

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2015



**RMFI**  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

# STEWARDSHIP

RMFI actively engages community volunteers and youth corps crews to protect our most treasured natural landscapes in Southern Colorado.

# EDUCATION

Through experiential education opportunities, RMFI is helping foster an ethic of environmental responsibility and training the next generation of conservation leaders.

# RESEARCH

RMFI monitors the effectiveness of restoration and erosion control treatments at many project sites to better understand our impacts on ecosystem health.



PHOTO BY CHRIS VANKAT



PHOTO BY JUSTIN PETERSON

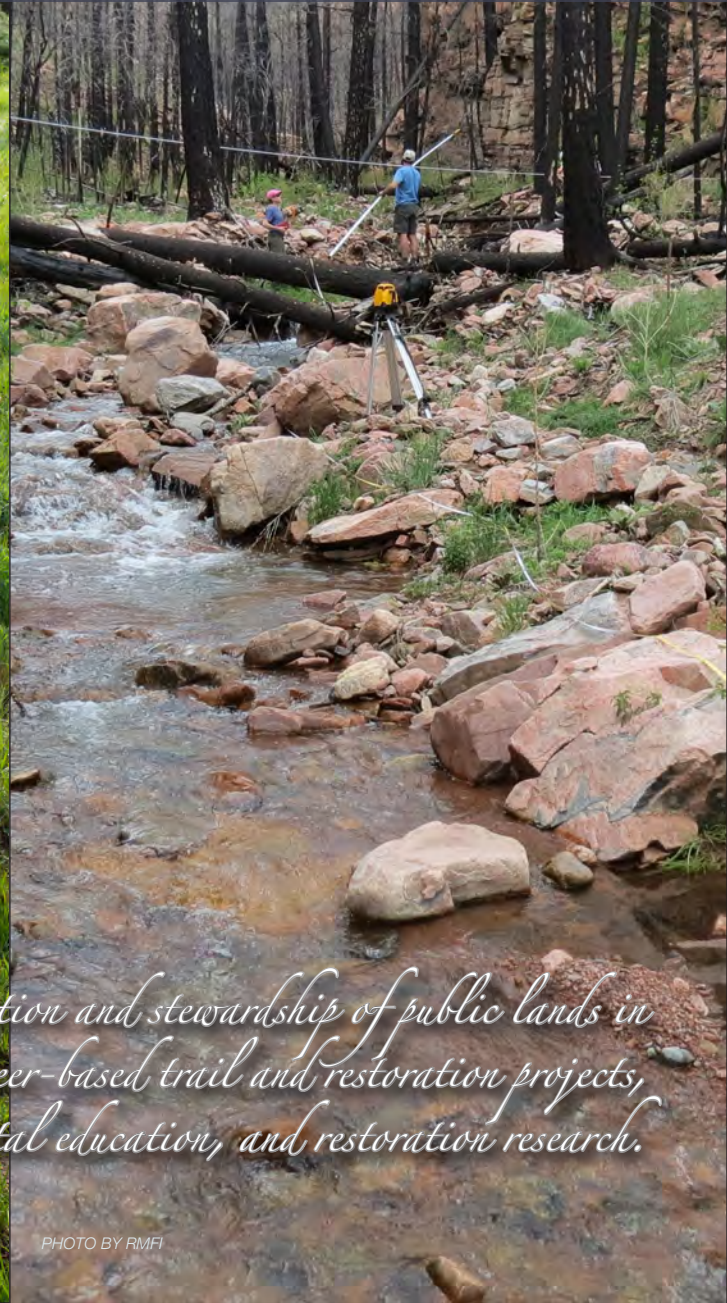


PHOTO BY RMFI

*Rocky Mountain Field Institute promotes the conservation and stewardship of public lands in the Southern Rocky Mountain region through volunteer-based trail and restoration projects, environmental education, and restoration research.*

Dear RMFI Friends and Supporters,

Each passing year provides a great opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us, where we've been, and where we're going. This year is no different. By all accounts, 2015 was a very successful year. We accomplished a tremendous amount of work on the ground, enhanced relationships with our many project partners, actively engaged community groups, volunteers, and youth conservation crews in meaningful stewardship projects, participated in workshops and conferences to grow our professional expertise, expanded our donor base, increased our reach and capacity within the community, and even took home some awards along the way. As an organization, we celebrated our 33rd year anniversary, making us one of the longest standing outdoor stewardship groups in the state.

