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Cover photo: Participants in Rose Community Foundation's #MakeItHappen micro-giving circle collaborated to fund eight innovative ideas for new Jewish experiences in their communities.

Giving together brings abundant rewards through #MakeItHappen event

“I didn’t want the evening to end. I didn’t want to say goodbye to the group,” says Robin Glickstein.

As many of us have experienced, giving feels good. But sometimes giving with others feels even better. That’s what Glickstein recently found, as she shared a unique and special experience with 11 others through a “micro-giving circle” at Rose Community Foundation called #MakeItHappen.

In a giving circle or collaborative giving group, individuals, usually with a shared interest, come together to make charitable

donations to causes they collectively select. Rose Community Foundation hosts several such groups with interests ranging from teen philanthropy, to women and families, to the Jewish community. Some groups are one-time, while others are ongoing.

“It’s about a shared experience,” says Sarah Indyk, philanthropic engagement officer with Rose Community Foundation. “Groups like these offer an opportunity to make a greater difference than any of us can as individuals, by engaging in meaningful philanthropy together.”

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Our Mission

Rose Community Foundation works to enhance the quality of life of the Greater Denver community through its leadership, resources, traditions and values.

Our Vision

The Foundation uses leadership, grantmaking and donor engagement to invest in strategic and innovative solutions to enduring problems and emerging issues.

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Making giving a family matter

Back when my kids were very young, my husband and I would take them to volunteer with us at Children's Hospital on Christmas. Being Jewish, we don't celebrate the holiday, so instead we would spend the day with young patients who were alone at the hospital, missing their families. We felt it was a good experience for our kids to make the day as special as we could for children who weren't near their families during the holidays.

At the time, my kids were too young to understand why the children had to stay at the hospital and why some didn't have parents with them. But the act of being there and seeing them in the hospital beds was an opportunity for awareness and education. The activity gave rise to conversation and we spent hours talking about what the children there were going through.

That's how our kids began to learn the value of giving back. By bringing them with us to the hospital, involving them in donating to food banks at Thanksgiving and bringing them as we delivered donation checks to nonprofit organizations, they began to learn about the needs in the world and the importance of helping others.

Today, giving back is a part of my kids' lives. I was so pleased when I learned that my older son and his family worked in a soup kitchen on Thanksgiving. Our actions throughout the years have sparked a new generation of giving, and for that I couldn't be more grateful.

Studies have proven that our happiness increases when we give to others. I know I find that to be true. I also know that sometimes giving with others makes it even more special.

As we head into a giving season, I hope you draw inspiration from the giving stories and opportunities within this newsletter. We are ever grateful for your friendship and support, and wish you and your family warm and happy holidays.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Bugdanowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Sheila Bugdanowitz
President and CEO
Rose Community Foundation

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Giving together brings abundant rewards through #MakeItHappen event

Glickstein participated in a one-time giving circle that awarded small, “micro” grants to individuals who presented innovative ideas for creating new Jewish experiences in their communities. The effort was part of an international initiative of the Schusterman Family Foundation called #MakeItHappen. A website collected ideas from around the world and Rose Community Foundation’s #MakeItHappen Micro-Giving Circle focused on ideas from the Greater Denver community.

Rose Community Foundation and the Sturm Family Foundation each matched individual giving circle members’ donations to create a pool of \$8,000 in grant funds.

“I loved the fact that it was accessible to contribute and participate,” says Glickstein. “Often it feels out of reach to make a difference in a meaningful way. Being part of the giving circle enabled me to donate what I could. No matter how small the contribution, it still contributed to something greater.”

During a single evening, #MakeItHappen giving circle members met one another, reviewed dozens of creative ideas and together selected eight inspiring proposals to fund at \$1,000 each.

“I loved the people I got to know in this group,” shared Glickstein. “It was a very diverse group and the dialog was so thoughtful. When I looked around the table I saw us from all different places of experience and we each brought our own unique perspective.”

One idea the group chose to fund was from Moshe Rhodes. “I proposed a four-part Jewish delicacy baking series to help increase young adult Jewish involvement in Boulder,” explains Rhodes.

“Moshe’s idea really stood out for me,” says Glickstein. “It was entrepreneurial, it connected community and brought a Jewish flavor, literally. It sounded like a lot of fun and also touched my entrepreneurial spirit.”

Several months after awarding the grants, Glickstein and the giving circle had the opportunity to meet the grant recipients and hear the results of their efforts. They met Rhodes, who reported that his highly successful baking series drew more than 100 participants. “It was interesting to see who they were in real life, to feel their passion and to experience their outcome,” says Glickstein.

Glickstein goes on to say, “It was totally a positive experience and I hope to do it again.”



