



July, 2022

Welcome to the South Metro Community Foundation's (SMCF) newsletter! Thank you for your interest in improving the quality of life for people living in the South Metro Denver.

News in this issue:

- SMCF Receives \$50,000 Grant from Centura Health, and \$5,000 from Littleton Rotary Foundation
- SMCF Vice Chair Appointed to Board of Arapahoe County Public Health
- Point-in-Time Survey Shows 32.8% Increase in Metro Homelessness
- Save Sept. 14 for Next Advisory Council Meeting
- Presentations to Rotary Clubs

SMCF Receives \$50,000 Grant from Centura Health, and \$5,000 from Littleton Rotary Foundation



SMCF is very pleased to announce that it has received a grant of \$50,000 from Centura Health's Health Equity and Advancement Fund to help fund start-up of the Tri-Cities Homeless Navigation Center.

In thanking Centura Health, SMCF Chair Susan Thornton said the award shows Centura's confidence in the foundation's work and moves the Navigation Center closer to reality.

SMCF has also received \$5,000 from the Littleton Rotary Foundation, which is an arm of the Rotary Club of Littleton.



**A Century of Service
1922 - 2022**

The Rotary Club of Littleton, which was established in 1922, is celebrating its 100th year; the Littleton Rotary Foundation was established in 1968 and makes grants to nonprofits in the South Metro Area as well as to international Rotary projects around the world.

SMCF Vice Chair Appointed to Board of Arapahoe County Public Health



SMCF Vice Chair Bebe Kleinman has been appointed by Arapahoe County Commissioners to serve a three-year term on the foundational Board of the new Arapahoe County Board of Public Health.

The new health department and its board were established after Douglas County pulled out of the former Tri-County Health Department due to disagreements over mask mandates. Adams County soon followed, leaving Arapahoe County to build its own, stand-alone health department.

Kleinman is well-qualified to serve on the new board. For 40 years, she has worked and volunteered with nonprofit organizations that address underserved communities in areas that include housing, food and health care.

She holds a Master's in Nonprofit Management from Regis University is the Chief Executive Officer of Doctors Care, President of the Board of the Colorado Safety Net Collaborative, Vice Chair of the South Metro Community Foundation, and a member of the City of Littleton Housing Task Force.

"I am passionate about supporting and creating a more equitable, just and fair society for all members of the community," Kleinman said. "I continue to innovate solutions to strengthen the nonprofit sector and ensure that everyone has the health care and health coverage they need to live happy and productive lives."

Point-in-Time Survey Shows 32.8% Increase in Metro Homelessness

A point-in-time survey was conducted by the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative on January 24 of this year showed a dramatic increase in homelessness in the past two years. No survey was conducted in 2020 or 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The 2019 survey documented 1,561 people experiencing homelessness. In the 2022 survey, 2,073 people were identified as homeless, an increase of 32.8 percent over two years.



A spokesperson for MDHI said that while the survey is important, it is even more important to know day-by-day how many are homeless in the area. MDHI is encouraging service-providers to enter information about people who are unhoused into the Homeless Management Information System so that public officials and health planners will have clear and more accurate data available.

The Tri-Cities Navigation Center will be using the HMIS system to know clients by name as well as what services lead to employment and housing.

To read more about the MCHI report, go to https://coloradosun.com/2022/07/21/pit-count/?pico=clean&utm_source=The+Colorado+Sun+Newsletters&utm_campaign=SUNRISER_20220721&utm_medium=email

No Surprise, but . . . Colorado Has Shortage of Affordable Homes

How would you like to have to pay more than 50 percent of your income for housing? That is the plight of too many families in Colorado, according to an April report of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

The report showed that Colorado had 160,597 extremely low-income households, defined as at or below the federal poverty guidelines, or 30% of their area's median income.

Of these low-income renter households, 74 percent are rated as "severely cost-burdened," which means they are spending more than half of their income on housing.

There is a shortage of 114,378 affordable and available rental units for these low-income people across Colorado, according to the report, with housing insecurity disproportionately experienced by people of color.

Lack of affordable housing is a leading cause of homelessness among individuals and families in our state and region.

Thanks to the Colorado Municipal League for summarizing this information. To read the full report, go to <https://nlihc.org/gap>.

Save Sept. 14 for Next Advisory Council Meeting

The Advisory Council for SMCF will meet via Zoom on September 14 at 9 a.m. If you are a member of the Council, please save the date and plan to attend!

Presentation to Rotary Clubs

On May 10, Paul Parish and Susan Thornton made a presentation about the SMCF and its efforts to support the Tri-Cities Navigation Center to a combined meeting of the Englewood and Denver Tech Center Rotary Clubs. SMCF will be approaching the DTC Club for a grant; Englewood Rotary Foundation has already provided support totaling \$1,500.

On September 13, Paul and Susan will present to the Centennial Rotary Club as well. Stay tuned!

About The SMCF

After establishing 501(c)3 status, a group of South Metro community leaders began meeting in 2019 to study the major issues facing residents of the area, and in 2020 established a distinguished Board of Directors and Advisory Council. You can see the names and titles of those outstanding community leaders on the SMCF website.

As a community-supported nonprofit, SMCF can accept donations, run projects, make grants to and serve as fiscal umbrellas for smaller community groups, and accept donor-advised funds.

To learn more about the SMCF, visit www.SMCFinfo.org.

We Need Your Support!

The SMCF has the potential to do immense good in the South Metro area for years to come. But we need your support!

Please send a tax-deductible donation to SMCF on our website (www.SMCFinfo.org) via Colorado Gives or the QR code below; or by sending a check to SMCF at P.O. Box 401, Littleton, CO 80160. Please indicate the percentage of general support for SMCF and how much is support for the Tri-Cities Homeless Navigation Center.



Questions? Ideas? Comments? We welcome them all at info@smcfinfo.org.

SMCF appreciates a \$1,000 grant to support SMCF's operational expenses from FirstBank!