As a community, we also faced some challenges. In May 2015, portions of Colorado Springs received upwards of 12 inches of rainfall, surpassing a previous record held since 1894. These rains and subsequent storms in August caused extensive damage to many of our trails, parks, and open spaces. RMFI was called upon to help repair some of these areas, but a tremendous amount of work remains.

Our region is home to some of the world's most renowned, treasured, and iconic natural landscapes. While a tremendous asset from a quality of life and aesthetic point of view, the abundance of natural resources in the Pikes Peak Region also presents significant challenges. Increasing population, development pressures, threats from wildfires, flooding, and other natural disasters, and declining budgets in public agencies challenge the effective management of public lands in the state. As these threats grow, the possibility exists that increased degradation of these lands will make them less inviting and potentially irrelevant to future generations, eroding the very constituency needed to protect them.

With the capacity of public land management agencies dwindling, increasing reliance has been placed on nonprofit organizations like RMFI to fill the gaps with regard to conservation, restoration, and maintenance of our parks, trails, and open spaces. According to a 2014 public opinion survey conducted by the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department, respondents rated improved maintenance of existing parks and open spaces as their top investment priority over the next 5 years. RMFI's stewardship, education, and research programs help address these issues by providing opportunities for active community engagement in hands-on projects that ultimately help build stronger and more resilient communities, promote an active and healthy lifestyle, protect and restore natural landscapes, and cultivate and foster an ethic of environmental stewardship and responsibility.

In early 2015, Rocky Mountain Field Institute board of directors and staff participated in a formal strategic planning session to better define the course of the organization over the next 5 years. As a result of the planning session, RMFI developed its first strategic plan that outlines key goals, objectives, and action steps through 2019. The plan will ensure RMFI is well positioned to address the many challenges and opportunities facing our region in the coming years.

We are very excited about our momentum going into 2016, and anticipate it being our biggest year ever in terms of reach and capacity. We are committed to building upon our team of professional staff, continuing to foster relationships with projects partners, donors, and supporters, and actively engaging the community in meaningful and innovative ways. We invite you to take a look at our annual report to learn more about what kept us busy in 2015. Thanks!



Jennifer Peterson, Executive Director

## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





## STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

For the past 33 years, RMFI has accomplished its mission by completing key environmental projects in recreational areas throughout the Southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau. RMFI has received national, state, and local recognition for trail construction and restoration that is widely regarded as some of the finest work of its kind accomplished in the region. Our project docket is diverse and growing. A brief snapshot of our key project sites in 2015 is included below.

**BARR TRAIL:** With generous support from the City of Manitou Springs, RMFI continued its stewardship work along the Incline Connector Trail and the lower 3 miles of Barr Trail. Major work accomplishments included stabilizing approximately 1,800 square feet of heavily impacted gullies, improving 349 linear feet of trail, restoring 625 linear feet of social trails, installing 534 linear feet of new fencing, and broadcasting 35 pounds of native seed.

**BEAR CREEK WATERSHED:** RMFI continued habitat protection efforts in the Bear Creek Watershed through sediment mitigation and trail maintenance projects. RMFI worked with a Southwest Conservation Corps crew and U.S. Air Force Academy cadets to accomplish work objectives. RMFI also completed an additional assessment for the U.S. Forest Service to document sediment production zones along Trails #666 and #667 in preparation for implementation projects associated with the NEPA decision. This year's work was supported by the U.S. Forest Service and Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

**CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN STATE PARK:** With help from Mile High Youth Corps crews and participants in RMFI's annual Volunteer Vacation, RMFI was able to complete the new 3.6 mile Top of the Mountain Trail during the 2015 field season. The trail provides unparalleled views of the front range and will certainly be a destination location when opened to the public in the near future. The work was supported by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

**GARDEN OF THE GODS:** RMFI completed its 13<sup>th</sup> year of stewardship work in the Garden of the Gods Park. Work objectives largely focused on closing and restoring social trails in the southeastern part of the park. In the fall, RMFI began working on creating sustainable climbing access trails at Gray Rock in the central part of the park. Major work accomplishments included engaging 1,300 volunteers, restoring 7,156 linear feet of social trails (1.36 miles!), constructing 79 check dams, and broadcasting 76 pounds of native seed. This work was made possible by Lyda Hill, the City of Colorado Springs, funding through the Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax, the Broadmoor Garden Club, and the Friends of Garden of the Gods.



