



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2025

MEDIA CONTACT

Sara Goodwin, 720-254-7329

Douglas County Community Foundation Announces 2025 Hero Award Recipients

Winners will be Honored at 3rd Annual Heroes Gala, Sept. 12th

Douglas County, Colo. – For the third year in a row, the Douglas County Community Foundation (DCCF) is excited to announce the recipients of its Hero Awards, which recognize the service and valor of Douglas County first responders, Armed Forces members, and community heroes doing transformative work serving people in Douglas County.

The DCCF 2025 Hero Award recipients are:

Armed Forces Hero: Jim Espinoza, VFW Post 4266

Community Hero: Retired Staff Sergeant Michael Connors, ConnorsK9-P.A.W.S.

First Responder Hero: Richie Fleming, South Metro Fire Rescue

These worthy recipients will be honored at the third annual DCCF Heroes Gala on September 12, 2025, at Signature Aviation South at the Centennial Airport. This event helps raise funds for DCCF and the [Community Emergency Relief Fund](#), which can be quickly accessed and distributed to provide direct assistance to our community, nonprofit partners, and first responders during catastrophic events affecting Douglas County.

“This unforgettable evening of inspiration and celebration will raise awareness and support for our Douglas County first responders, Armed Forces members, and the nonprofit partner organizations supporting these brave heroes,” said DCCF Executive Director Kirsten Swanson-Moore. “These award recipients are making a profound impact on the Douglas County community, and they exemplify true heroism in every sense of the word.”

For more information about the Heroes Gala and to purchase tickets or sponsorships, visit [DCCF 2025 Heroes Gala](#).

#

About Douglas County Community Foundation

[Douglas County Community Foundation's](#) (DCCF) mission is to provide leadership and responsible stewardship of philanthropic resources to strengthen our community and enrich the lives of every resident in Douglas County. DCCF is committed to responsibly manage philanthropic contributions, maintain agile funds and serve as a conduit in emergencies, inspire local giving, and provide resources and support to local nonprofit organizations serving the needs within our community.

[CLICK FOR PDF OF RELEASE](#)

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.