



THE IC FUND

2015



CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
HOME HEALTH CARE - CNA SCHOOL - ADVOCACY

A NOTE FROM THE CEO

Our mission at The Independence Center is to work with people with disabilities, their families, and the community. We want to create independence so that all may thrive. This is a broad focus that emphasizes the importance of being an integral part of the larger community. By having people with disabilities being able to financially partner with projects in our six county area through The IC Fund, we have been able to build community and expand accessible programming and opportunities for all. I would like to thank the Board of Directors of The IC who started The IC Fund in 2014. My heartfelt thanks also go out to our selection committee members, made up of the broader community of people with disabilities. The work our grantees have done is important and sometimes even inspiring. Please enjoy learning about the impact that can be made when we all work together for a better, more inclusive life as we review the 2015/2016 grant cycle which ended on September 30, 2016.



FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS OF THE IC FUND

Billy Allen

Bill Brown

Gary Morse

Elisabeth Blakney

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Owen Stockton

Serina Gilbert

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Yolanda Avila

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Pauline Nelson

Kimberly Barker

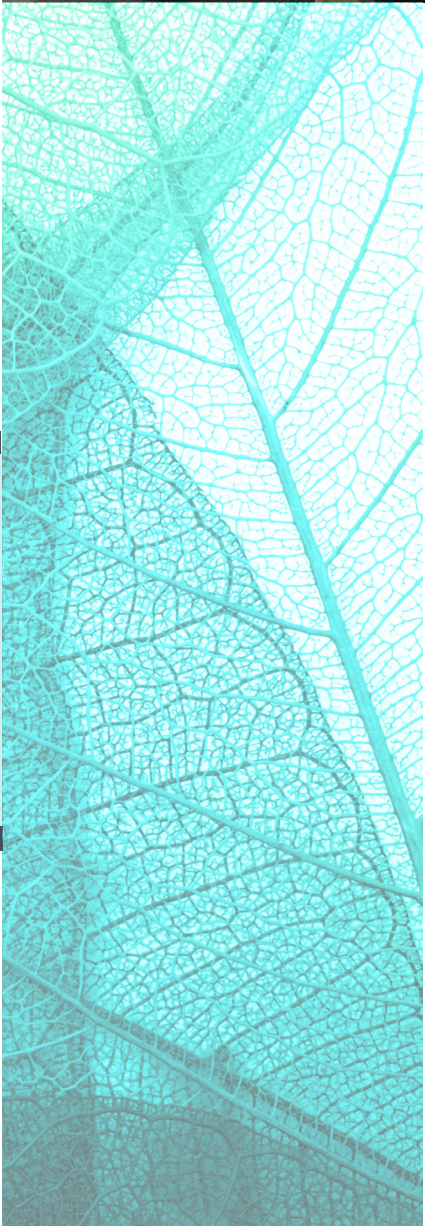
Maureen Christopher

Andy O'Riley

Howie Kent

AMBLICAB

\$10,000



This grant award expanded the “engage and explore” program, which provides recreational trips to adults with disabilities and children living in the Pikes Peak Region. Over the funding period, Amblicab provided a total of 1,410 trips for recreation, personal care, and enrichment. Support from The IC Fund provided for approximately 500 of those trips. The accessible minivan used for the trips was partially funded by The IC Fund in the last funding cycle. It is affectionately named “the Party Bus” by those who have ridden in the vehicle to dances, dinners, and other social outings. This vehicle has allowed Amblicab to provide trips that would not have been possible without the much needed addition of this fleet vehicle.

COLORADO SPRINGS AMATEUR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

\$5,000



The Colorado Springs, Amateur Hockey Association (CSAHA) Jr. Tigers Sled Hockey program organizes and manages sled hockey programs for children and adults with disabilities (currently serving ages 7 thru 55). With The IC Fund grant they bought six sleds, six hockey sticks, protective equipment, and added twelve people to the program. They attended the USA Hockey Disabled Festival in Detroit, MI and for the first time were able to bring both a youth and adult team to participate. In large part, this was made possible with by The IC Fund grant and the purchase of new equipment.