*Before and after photos showing progress of new trail construction along the Top of the Mountain Trail in Cheyenne Mountain State Park.*



*Before and after photos showing results of bringing a deeply incised trail back up to grade in the Garden of the Gods Park.*

**INDIAN CREEK CANYON:** RMFI partnered with the Bureau of Land Management-Monitcello Field Office, Access Fund, Front Range Climbing Stewards, Boulder Climbing Community, and Montrose High School to complete the new Pistol Whipped Trail. Major accomplishments included constructing 111 steps, 51 cairns, and 310 square feet of retaining wall as well as cutting 470 linear feet of trail tread. The work was generously supported by the BLM, the George and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, and the Access Fund.



*Before and after photos showing progress of trail corridor clearing along the summit route to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point in the Sangre de Cristos.*

**KIT CARSON PEAK & CHALLENGER POINT:**

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, RMFI made tremendous strides in our multi-phase, multi-year project to reconstruct the summit trail to Kit Carson Peak and Challenger Point in the Sangre de Cristos. RMFI spent a total of 8 weeks working on the project between June and August 2015 with the help of a Southwest Conservation Corps Crew and undergraduate student participants in RMFI's highly-acclaimed field studies course, Earth Corps. In total, RMFI constructed 109 rock steps, built 380 square feet of retaining wall, 1,100 linear feet of new trail, and maintained 16,200 linear feet of trail corridor. The project was supported by the U.S. Forest Service, the Colorado State Trails Program, the National Forest Foundation, Patagonia, and the Clif Bar Foundation.



*Before and after photos showing stabilization by timber steps along the new Mt. Muscoco Trail in North Cheyenne Cañon.*

**MT. MUSCOCO TRAIL:** In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon, RMFI was able to complete a portion of the new Mt. Muscoco Trail located in North Cheyenne Cañon. In total, RMFI built 67 timber steps, 9 rock steps, 6 cross-vanes, 7 rock check dams, 1 rock water bar, and restored and seeded 175 linear feet of social trail. The project was a great example of diverse groups working together to achieve a common goal. Work was funded by the Friends of Cheyenne Cañon through the City of Colorado Springs and REI.

**PIKES PEAK:** In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the U.S. Forest Service, RMFI continued its stewardship work on Pikes

Peak to mitigate erosion and sedimentation originating from the Pikes Peak Highway. Projects included stabilization of gullies and bare areas and wetland restoration. RMFI also worked with Friends of the Peak to collect and disperse native seed from the Severy Creek basin to encourage revegetation of the area. In total, RMFI restored approximately 61,000 square feet (1.4 acres), transplanted 250 native plants, and built 110 square feet of retaining wall. The work was supported by the Pikes Peak Fund.



## STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

# STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

PHOTO BY JUSTIN PETERSON

**PINERIES OPEN SPACE:** RMFI partnered with El Paso County to conduct post-fire restoration work in the Pineries Open Space located northeast of Colorado Springs. This areas was impacted by the Black Forest Fire in 2013. In total, RMFI restored 32,783 square feet (0.75 acres), broadcasting 45 pounds of native seed, and constructing 45 log erosion barriers. The work was supported by the El Paso Trust for Community Parks, the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - FedEx Earth Smart Outreach Program.

**RED ROCK CANYON OPEN SPACE:** In May 2015, portions of Colorado Springs received upwards of 12 inches of rain. The historic precipitation event caused an earthen dam in Red Rock Canyon Open Space to collapse, which resulted in major damage to portions of the park. In partnership with the City of Colorado Springs and the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, RMFI was able to stabilize Round Up Trail Creek, repair the Quarry Pass Trail, and stabilize the Sand Canyon Pond breach site. Work was funded through a FEMA grant awarded to the City of Colorado Springs.

**SHELF ROAD RECREATION AREA:** In partnership with the Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance, the Bureau of Land Management, Colorado College New Student Orientation, and the Access Fund, RMFI was able to complete critical improvements to popular climbing access trails at Shelf Road over 3 separate stewardship events. In total, RMFI built 47 rock steps, 233 square feet of retaining wall, and improved 240 linear feet of trail. The work was funded by the Bureau of Land Management and the Access Fund.

**WALDO CANYON BURN SCAR:** RMFI continued post-fire restoration work in the Waldo Canyon burn scar in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. With help from youth conservation corps crews and dozens of volunteers, RMFI completed hillslope stabilization, seeding, and head-cut stabilization on a total of 8 acres, including 2.5 acres within the Waldo Canyon Trail corridor, 0.25 acres in Upper Williams Canyon, and 5.2 acres in the northwest drainage tributary to Waldo Canyon Creek. Work was funded by the Pikes Peak Community Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - FedEx EarthSmart Outreach Program.



