

RYDER'S FUND

ONE BY ONE



Winter 2020 Newsletter | RydersFund.org | Ryder's Fund is Administered by the YMCA of Northern Colorado Endowment Committee

ORIGIN OF RYDER'S FUND

On January 17, 2016, our 20 year old son, Ryder, went missing. It was a parent's worst nightmare. In the following days, weeks and months, hundreds of people searched thousands of acres in the vast and rugged Walker Ranch area west of Boulder. Mercifully, after 1 ½ years, on July 29, 2017, Ryder's remains were found and we were able to bring him home, say goodbye and have some sense of closure. In this tragic shared experience, we witnessed the goodness in people and greatness in our community. Ryder was a warm, caring and empathetic person so it seemed that Ryder's Fund was a fitting way to honor those qualities and begin to give back for a greater purpose. It is from this place that Ryder's Fund was created to enhance the healthy development of young people in our community and assist them in meeting life's challenges. —Rick and Cindy Johnson



There are several elements of our vision for Ryder's Fund, including schools/education, law enforcement, specialized service providers, faith community and youth programs.



EAST TROUBLESOME FIRE RELIEF

The East Troublesome Fire started on October 14, 2020 in Grand County, Colorado. Between October 20-23, the size of the fire exploded from 18,550 acres to 187,964 acres, crossed Highway 125 and spread northeast into Rocky Mountain National Park, eventually crossing the Continental Divide and reaching the western edge of Estes Park. During this period, over 7,000 structures were threatened and a population of over 35,000 placed under mandatory evacuation. Finally, a winter storm brought cold temperatures and precipitation. The fire was contained on November 30 with a total of 193,812 acres being impacted.

The devastation caused by the East Troublesome Fire, Colorado's second largest wildfire in history, is hard to imagine. While many homes and structures were lost, one particularly iconic structure, the historic C Lazy U barn (built in 1922), fell victim to the fire. It served as the heartbeat of one of the finest ranches in the world. The barn knew early morning "jingles" (bringing the horses in) and "rush hours" (letting the herd out to pasture). It stood witness to the joy and wonder of generations of kids, who learned independence, responsibility and love for animals. While the rustic logs and well-worn floorboards of that old barn must now be remade, we are confident that the ranch will create a fitting replacement. The owners and staff of the C Lazy U rallied to assist in the search for Ryder and the creation of this fund. It is only fitting that Ryder's Fund give back in an effort to rebuild the iconic C Lazy U barn, join in a time of renewal at the ranch and pray this special place continues to carry on the traditions of the American West for another 100 years.



NEW INITIATIVE WITH RISE AGAINST SUICIDE



In recognition of a growing local problem, Ryder's Fund is teaming with Rise Against Suicide (formerly Second Wind Fund of Boulder County) to attempt to decrease the incidence of suicide by removing financial and social barriers to treatment for at-risk youth. Colorado ranks 10th highest among the 50 states for the rate of suicide deaths. The Colorado suicide rate among young people increased 58% from 2016 to 2019 (the national rate increased 25% over the same period). Colorado's increase in teen suicides is the highest in the U.S. since 2016. Suicide is the leading cause of death in the 10-24 year old age group in Colorado. Rise Against Suicide serves at-risk youth in the BVSD and SVVSD geographic areas. The Rise program takes referrals of uninsured or underinsured youth suffering from depression or suicidal ideation, and helps match those young people and their families with licensed therapists. The premise is that if hospitalizations can be avoided and contact with a therapist set up within 24-72 hours, an extra layer of trauma can be avoided.

"Suicide is the leading cause of death in the 10-24 year old age group in Colorado."

Boulder Community Health Foundation has generously provided grants to Rise to provide at-risk youth with up to 8 free therapy sessions. Ryder's Fund has stepped in to cover those situations where extended sessions (beyond 8) are deemed necessary for continued counseling and treatment for 2021. In addition, Ryder's Fund has facilitated discussions to make Rise a known resource for YMCA child care providers and camp counselors. We also hope to assist Rise with its work providing local law enforcement with an immediate resource when they encounter mental health issues with at-risk youth in the field.