Learn more:
makeithappen.schusterman.org
rcfdenver.org/giveandplan

Other ongoing collaborative giving groups at Rose Community Foundation

- Latino Community Foundation of Colorado – for anyone interested in supporting Latino issues: latinocfc.org
- Rose Youth Foundation – for Jewish teens: rcfdenver.org/ryf
- Roots & Branches Foundation – for Jewish people ages 25 to 40: rcfdenver.org/rootsandbranches
- Rose Women’s Organization – for women interested in helping improve the health, education and welfare of women, children and families in Greater Denver: rcfdenver.org/rwo

Watch for more opportunities to join or start giving circles through Rose Community Foundation. Contact Sarah Indyk for more information at sindyk@rcfdenver.org.

How to have a fun, rewarding giving experience

As the holidays and end of the year draw near, feelings of gratitude grow strong. We think about making our year-end donations and helping those in need is on our minds.



A family helps fill bags of food for people in need.

And while giving is top of mind during this time of year, the needs don't stop in January. So, consider thinking of your year-end or holiday giving as the start of a habit that lasts year-round.

At Rose Community Foundation we often get calls and emails around this time from friends and community members seeking advice on nonprofit organizations to support, looking for volunteer opportunities or inquiring about the greatest community needs.

Helping you make the most of your philanthropy is one of the things we do best. We love helping you find organizations and causes you care about, and also helping you (and your family) have a fun and rewarding experience.

A giving experience shouldn't be stressful or pressured. We believe the best experience comes from being thoughtful and proactive, and from taking your time to find what makes you feel good.

Here's a handy guide that walks through the steps we usually take when helping donors explore their giving options throughout the year. Of course you're always welcome to call or email us at any step along the way. For personal guidance any time, please contact Anita Wesley, philanthropy advisor, at awesley@rcfdenver.org, or 303.398.7433.

Or learn more about other types of giving options at rcfdenver.org/giveandplan.

Issues/Causes

Think about issues and causes that interest you. Do you want to help low-income individuals or families? Animals? Seniors? The environment? Youth? People experiencing homelessness? Other?

G I V E	MONEY	Rose Community Foundation Donate to a program or initiative, or to our unrestricted, permanent fund that supports our broad philanthropic work.
	FOOD, SUPPLIES, STUFF	Food Banks, Pantries & Shelters Organizations like these usually need non-perishable food and sometimes clothing. Call first to see if there are specific immediate needs.
	TIME	MetroVolunteers.org Search opportunities by location, cause or frequency.

Guide to Thoughtful Philanthropy



Geographic Area

Do you want to help an organization near your home, in a particular neighborhood, city or region?



Engagement

How do you want to engage? Do you want to donate money? Do you want to give your time by volunteering, or gathering supplies and gifts?



Research

It's important to find the best fit for you as well as reputable organizations. Look up nonprofits on sites like **Guidestar.org**, **CharityNavigator.org** or **ColoradoGives.org**. Review organization websites or contact them directly. Contact Rose Community Foundation for help.

ColoradoGives.org

Donate to one or multiple nonprofits securely on this site, on Colorado Gives Day (Dec. 9) or anytime during the year.

Direct

Find the nonprofit(s) you want to support and donate directly. You can search by type of organization at the websites listed above under "Research."

Giving Group

Gather a group of people with common interests to pool resources. Rose Community Foundation staff can help.

Long-Term Plan

Work with a Rose Community Foundation advisor to develop a long-term giving strategy like opening a donor-advised fund. Ask your financial advisor about tax needs or advantages.

Holiday Baskets & Gifts

Organizations serving low-income families often coordinate baskets of food, supplies and/or presents during the holidays.

Wish Lists

Look for wish lists of needed supplies on organization websites. Mark your calendar to check back about what is needed in other seasons, like spring or summer.

Examples: Nonprofit Organizations

- Bienvenidos Food Bank
- Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver (low-income youth)
- Girls Inc. (programs for girls)
- Family resource centers (low-income families)
- Florence Crittenton Services (pregnant and parenting teens)
- Project Angel Heart (meal delivery)
- Urban Peak (homeless youth)
- Warren Village (low-income single parent families)

Food Banks, Pantries & Shelters

Often need volunteers to collect food/clothing and serve meals.

Examples: Nonprofit Organizations

- Brothers Redevelopment (home repair for seniors)
- Growing Home (shelter/food bank)
- Project C.U.R.E. (medical supplies)
- The Action Center (supplies/food for low-income families)
- There With Care (families and children facing critical illness)

Bringing family generations together for a shared philanthropic purpose

We can help your family become philanthropists!