One young person on the way to the festival was unusually quiet as they boarded the airplane. When asked why, his face lit up with a smile from ear to ear and he said "This is my first time on a trip. This is my first time on an airplane. I just need to be quiet and feel it."



COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND

\$10,000



The Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB) promotes leadership and learning among its students. The grant provided by The IC Fund allowed CSDB to update their Athletic Department's equipment in several areas. They purchased new uniforms for the volleyball, basketball, goalball, football, and track teams. They were also able to buy twenty travel bags and five colored basketballs for their Special Olympics teams. In addition, one new volleyball net with tension straps and an antenna/sideline marker combo, a volleyball storage cart, three tackling dummies for the football team, and training equipment for the volleyball team were purchased. As a result of this new equipment, student safety and accessibility to sports has been significantly improved.

CSDB reports that students feel more connected to the community and have far more access to sporting activities. The IC Fund grant has made it possible for CSDB to include more students in goalball and in the Special Olympics than in previous years.



COMMUNITY TRANSIT COALITION,

SUBMITTED BY WOMEN'S RESOURCE AGENCY

The Community Transit Coalition is a group of 20 non-profit organizations whose focus is to improve transit options in the Pikes Peak area. As a part of this grant, the coalition introduced 120 new riders to transit during the past year. As changes to transit services were proposed, the Coalition petitioned people to become involved, attend City Hall meetings, and sign letters. In part, due to their activities and input, the transit budget for 2017 was budgeted at \$5.7 million.

\$8,000

The Coalition also secured \$17,800 from PPACG to supplement The IC Fund's \$8,000, enabling them to conduct a research study on the economic impacts of increased transit service. The contract for service was signed in October of 2016 and the results will be presented in January 2017. This will provide valuable information to be used in a community transit visioning process that will put long-range transit goals into the city plan.

EDUCATING CHILDREN OF COLOR

The mission of Educating Children of Color, Inc. (ECOC) is to dismantle the cradle to prison pipeline for children of color and children experiencing poverty, through education. ECOC received funding for the 9th Annual Educating Children of Color Summit that was held at Colorado College on January 16, 2016. The IC Fund grant provided Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services as well as American Sign Language interpretation for the event. More than 700 students and 300 educators participated. There were 22 people attending who were either Deaf or hard-of-hearing. During the summit, a session was held with two Deaf presenters where 200 children attended.

\$5,000

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

\$10,000

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) is a community resource for information, education, support, and advocacy for people experiencing hearing loss. HLAA used The IC Fund grant to spark interest in installing assistive devices in a wide variety of venues in our community, and also installed four hearing loops. HLAA involvement was initiated by a request or recommendation for assistance at a specific venue. Two or more members of the grant administration committee would then do a site visit and meet with decision makers at the facility. HLAA presented information on hearing loss and its impact on participation in events. They reviewed looping and assistive listening systems and explained the help available through the grant program. The amount of assistance offered varied, dependent on the total cost of the project and the available resources of the facility.

HLAA fully funded FM systems for Academy Christian Church and Simpich Showcase. They improved the FM system at St. Paul's United Methodist Church and improved the HLAA-CS loop system used for meetings and demonstrations. Partial funding went to Lighthouse Temple for an FM system and to El Paso County for a loop system in Centennial Hall. Garden of the Gods Club, as well as Liberty Heights, went on to fund their own loop of FM system after visits by HLAA.



LINCOLN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL CARE CENTER

\$3,400

Lincoln Community Hospital and Care Center is a fifteen Bed Critical Access Hospital with a thirty bed Care Center attached. It is located in Hugo, Colorado and they report that they are currently embracing a culture change for the care of their residents. This culture change is empowering the residents to have a more personalized approach to institutional living, creating a more home-like environment. As part of this effort, the Care Center built an outside "Healing Garden." The grant provided to them by The IC Fund was spent on the purchase and installation of an automatic door which gave Care Center residents access to the Healing Garden. The completion of the project was celebrated with a BBQ for residents and staff on October 21, of 2015.