A special thank you to PostNet in Lafayette for donating the printing of the Ryder's Fund Newsletter. Please repay this kindness by considering this business for your next mailing or printing project. You can find PostNet at: 2770 Arapahoe Rd Ste 132, Lafayette, CO 80026. 303-665-8068 • co111@postnet.com



RYDER'S FUND CONTINUES ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH CU ATHLETICS AND THE BOLDER BUFFS

CU Athletics and, in particular, Psychological Health and Performance continue to provide mental health services and support to CU student-athletes and staff. They have found creative ways to engage the student-athletes and support their mental health needs — whether that is through virtual appointments or team workshops, Mental Lift Mondays, (Mental) Training Thursdays and drop-in virtual support groups throughout the semester.

The Bolder Buffs have been meeting virtually throughout the semester and finding ways to support their fellow-teammates. They helped get the word out about Mental Health Awareness week in October by sharing messages that help destigmatize mental health in athletics. Additionally, the Bolder Buffs recently started sending words of encouragement to one another to help their teammates get through these challenging times. The Bolder Buffs were excited to hear of Ryder's Fund's continuing support. One of the participants shared Ryder's story with new members and his take-away of the importance of reaching out to his peers — even if he thinks everything might otherwise be ok. This peer advocacy group will continue to spread the importance of mental health in athletics and in the broader community.



GRANT BENEFITS YMCA OF NORTHERN COLORADO TO COUNTER IMPACTS FROM CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Ryder's Fund provided a \$10,000 grant to the YMCA of Northern Colorado for assistance in responding to the impacts from the pandemic on its scholarships, programs and memberships. Within 48 hours of stay-at-home orders, the YMCA developed an emergency childcare program for first responders and essential workers, and from there continued to adapt to the changing needs of families. The YMCA continues to run remote learning programs for hundreds of children in four school districts. Now, more than ever, young people need safe, welcoming places to learn and grow. The YMCA provides the empowerment that comes from bountiful friendships and caring mentors. Chris Coker, CEO of the YMCA, states, "Our vital work and its positive effect on local families would not be possible without the generous support of Ryder's Fund."



SUPPORT FOR 2020 FIRES RELIEF FUND IN BOULDER COUNTY

Ryder's Fund made a grant to the 2020 Fires Relief Fund established by the Community Foundation of Boulder County in partnership with Boulder County. Donations to this fund benefit those impacted by the Cal-Wood and Lefthand Canyon Fires, which started on October 17 and October 18, respectively. "This year has been relentlessly challenging. It is critical we coordinate our efforts to support our neighbors through this added crisis in Boulder County. Partnering with the County and others, we hope will ease the burden on individuals, families and organizations" said Tatiana Hernandez, CEO of Community Foundation of Boulder County. Grants from the fund will be made to nonprofit organizations and governmental entities to support immediate relief needs and longer-term recovery needs for individuals, families and organizations. Tax deductible donations are still being accepted by Community Foundation of Boulder County at commfund.org/2020firesfund.



WORK IN THE FAITH COMMUNITY

In the past, Ryder's Fund has sponsored scholarships for middle-school and high-school students to attend BOCO retreat camps and workshops. Given the limitations imposed by Covid restrictions, Ryder's Fund provided financial support for Bo Abbott and InterVarsity at CU, a campus ministry with a vision to reach "Every Corner, Every Campus." Specifically, InterVarsity is re-establishing a presence at CU after nearly a decade-long hiatus. InterVarsity is dedicated to tilling good soil in young people on campus so they can produce in the classroom, in sports, and later when they become members our larger community. The financial support given will be used to provide food for one-on-one meetings, gatherings (yes, they will happen again), weekend retreats, and guest speakers. Transforming young lives takes effort and the faith community continues to serve an important role in this mission.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ryder's Fund seeks to continue to enhance the healthy development of young people in our community and assist them in meeting and overcoming the challenges of our modern world. Ryder's Fund also proudly supports the educators, faith leaders and first responders that help our young people and our larger community. Rest assured, one by one, we are making an impact on our local community and its most precious resource, young people. Make a charitable contribution at RydersFund.org or send a check (Payable to YMCA of Northern Colorado-Ryder's Fund) to:

YMCA of Northern Colorado
Ryder's Fund
2800 Dagny Way, Lafayette, CO 80026



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Contributions \$446,853.81*
Total Gifts/Grants..... \$121,038.21*
0% spent on Administrative Costs.

**includes \$20,635 contributed prior to establishment of YMCA endowment account*

Ryder's Fund is administered by the YMCA of Northern Colorado Endowment Committee

