Dear Colleagues:

Colorado Association of Funders consistently strives to remain relevant and provide value to our members. All of our work ties back to our strategic roadmap and our dedicated board’s determination that we focus on: strengthening peer-learning networks, supporting learning at all levels, leveraging the expertise in the network, and advocating for the sector.

In 2017, we delivered on all of those goals. For example, we are responding to member demand by convening more peer groups that are meeting even more frequently. (See page 4 to read more.) In other cases, we’ve proactively created new networks around emerging issues.

Our signature programs developed for the entire field are attracting greater numbers of members based on our ongoing ability to bring national, subject-matter experts and top-level speakers to Colorado. At the same time, we have been able to offer members a larger proportion of programs at no charge.

In all, thanks to the work of our staff and the collaboration with our many partners, we offered approximately 75 opportunities for members to come together in 2017 – either in-person, over the phone or via webinars – to learn, network, exchange information and develop stronger relationships. We also continued to expand our role in advocating for and increasing visibility for the sector and building connections with stakeholders. Thanks to our board’s approval of a comprehensive policy agenda to guide our legislative priorities we have been able to move quickly in most cases to advocate for legislation and involve members in advocacy efforts. (See page 6 to read more.)

Based on several key metrics and milestones, CAF is delivering on its objectives. Some highlights in 2017:

- A high number of new (eight) and returning (five) former members;
- High-value programs that contributed to a 77% jump in paid registrations;
- Consecutive year-over-year gains in grant revenue, membership dues and sponsorship income;
- A successful bid for a multi-year, national grant to support the creation of a leadership cohort around the issue of foundation openness. This effort led to a 2018 publication that captured conversations and suggestions gleaned from the field. We hope to leverage it throughout the coming year to engage and inform both funders and nonprofits.

We are extremely optimistic about the year ahead largely due to the generous support and confidence of our members. They have made it possible for us to invest in additional staff, begin a revamp of our website and spend more time being thoughtful about shaping our organization for the future. We look forward to sharing our progress with you in coming months.

Best,

Joanne Kelley
Chief Executive Officer

Mark D. Andersen
Board Chair
In reaffirming our strategic roadmap, we continue to focus on three key goals: strengthen the field, promote a strong sector, and maintain a healthy organization. Within these focus areas, here are highlights from 2017:

- Popular blogger Vu Le spoke to a sold-out audience of 225 funders and nonprofits at the annual Powering Partnerships Luncheon.
- Other topics at CAF workshops and trainings included organizational culture, equity, nonprofit capacity building, immigration, financial analysis, and full-cost funding.
- We assembled a cohort of foundation and nonprofit leaders to discuss increasing openness and feedback in our sector. Their findings led to this publication released in 2018.
- CAF members traveled together to Washington for meetings with Senators and Representatives as part of the Foundations on the Hill national advocacy effort.
- Locally, we partnered with Colorado Nonprofit Association for the first funder-nonprofit “Day on the Hill” at the Colorado State Capitol.
- We collaborated to commission a nonprofit economic impact study and released our annual foundation and charitable giving data.
In 2017, CAF facilitated more than 80 hours of peer-to-peer learning and networking.

Colorado Association of Funders brings people, information and resources together to promote effective and responsible philanthropy in Colorado. Of the many ways CAF works to fulfill this mission statement, we’ve found funder peer groups and learning networks to be one of the most promising strategies. Meaningful connections between funders allows for sharing best practices, opportunities, and lessons learned; coordinating presence; and when appropriate, collaborating on funding efforts.

With a shared interest in the well-being of Colorado’s young children and families, the Early Childhood Funders Network (ECFN) Members come together to exchange information, deepen their knowledge, and brainstorm solutions. The ECFN set a rigorous learning agenda for 2017 with topics including early childhood workforce, parent messaging, family engagement, two generation efforts, and policy and advocacy efforts.

2017 Co-Chairs: Beverly Buck, Aloha Foundation | Steff Clothier, Gary Community Investments | Hillary Fulton, The Colorado Health Foundation

Members of the Executive Admin Peer Group identified a sense of community as the most valuable part of their time together. During the 2017 quarterly gatherings, members enjoyed exchanging tips, getting ideas from one another, and connecting around the unique joys and challenges of their role supporting senior-level foundation executives. As an example of the group’s collaborative mindset, members created a database of favorite caterers and venues throughout 2017.

2017 Chair: Monique Loseke, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation
The Funders Learning Network on Early Childhood Mental Health wants all young children to be mentally, socially, and emotionally healthy, ready for school and able to reach their full potential. In 2017, the funder network focused its learning sessions on the topic of stigma while also developing a framework to guide its work as a group.