*Before and after photos showing repair to a prortion of the Quarry Pass Trail in Red Rock Canyon Open Space.*



*A volunteer works on the Cactus Cliff Trail at Shelf Road during the Craggin' Classic stewardship event in November 2015.*

**COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION TOUR:** In partnership with Colorado College, Flying W Ranch, and the City of Colorado Springs, RMFI hosted the second edition of a Collaborative Conservation Tour with environmental management students from Colorado College. Students heard from experts on the challenges of environmental management, mitigation, and restoration efforts across all land tenure types as well as discussed the ecologically and politically contentious and advantageous nature of environmental management and collaborative conservation.



*Participants in the annual Fire Restoration Skills Training learn from RMFI staff on proper construction of a log erosion barrier designed to stabilize hillslopes.*

students from across the nation were accepted into the 30-day program, which took place in beautiful Willow Lake Basin in the Sangre de Cristos. The Earth Corps field studies program combines a critical conservation stewardship project with an integrated college-accredited curriculum of environmental science, leadership, and public land policy. In early 2015, the Earth Corps program was recognized by the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education with an award for Excellence in Environmental Education.

**FIRE RESTORATION SKILLS TRAINING:** In partnership with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, Flying W Ranch Foundation, and Black Forest Together, RMFI staff hosted another successful Fire Restoration Skills Training designed to educate participants about fire restoration techniques and fire impacted ecosystems. Specific technical training included seeding and mulching on fire scarred landscapes, log erosion barrier and wattle construction/installation on hillslopes, and information on other common stabilization and mitigation structures utilized. This training has been instrumental in equipping volunteers with additional technical skills following the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest wildfires.

**PIKES PEAK REGIONAL CREW LEADER TRAINING:** In response to a growing need for crew leaders to oversee safe and efficient volunteer workdays, RMFI joined forces with the City of Colorado Springs, the Trails and Open Space Coalition, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and Friends of the Peak to host the 4th annual Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader Training program in 2015. This collaborative 2.5 day program draws on the expertise and knowledge of all participating organizations to inform, train, and actively engage interested volunteers in leadership and trail and restoration techniques. Topics discussed include crew and risk assessment, conflict management, the basics of trail construction and maintenance, and restoration of social trails. The 2016 edition of the training will occur April 22-24 at the Bear Creek Nature Center.

**DIRT CAMP:** RMFI partnered with Catamount Institute once again to run a weeklong summer camp for youth ages 10-12. This year's course, Dirt Camp, took place in Garden of the Gods and focused on dirt, rocks, and worms. Youth caught insects, started a worm farm, learned about rocks and minerals of the Pikes Peak region, searched for fossils, conducted soil chemistry tests, ran soil erosion studies, and worked with RMFI field staff to close and restore social trails in the eastern portion of the park. By actively engaging youth, RMFI is planting the seed for a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship.

**EARTH CORPS:** RMFI completed the 14th year of our highly acclaimed field studies course, Earth Corps, in partnership with the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. This year, 10 undergraduate



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION



**WALDO CANYON BURN SCAR:** RMFI has a rich history in conducting restoration research at select project sites including Garden of the Gods, Pikes Peak, and the Hayman burn scar, and more recently began a research project in the Waldo Canyon burn scar in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. Current monitoring efforts are aimed at determining the effectiveness of restoration treatments implemented with Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) funding immediately after the Waldo Canyon fire. These treatments included the construction of several below-grade sediment detention basins as well as construction of hillslope stabilization structures and reseeded with native species. All structures ultimately help to minimize downstream sedimentation, which can threaten aquatic and riparian habitat and also pose severe downstream risks to life and safety.

Four monitoring locations were selected by U.S. Forest Service hydrologists and methods used to monitor the locations include longitudinal profile surveys, cross-section surveys, and monumented photopoints. While we have not yet finished compiling and analyzing data for the measurements taken in 2015, we did analyze results from last year's measurements. In summary, we found the longitudinal profile surveys conducted at the Upper Williams Canyon and Wellington Gulch sites where sediment detention basins were installed revealed minimal changes in channel gradient and a relatively stable channel bed for the duration of the monitoring period. In both locations, the sediment detention basins were functioning properly to capture sediment and reduce flow velocity.

The cross-section surveys conducted at the Upper Williams Canyon and Wellington Gulch sites revealed minimal changes to stream morphology or geometry. Bank location and channel width at each monitoring location remained relatively stable throughout the monitoring period. Cross-section surveys conducted at the Lower Williams Canyon site revealed relatively stable channel morphology and geometry, but more definitive locations of active bank erosion and degradation were observed. Repeated photographs taken within the Camp Creek drainage suggested native vegetation was reestablishing itself on the hillslopes, the sediment detention basin was functioning properly to capture sediment originating from upstream reaches, and log-erosion barriers installed along the right bank of the basin were functioning to slow down water flows and minimize further rill erosion. Native vegetation seeded behind the log-erosion barriers was also establishing itself and helping to stabilize the soil surface.

**EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING:** RMFI also monitors the effectiveness of restoration treatments implemented at various other project sites to better determine the impacts we are having on the ground. Monitoring primarily involves the use of photopoints and transect measurements to assess revegetation rates of disturbed areas and success rates of trail stabilization structures. Qualitative measurements in the form of user surveys are also conducted to better assess user preferences regarding various trail maintenance/construction techniques. On Barr Trail, for example, results from a user survey prompted RMFI staff to utilize a new kind of subsurface stabilization structure that are less obstructive to trail runners. Monitoring of these structures reveal they have been very effective in stabilizing the trail tread and reducing erosion.

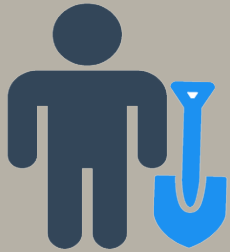


*Repeated photographs in the Camp Creek drainage suggest native vegetation is reestablishing itself on hillslopes and log erosion barriers are working to slow the flow of water and stabilize the soil.*

## RESEARCH/MONITORING







**2,150**  
VOLUNTEERS



**243**  
WORKDAYS



**15,903**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS



**\$408,389**  
VOLUNTEER VALUE



**959**  
YOUTH AGES  
8-24



**70**  
CONSERVATION CORPS  
MEMBERS



**78**  
COMMUNITY GROUPS  
AND SCHOOLS



**14**  
PROJECT  
SITES



**344**  
LOG EROSION  
BARRIERS INSTALLED



**347**  
POUNDS OF  
NATIVE SEED



**7,956**  
LINEAR FT. OF SOCIAL  
TRAIL RESTORED



**9,780**  
LINEAR FT. OF  
NEW TRAIL BUILT



**17,479**  
LINEAR FT. OF  
TRAIL MAINTAINED



**351**  
ROCK STEPS  
BUILT

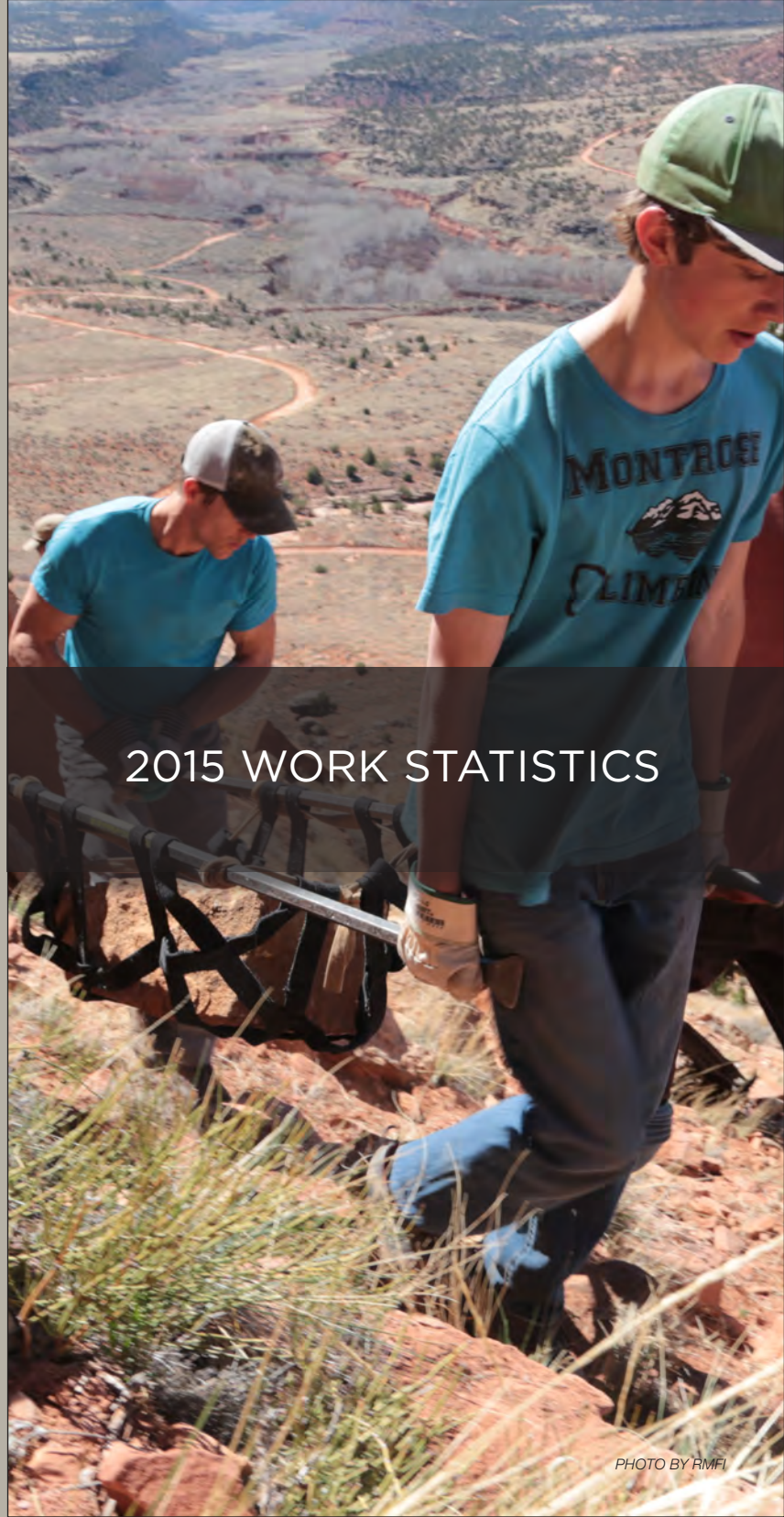


**1,601**  
LINEAR FT. RETAINING  
WALL BUILT



**2,816**  
VEGETATION  
PLUGS TRANSPLANTED

## 2015 WORK STATISTICS





## 2015 FUNDRAISING EVENTS



*Jennifer Peterson, RMFI executive director, accepts a check on behalf of Mountain Chalet at the 2015 Banff Mountain Film Festival.*

**BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL:** Since 2005, Mountain Chalet, a locally owned and operated outdoor equipment store, has been hosting the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival as a fundraiser for RMFI. The event showcases phenomenal short films focused on exploration of remote landscapes and mountain cultures to adrenaline-fueled action sports. The event is always a sellout and in 2016 will be expanded to two nights! The proceeds raised from the event support RMFI's mission of conserving and protecting treasured public landscapes in Southern Colorado.