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

PIKES PEAK URBAN GARDENS

\$5,780

Pikes Peak Urban Gardens (PPUG) creates community gardens and educates the public on gardening strategies. This project helped the four acre Harlan Wolfe Ranch site become more accessible to wheelchairs, and to those with other mobility disabilities. Pathways were built with special materials suitable for wheelchair access, improved educational signage was installed, and an accessible picnic table and pad were built. In addition, an accessible greenhouse with raised gardening beds and a new storage shed were built, further increasing accessibility for people with disabilities.



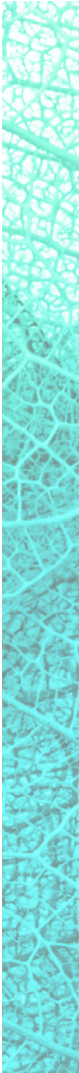
PRAIRIE FAMILY CENTER

\$5,000

The Prairie Family Center (PFC) is located in Burlington, Colorado and serves Kit Carson, Cheyenne, and Lincoln Counties. PFC provides community-based services for underserved and at-risk populations. This IC Fund grant provided three sessions of Healthier Living Colorado – Disabilities classes on Chronic Disease Management. Classes were conducted in both Vona and Burlington. Twenty-one people took the classes for a total of 564 contact hours, and the Cheyenne County Health Department requested the program be offered in Cheyenne Wells. As a result, the Prairie Family Center has agreed to expand the program to their city next year.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RURAL HEALTH

\$5,000



Rocky Mountain Rural Health (RMRH) is located in Fairplay and serves Park County. The South Park region specifically, and Park County as a whole, is an area of few social services and medical resources, which presents great challenges for people with disabilities.

Through the use of The IC Fund grant, a needs assessments was conducted at all Park County schools. Solutions to their accessibility problems are being facilitated by RMRH. All of the ten churches in Park County were contacted and asked to distribute a survey to their congregation members on the needs and number of people with disabilities. Return numbers were disappointing, so another method was sought to reach the disabled community. The survey was put in to the Senior Coalition's newsletter as well as on the RMRH website. They added the phrase "is anyone in your household disabled?" to outreach calls to the Health First Colorado population. One thousand clients were contacted with forty identifying as disabled. RMRH is in the process of reaching out to those forty individuals to ensure support of their needs and to make sure they have access to their volunteer transportation service and are able to provide additional agency referrals.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

\$6,830

The Rocky Mountain Wildlife Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to the caring for, and survival of wolves in as natural an environment as possible. The IC Fund grant purchased concrete, forming material, and reinforcing rods to construct walkways going between the animals' enclosures. The total cost of the project was \$7,002, and this has helped to make it easier for people with limited mobility to get around at the facility. As part of the renovation project, several of the wolf enclosures



are now accessible to wheelchairs and the walkways have been made accessible. A portable accessible bathroom has also been added to the facility.



SUMMARY

A total of 25 applications were received, 14 proposals met qualification requirements, the committee passed through 11 applications for full proposals and approved \$74,090 of requests from those 11 applicants.

ABOUT THE IC

Started in 1987, The Independence Center is a nonprofit with multiple departments. We have over 300 employees today, with over 51% of our IL staff and board having a disability. Additional departments are:



HOME HEALTH CARE

The IC offers home health care that is licensed and non-licensed, self directed or physician-directed, for all ages, and with the caregiver of your choice or an employee of The IC.

CNA SCHOOL

The Independence Center's CNA School offers day and evening classes to become a qualified Certified Nurse Aide.



The Independence Center is a local nonprofit organization that provides traditional and self-directed home health care, independent living, and advocacy services for people with disabilities. These services range from providing peer support, skills classes, and employment assistance to individuals and advocacy to affect change within and outside the disabilities system. The IC's mission is to work with people with disabilities, their families, and the community to create independence so all may thrive.