2017 Co-Chairs: Lisa Montagu, The Piton Foundation | Noah Atencio, Community First Foundation

The Human Resources & Operations Group provides a supportive environment to share knowledge and resources about topics related to managing a foundation. The group met four times in 2017 for roundtable sharing of practices and ideas. “I really appreciated the ability to bounce ideas off other HR/Ops professionals specific to the foundation world,” said one member.

2017 Co-Chairs: Marci Hladik, Rose Community Foundation | Maria Hannon, The Colorado Health Foundation

CAF’s Impact Investing Forum brings together members interested in sharing and expanding their knowledge about the emerging field. Some are very early in the learning journey, while others have already taken the leap. In 2017, the Forum provided a space for members to discuss due diligence, strategies for evaluating proposals, as well as various challenges and successes.

2017 Co-Chairs: Kate Lyda, The Denver Foundation | Luis Duarte, Gary Community Investments

The Leadership Forum convenes CEOs, Presidents, Executive Directors, and heads of corporate giving programs. In 2017, quarterly meetings were hosted by Colorado Health Foundation, Donnell-Kay Foundation, Gates Family Foundation and Gill Foundation. A special session was held with Center for Effective Philanthropy President Phil Buchanan after he addressed the annual meeting in November.

2017 Co-Chairs: Gary Steuer, Bonfils-Stanton Foundation | Sue Renner, Merage Foundations
The Community Foundation CEO Network connects Colorado’s far-flung community foundations via regular conference calls each quarter. In 2017, CEOs from western Colorado met for an in-person conversation in Basalt.

**NEW 2018 PEER GROUPS**

**IT Roundtable**

**Arts & Culture Funders Group**

**Colorado Rural Funders Learning Network**

Our work to promote the sector included testifying before the Colorado House and Senate on a bill that would create a state tax incentive for donations to nonprofit endowments. We moved forward with partners to commission a statewide economic impact report that will allow us to better explain the sector’s contributions to policymakers, the media and the public. Other results included a report on Colorado foundation and individual giving to present to lawmakers, a member meeting with the Governor, a joint advocacy day at the State Capitol in partnership with Colorado Nonprofit Association and a new collaboration with Community Resource Center to present a State of the Sector program for nonprofits and funders.

We received a grant from Nord Family Foundation, to be matched in part by Community First Foundation, to establish an endowment fund that we intend to use support our efforts to inform our members about public policy issues.

Finally, we continue to take part in United Philanthropy Forum’s PolicyWorks Institute and an evaluation of our policy work gave us the highest marks for “clarity of mission” for the board’s commitment to public policy and advocacy.

CAF members met with Sen. Cory Gardner and the other members of Colorado’s congressional delegation at FOTH.
Individual Colorado residents donated almost $4.1 billion to charities in 2015 either through bequests after death, ($240.4 million), or while alive. These Colorado contributions are about 2% of the $222.2 billion American’s gave to charitable causes.

Almost 27% of Colorado residents – at every income level – reported making contributions on their federal tax returns, using the itemizer schedule to claim their deductions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF RESIDENTS GIVING CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>16.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>66.4%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>OF THE 693,820 RESIDENTS REPORTING DONATIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Had income less than $50K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gave $240 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Had income more than $200K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gave $2.0 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Had income of $50K – $200K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gave $1.53 billion</td>
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| Average gift: $3,299 |

COLORADO VS. U.S.

<table>
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<th>HOW COLORADO STACKS UP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDIVIDUAL GIVING</td>
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<td>$3.9 billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF ITEMIZERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>AVERAGE GIFT</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERCENT OF INCOME DONATED</td>
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<tr>
<td>$11.1 BILLION</td>
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Donated to charity by Colorado individuals in past 3 years

2.06%     2.19%

TOTAL BEQUESTS
$240.4 million    $20.3 billion

AVERAGE BEQUEST PER RETURN
$6.49 million     $7.74 million

NUMBER OF BEQUESTS
37  2,632

The charitable deduction in Colorado

By Income Level

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<tr>
<th>COLORADO</th>
<th>U.S. A.</th>
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<td>16.2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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Based on 2015 IRS Statistics of Income Data; IRS charitable bequest data estimates based on a sample.

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CAF annually tracks philanthropic giving by foundations and individuals.

Thanks to the following members who provided leadership gifts and additional contributions in 2017:

A.V. Hunter Trust
Anschutz Family Foundation
Aspen Community Foundation
The Anschutz Foundation
Boettcher Foundation
Bonfils-Stanton Foundation
Caring for Colorado Foundation
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Colorado Trust
Community First Foundation
Daniels Fund
The Denver Foundation
The Dresner Foundation
Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
LARRK Foundation
Nord Family Foundation
Snow Valley Foundation