**VEDA FASHION SHOW AND GREENIE AWARDS:** This event first began in 2009 in celebration of Earth Month and as a way to recognize local "green" individuals and businesses, showcase sustainable fashion, and raise awareness and financial resources for a local environmental nonprofit. Since that time, this annual "green carpet" event has grown to be one of the most unique and preeminent events in Colorado Springs and has raised over

\$350,000 for 3 nonprofit organizations. For the past 3 years, RMFI has been the beneficiary of this amazing event, which has supported our important conservation and stewardship work in the Pikes Peak region. The event epitomizes the philanthropic spirit of Veda Salon and Spa whose mission is to care for the world we live in and in the ways we give back to society.



*The Colorado Hoopers performing onstage at the 2015 Veda Salon & Spa Fashion Show and Greenie Awards.*

**WALDO WALDO 5K:** The Waldo Waldo 5K was set up as a response to the Waldo Canyon Fire in 2012. The 5K raises money for The Waldo Waldo Fund, a fund of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, which supports natural disaster and fire recovery efforts as well as trails and open space maintenance in Colorado Springs and the surrounding community. Money is granted from this fund to the primary event beneficiaries, which include RMFI and the Trails and Open Space Coalition. This year marked the 4th year (and largest year in terms of attendance) of the event, which has now raised over \$100,000 for TOSC and RMFI.

**INDY GIVE 2015:** Give! is an annual philanthropic platform that encourages everyone in the Pikes Peak region to give back and get involved with local nonprofits, with a particular emphasis on catalyzing philanthropy among those 36 years old and younger. Over the last six years, Give! has helped more than 132 local nonprofits, including RMFI, raise \$5 million-plus from more than

20,000 donors in the Pikes Peak region. Give! also provides these nonprofits with access to matching grants, media exposure, and more than 100 hands-on training opportunities from local and regional experts. Give! is powered by the Colorado Springs Independent newsweekly and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation as well as more than 100 local media, foundation and business partners. As part of Give! 2015, RMFI participated in a number of fundraising events including Rock the Give!, Masquerade Ball, Bikes and Brew, and The Snow Ball.

**COALITION FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:**

RMFI's Blanca Peak and Ellingwood Trail Project was one of nine trail projects chosen by the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) for an Annual Achievement Award that recognizes outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. The RTP is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration that provides funding to states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The CRT is a national organization representing the nation's major trail interests that helps build awareness and understanding of the RTP to ensure that it receives adequate federal funding.

