



December, 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 area. From all of us at SMCF, sending our best wishes for the holidays!

News in this issue:

- Welcome New SMCF Board Member: Amir Ghazvinian
- Please Donate NOW for End-of-Year
- SMCF Now Accepting Donations of Stock!
- Tri-Cities Policy Group Working on Navigation Center RFP
- Interesting Reports at November Advisory Council Meeting

Welcome New SMCF Board Member: Amir Ghazvinian

SMCF is pleased to welcome Amir Ghazvinian to the Board of Directors. Amir was nominated by Board member Merrill Stillwell. His inspirational personal statement is here:

As a relatively new resident of Littleton, I was excited to learn about the South Metro Community Foundation and its goal of increasing services and improving quality of life within the community.

In my own life and career, I've long been interested in working to help expand access to resources, especially in healthcare and education.



As a high school student growing up in Seattle, I spent the summer time working for VillageReach, a nonprofit that works to enable delivery of healthcare in Africa. The organization was then in its early days, working primarily on last-mile delivery, storage and distribution of medications in a single country, Mozambique. Working there allowed me to learn about how the organization was approaching the logistical challenges of medication access while contributing by researching approaches we could take. On the education side, throughout high school and college, I was involved in helping to tutor younger students (most commonly at the elementary school level) through a number of different groups.

More recently, in my career, I've been focused on improving healthcare through my work as a software engineer at Alto Pharmacy, which I joined early on because of my eagerness to contribute to Alto's mission to "fulfill medicine's true purpose — to improve quality of life — for everyone who needs it." Alto works to break down barriers to accessing medication by helping patients navigate the complexities of pharmacy and working for better coordination of care with their doctors and their insurance (if applicable). It's been incredibly rewarding to see our impact on patients and their medical care as the company has grown.

In addition to that work, I've served as a mentor to engineers from coding bootcamps, programs that help jumpstart engineering careers and remove the barrier of a college degree. I also implemented an internal sponsorship program to promote growth of colleagues from underrepresented backgrounds in tech.

Given my background and interest in expanding access to healthcare, education and opportunity, the mission of the South Metro Community Foundation resonates with me because of its value of promoting inclusion, which I feel strongly mirrors my own values. I'm especially excited about the Tri-Cities Homeless Navigation Center project for this reason as well; I believe it will serve as a valuable resource for the community and help to improve lives for many. I love the idea that this foundation can help increase access and equity within our community.

Though my experience in the nonprofit space is pretty limited, I have many years of experience in the tech industry as an engineer and as an entrepreneur leveraging technology to create new businesses, which I hope would be useful to the foundation. Having started and helped grow multiple new ventures through many phases of company growth, I've learned how to start from scratch into building a project/company that creates impact and value, and especially how a small group of motivated individuals can band together and utilize limited resources to have an outsized impact.

I would love to be able to bring these tools into an environment where I can have a bigger positive impact on my community directly, and South Metro Community Foundation.

Please Donate NOW for End-of-Year

Each Board and Advisory member is requested to make an End-of-Year donation to the SMCF, as when we request grants, granting foundations like to see 100% donation from all those leaders involved. Any gift – whatever is meaningful to you -- will be greatly appreciated and will help SMCF move forward with its mission.



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 above; 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.

As you are no doubt aware, donations are tax-deductible. Thank you in advance!

SMCF Now Accepting Donations of Stock!

SMCF Treasurer Paul Parish is happy to announce that SMCF is now able to accept donations of stock! Your donation of stock may help not only SMCF, but might help you with year-end taxes as well.

Making a donation of stock is easy. Go to this link: [Donate Stock Online Now - Stock Donator](#). Then, in the organization box, scroll down to click on South Metro Community Foundation.

Tri-Cities Policy Group Working on Navigation Center RFP

For those of you who may have been wondering, the Tri-Cities Policy Group is now working on a Request for Proposals for agencies or organizations interested in running the Tri-Cities Homeless Navigation Center.

The cities (Littleton, Englewood and Sheridan) are finalizing the RFP, determining which city will accept the proposals and how they will be evaluated in partnership with SMCF.

As you may recall, SMCF has received commitments from granting agencies of funding expected to cover costs for most of the first two years of the Navigation Center.

Stay tuned!

Interesting Reports at November Advisory Council Meeting

The November Advisory Council meeting was very interesting, featuring presentations from two Advisory Council Members.



Superintendent of Schools Brian Ewert described the state of the school district:

- Enrollment has dropped since 2015 due to lack of affordable housing for young families and a decrease in the birthrate
- 20-23% of students enrolled come from outside of the district, which speaks to the high quality of Littleton Public Schools
- He spends a lot of time addressing rumors posted on social media and is grateful for the quality and collegiality of his Board members
- He reported on the ambitious building plans LPS has undertaken since the 2015 bond issue passed
- An amazing EPIC campus will open across from Littleton High School and will feature careers in aerospace, business and entrepreneurship, construction trades, healthcare, and more.

Arapahoe County Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully then spoke of happenings within the county:

- The population of 655,000 is projected to grow to 800,000 in a few years, which will make Arapahoe the largest county in Colorado
- The county includes 13 cities, 9 school districts and 450 special districts (i.e., fire and library districts)
- The county's 2023 budget is expected to be \$498 million, with its county public health department due to open on January 1
- Arapahoe County will receive and disburse \$127.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act dollars over the next several years
- The county will focus housing affordability, as well as on homelessness along with the Tri-Cities and SMCF.



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.

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!

