging to reach the broader school base.

There are currently 16 DCSD schools participating in the Sources of Strength program. The goal is to continue to increase the number of schools, expand deeper into the elementary grade levels and even spread the concept throughout the greater community.

To learn more or to request assistance with starting a Sources of Strength program, contact Kimberly Moore at Kimberly.Moore@dcsdk12.org. To learn more about Sources of Strength, visit sourcesofstrength.org.

Sources of Strength update:

In April, DCCF board members joined the Douglas County School District and Sources of Strength CEO, Jarrod Hindman, at the PACE Center in Parker for a presentation on teen suicide prevention.

DCCF Executive Director Mike Waid presented information about the Foundation and the $25,000 grant DCCF awarded to Sources of Strength in December 2021 – which has made it possible to implement Sources of Strength programs in additional schools in Douglas County, including 10 new elementary schools.

The funding was used for coaches training in five schools, K-2 curriculum for four schools, 3-6 curriculum for four schools, K-6 curriculum for two schools, posters that complement the curriculum, and $250 prize money for the poster contest winner.
DCCF Chairman Justin Vaughn had the pleasure of stopping by Castle View Farms in Castle Rock to deliver a Foundation grant check to Robin’s Nest Founder Wendy Ingraham (pictured center) and Program Director Jen Patterson (pictured left).

This second installment check enabled Robin’s Nest to provide three teen participants battling mental health issues each the opportunity to experience eight one-on-one equine therapy sessions.

The first participant was a 14-year-old female referred by the Juvenile Assessment Center. She came from a complicated family dynamic with many siblings and different parents. The second 14-year-old female was also referred by the Juvenile Assessment Center, and she was struggling with depression and anxiety. She came from a single-parent household without insurance or financial means to pay for therapy. The third scholarship went to a 9-year-old male in foster care. This referral came from the Department of Human Services. Part of the grant money will be used for transportation to and from Sky View Farms where Robin's Nest operates its program.

Another positive impact DCCF grants are making –

Due to patient confidentiality, Robin’s Nest cannot divulge specific personal information about the teen who received therapy as a result of the first installment of the DCCF grant. However, Patterson did share that the participant has reported a decrease in anxiety, improved self-esteem, and an ability to assert herself. She is learning how to set healthy boundaries in the challenging situations she is navigating.

Amazon partners with DCCF

Douglas County Community Foundation (DCCF) is pleased to announce a $10,000 donation commitment from Amazon for DCCF’s Community Emergency Relief Fund. This fund allows DCCF to provide immediate financial support and operational assistance to local organizations and those impacted by community emergencies.

“We are all very aware of how quickly an emergency situation can impact a community,” said DCCF Executive Director Mike Waid. “DCCF is uniquely positioned to respond with agile funds and effective relationships for when our community is faced with its next emergency situation,” he said.

“Amazon recognizes the critical importance of community organizations in responding quickly to emergency situations,” said Brittany Morris Saunders, Amazon’s head of community affairs in Denver. “We’re proud of our partnership with DCCF, as it allows us to directly impact the emergency preparedness of the communities where our employees, our customers and our partners live and work.”

DCCF maintains strong corporate partnerships, simplifying, maximizing and recognizing company stewardship such as Amazon’s. As a force multiplier for philanthropic endeavors, DCCF helps businesses build a socially-responsible plan to give back to the community, allowing much needed funds to have the greatest impact on the Douglas County community.

Donations to DCCF’s Community Emergency Relief Fund can be made at dccf.org.
Now accepting applications for 2022 Q3 grants!

DCCF will distribute $100,000 in grants in the third quarter and will continue granting quarterly moving forward. Applications for Q3 are due before 5 p.m. on August 31.

Sixteen Douglas County nonprofit organizations working in the mental health arena will receive the funds, with half of the grants awarded to organizations with budgets less than $249,999 and the other half with budgets of $250,000 or more. Apply at dccf.org.

Douglas County Community Foundation is committed to responsibly managing philanthropic contributions, maintaining agile funds for emergencies, inspiring generosity, and providing support to local nonprofit organizations serving the needs within our community.