The Blanca Peak and Ellingwood Trail Project was initiated in 2011 and completed in 2012, and involved stabilization of the primary trail corridor to both fourteen peaks and surrounding slopes, restoring social trails and erosion gullies, and re-routing the current trail onto more sustainable ground. Forty volunteers contributed 6,990 volunteer hours toward the project (a value of \$149,306). Volunteers ranged from students representing colleges and universities from across the country to members of the Colorado Mountain Club and community volunteers who attended RMFI's Volunteer Vacation program.



*Joe Lavorini, RMFI program director, accepts the CRT Annual Achievement Award at a ceremony in Washington D.C. on June 10.*

**RISING STAR AWARD:** RMFI's program director, Joe Lavorini, was awarded the 2015 Colorado Springs Business Journal Rising Star Award. Rising Stars is the leading award recognition for Young Professionals in the Pikes Peak region. This year, 27 young professionals under the age of 40 were selected to receive this prestigious award.

**MAYOR'S YOUNG LEADER AWARD:** RMFI's executive director, Jennifer Peterson, was selected to receive the 2015 Mayor's Young Leader Award in the Future Industries category. The Mayor's Young Leader Awards highlight the outstanding achievements of young professionals working as entrepreneurs, educators, and nonprofit leaders in the Pikes Peak Region in 5 categories: creative industry, economic impact, innovation in education, innovation in sports and wellness, and future industries.



*Jennifer Peterson, RMFI executive director, poses with the other Mayor's Young Leader Award winners at a ceremony in Colorado Springs on October 28.*



## 2015 AWARDS





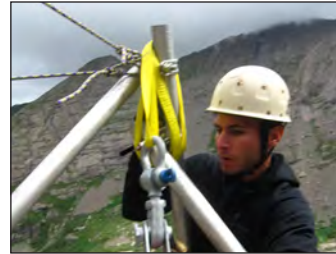
# ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

PHOTO BY JUSTIN PETERSON

## 2015 STAFF



*Jennifer Peterson, Executive Director*



*Joe Lavorini, Program Director*



*Andy Riter, Program Coordinator*



*Molly Mazel, Volunteer Coordinator*



*Liz Nichol, Office Manager*



*Kelly Kaufmann, Field Coordinator*



*Sara Baker, Field Instructor*



*Maggie Gaddis, Field Instructor*



*Mark Tatro, Field Instructor*



*Chris Ullom, Field Instructor*



*Julie Mazzola, Research Assistant*

## 2015 OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Rich Broyles  
Erin Collard  
D.C. Conroy  
Lori Lilly  
Mary Rodas  
Mike Mazzola

## 2015 STUDENT INTERNS

Lilly Chen, Colorado College - Environmental Leadership Intern  
Katherine Guerrero, Colorado College - Marketing and Outreach Intern  
Lucy Hamamoto, Colorado College - Office Intern  
Rayna Nolen, Colorado College - Environmental Leadership Intern  
Kaitlin Sherbert, Colorado College - Office Intern