Rose Community Foundation can work with individuals and families to establish effective and meaningful philanthropic vehicles, including:

- Donor-Advised Funds
- Designated Funds
- Endowed Funds

Visit rcfdenver.org/giveandplan, or contact Gaye Leonard, gleonard@rcfdenver.org.

Giving together as a family is a terrific opportunity to share something special. For many families, it also provides an opportunity to bring multiple generations together, whether through a family foundation, donor-advised fund or annual giving.

Helping multiple generations engage in philanthropy together is a growing area of expertise for Rose Community Foundation. We often help families navigate their philanthropic journey, especially during times of transition such as starting a new family fund or engaging the next generation in an existing family fund or foundation.

“Regardless of your family’s unique situation or how much money you have to give, taking the time to be intentional will help ensure a rewarding experience for everyone in the family,” says Anita Wesley, philanthropy advisor at Rose Community Foundation.

“We recommend starting with a conversation that explores your philanthropic purpose, values and strategy,” says Wesley. “It doesn’t have to be complicated – it can be as simple as a conversation at the dinner table or creating a values statement together. What’s important is talking about what you want to accomplish together.”

Purpose

Start by considering the purpose of your philanthropy. For example, is it important to pass the family’s legacy, traditions and values on to younger generations? Or do you want to encourage future generations to discover and develop their own philanthropic values?

Values

Next, take some time for each family member to share what they care about. What values motivate you to give back? What causes resonate with you? You may be surprised at the values you share in common with other family members, even if you interpret or express them in different ways.



Rose Community Foundation is committed to helping families engage in thoughtful, multigenerational philanthropy. To help further our work in this area, we brought in a national expert on next generation and multigenerational philanthropy, Sharna Goldseker (standing in photo above), to train our board, professional advisors and staff in October. Goldseker is executive director of 21/64, a nonprofit consulting practice.

Strategy

Finally, your purpose and values will help define your approach. For example, if you’re focused on instilling legacy, your family might visit organizations that older generations have supported to better understand why the causes are important. If you’re looking to help younger generations develop their own philanthropic preferences, you might encourage family members to present their personal ideas and recommendations of nonprofits or causes to support.

Regardless of how or where your family philanthropy conversations take place, the resulting decisions will help guide your family giving and the common threads will help connect one another in unique and meaningful ways.

If you’d like help facilitating your family philanthropy or in starting a family fund, please contact Gaye Leonard, director of philanthropic services, gleonard@rcfdenver.org, 303.398.7418.

Learn more:
rcfdenver.org/giveandplan

Rose Community Foundation News

Opportunity to give back to Rose Community Foundation, foundation initiatives

Along with many nonprofit organizations, Rose Community Foundation and our initiatives rely on the support of our donors and friends.

Because we value innovative thinking and thoughtful risk-taking, we often support focused initiatives and programs directed at serving a particular population, or at finding unique solutions to a particular set of problems. The Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, Jewish Women's Fund of Colorado and Roots & Branches Foundation are all wonderful examples of these kinds of initiatives. Each have their own leadership and focus, but also draw on the leadership, resources and expertise at Rose Community Foundation.

Your end of year contribution – to an initiative or program that is important to you, or to our unrestricted, permanent fund that supports

our broad philanthropic work – empowers us to leverage our strengths of leadership, grantmaking and donor engagement. Your gift helps us invest more in strategic and innovative solutions to enduring problems and emerging issues in the Greater Denver community. Please use the business reply envelope enclosed with this newsletter to send a contribution.



You can also make a gift on Colorado Gives Day – December 9 – to Rose Community

Foundation or to one of our initiatives. Go to coloradogives.org/rcfdenver to see our information. You can designate your donation to a specific initiative by selecting “all fundraisers” on the bottom right side of our donation page. Thank you!

New Rose Community Foundation staff



Todd Fahnestock,
Executive Assistant



Ben Finan,
Collaborative Giving Coordinator

Who We Are

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Elizabeth Moser, Program Assistant

Special Programs & Initiatives

Josh Gold, MazelTot.org Initiative Manager
Rachel Griego, Project Manager, Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
Carlos Martinez, Executive Director, Latino Community Foundation of Colorado
Kendra Shore, Executive Director, Jewish Women's Fund of Colorado

A Giving Season

We're at our happiest when giving to others. Experts like social scientist, Edward Norton, have proven this to be true (check out his TED talk on npr.org).

With this giving season in full swing, many of us are looking for ways to give back in a fun, meaningful and thoughtful way. At Rose Community Foundation, we believe it's not what you give, but how. Take a peek inside

this issue for a few inspiring stories, opportunities and ideas for how to make the most of your giving this season. Happy giving!

Photo: Collaborative giving groups, like this #MakItHappen micro-giving circle at Rose Community Foundation, are a rewarding way to make a difference by giving with others.

