

# RYDER'S FUND

## ONE BY ONE



Fall 2020 Newsletter | [RydersFund.org](http://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.



## SUPPORT FOR YMCA EMERGENCY CHILDCARE

**For the Children of First Responders, Medical Professionals and Other Essential Workers During Health Crisis**

In March 2020, as our country confronted the Coronavirus Pandemic, the YMCA of Northern Colorado stepped up to meet the challenge by using its Boulder and Longmont facilities to provide emergency childcare for essential workers (hospital, fire, ambulance, police, supply chain, pharmaceutical, utility employees) and families that could not work from home and live paycheck to paycheck. The Y provided 10 weeks of care for more than 160 children while their parents worked to keep our communities safe, fed and functioning.



During the Y's closure, their staff made more than 8,000 wellness calls to local seniors and filmed more than 220 virtual fitness classes to keep neighbors active and connected even as the Y's doors remained closed. The Y also continues to partner with organizations to ensure local families and individuals have access to food.

As a true community-based non-profit, the YMCA has always stepped up in times of need and crisis. Ryder's Fund's donation of \$10,000 to the YMCA of Northern Colorado's 2020 Community Response Fund helped the YMCA serve others even while it faced its own unique economic challenges. County and State officials have since worked with the YMCA to model many of the protocols to help hasten the safe reopening of our schools. Even now, the Y is working with school districts to provide childcare and virtual learning support for children whose parents cannot work from home.



## FEED THE FRONTLINES

**Restaurants and Healthcare Workers Benefit From Boulder Community Health Foundation's "Feed The Frontlines Boulder" Initiative**

In cooperation with a group of community volunteers made up of restaurateurs, philanthropists and entrepreneurs, Boulder Community Health Foundation launched a program in March 2020 in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic designed to benefit both healthcare workers and restaurants. Ryder's Fund donated \$5,000 to the program which allows the community to donate meals from local restaurants to be delivered to healthcare workers on the front lines. "It's a win-win in the present sense," said Kyle Judah, co-lead organizer of the program. "It's about supporting the people who economically need the most help right now, and at the same time, giving folks on the frontline that little bit of support as this fight goes on." The program raised \$200,000 from individual donors in the week prior to the launch and aimed to raise an additional \$200,000.

**"It's about supporting the people who economically need the most help right now..."**

At the end of the program, remaining donations will go to the BCH Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund. As expressed by co-lead organizer and BCH Foundation board member Vikas Reddy, "I hope that [people] look at this as not just one example of what can be done, but as a source of hope and inspiration for what else can help combat the virus directly and combat the economic effects." Ryder's Fund is proud of its continuing collaboration with the BCH Foundation.

Read the Daily Camera article at <https://bit.ly/2FMYmjZ>

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](mailto:co111@postnet.com)



## PATH FORWARD MUCH BRIGHTER

In the Summer 2019 edition of Ryder’s Fund Newsletter, we reported on a young man with past connections to the YMCA camps, who sadly attempted suicide on Halloween night by harming himself repeatedly with a box cutter. After acute medical care and therapy, the family, in consultation with doctors, decided to send the young man to Open Sky Wilderness Therapy out of Durango, Colorado. Ryder’s Fund contributed to the costs of the wilderness program. The wilderness therapy was followed by residential treatment. These therapies helped this young man to open up and reflect on his past behaviors and thought patterns and provide him with tools to begin to navigate his life. After 11 months of treatment, he finally returned home in October 2019. Of course, the family faced daunting expenses with ongoing counseling, dermatology treatments to minimize scarring, and debt related to medical, wilderness and residential treatment. To show our continuing commitment and support, Ryder’s Fund began the New Year with a grant of \$5,000 to help the family’s continuing counseling efforts. In a recent update, his mother shared “I am so happy to report he continues to do well as he grows into his own skin more each day. What a joy it is to write that statement after 11 months of worry and (at times) anguish.” The young man has started a new school, has a job, has taken an interest in sports and has developed a core group of friends. The family believes the treatment they were able to receive was invaluable. His mother closed the update by stating “I want to thank Ryder’s Fund for its generous financial support during a time of great personal and financial stress. You have no idea how much your support helped our entire family.” This young man’s story of recovery demonstrates the path forward can indeed be so much brighter.



## FRONT RANGE RESCUE DOGS

Front Range Rescue Dogs (FRRD) has been providing canine search and rescue teams to assist missing persons for over 30 years. FRRD team members and their canines are ever grateful to Ryder’s Fund for providing funding for specialized Psychological and Emotional Wellness (PEW) trainings. PEW trainings are helping FRRD individuals and team members to be emotionally, mentally, and physically better prepared to handle the challenging, exciting, and sometimes very difficult sides of search and rescue. FRRD has been learning to use the Stress Continuum, which is a scale of psychological and emotional wellness, to recognize where individuals and teams are on the continuum during recent months. They are also working to recognize where the dogs are on the continuum, which is a ground breaking concept for PEW. Thanks to Ryder’s Fund, FRRD has developed better and emotionally healthier ways to cope with the difficult times as individuals and as a team. What we are learning not only helps us, it has enhanced our ability to help those we assist.



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

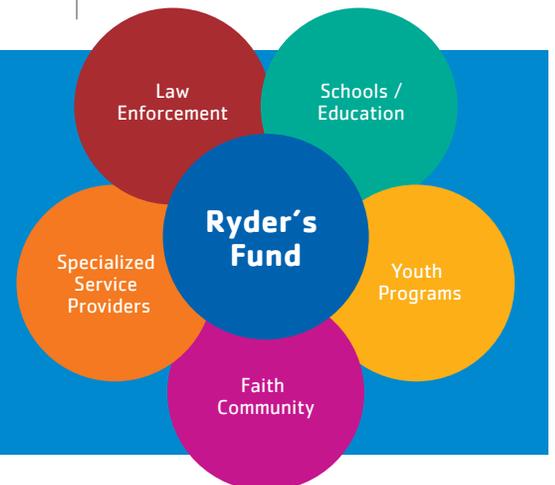
Psychological Health and Performance continues to support the student-athletes and staff during this difficult time with the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. In February, PHP added an additional sport psychologist, Dr. Mac Brown, to provide mental health services for the student-athletes and oversee the doctorate-level training program. The first post-doctoral fellow started in August and will be providing services to the student-athletes and teams over the course of the year. PHP now has four mental health providers and an Administrative and Data Specialist to be able to provide the best care for the student-athletes’ mental health. The Bolder Buffs took a break over the summer and are ready to start the new semester. They have started planning creative ways to support their teammates’ mental health with the uncertainty of academics and athletics this year. The Bolder Buffs are continuing to provide peer support and advocacy for mental health awareness within athletics and have been very active in speaking up about the importance of mental health during this time.

CU Athletics PHP and the Bolder Buffs are grateful for the generous support of Ryder’s Fund and they look forward to partnering on new and innovate ways to support CU student-athletes in the year ahead.

## 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](http://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 .....	\$426,740.66*
Total Gifts/Grants.....	\$89,038.21*
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