## 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

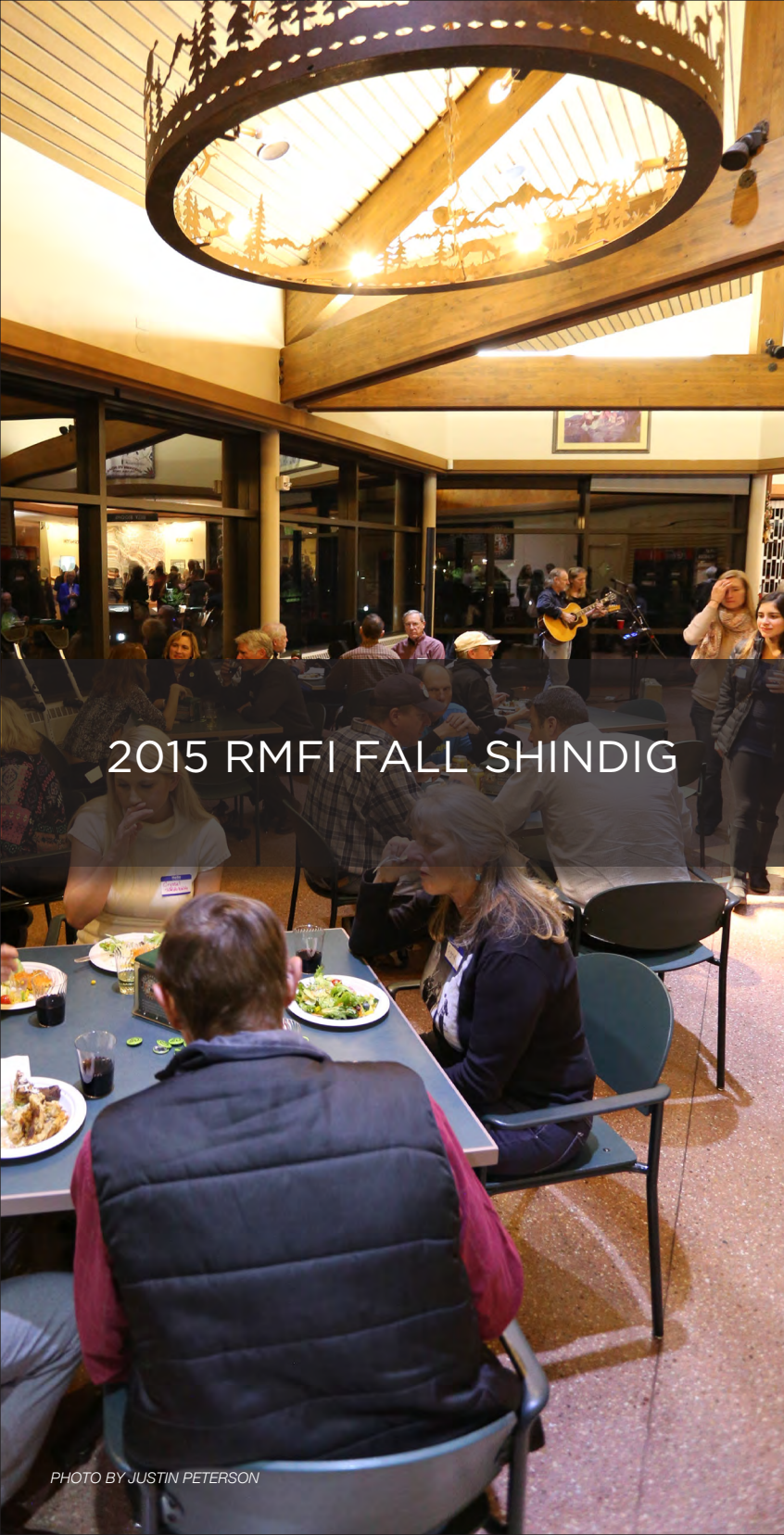
Ian Kalmanowitz, *President*  
Lori Nicholson, *Treasurer*  
Emilie Gray, Ph.D., *Secretary*  
Karole Campbell, *Member*  
Lee Derr, *Member*  
David Havlick, Ph.D., *Member*  
Tom Huber, Ph.D., *Member*  
Heidi Sinclair, *Member*  
Mike Smith, *Member*



*RMFI Board of Directors take a short break during the December 2015 board meeting to pause for a rare group photo.*

*At the end of 2015, RMFI said farewell to two of its longest-standing board members, Drs. David Havlick and Tom Huber. David joined the RMFI board in 2009 and has played a critical role in developing the educational and research components of RMFI's mission. Currently an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, David specializes in ecological restoration, conservation and public land policy, and sustainability. Tom joined the RMFI board in 1997 (after serving on the American Mountain Foundation Board since 1992; AMF became RMFI in 1997) and was very close friends with RMFI's founder, Mark Hesse. Tom has watched RMFI grow from a fledgling nonprofit to a highly effective, professional organization and is often referred to as the "RMFI Historian." Currently a Professor at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, Tom specializes in Colorado geography, environmental systems, and geomorphology. Both David and Tom participate as lecturers during RMFI's Earth Corps field studies program. David's and Tom's passion, knowledge, experience, and laughter will be missed, but never forgotten!*

## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



Each year, the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center hosts RMFI's annual Fall ShinDIG, which recognizes RMFI's many volunteers, funders, supporters, and other folks who make our work possible. The 2015 ShinDIG was a wonderful event that featured live music from The Mitguards, a wonderful meal from the Picnic Basket, an awards ceremony, and photo contest display of finalists from RMFI's 3rd annual NATURE! Photo Contest.

**FALL SHINDIG SPONSORS:**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center | The Mitguards          |
| Kirkpatrick Bank                           | Rick and Cheryl Walker |
| Raymond James                              | Picnic Basket          |
| Ian and Carrie Kalmanowitz                 | Tim Davis Art Images   |
| Justin Peterson Photography                |                        |

**AWARD WINNERS:**

- Funder of the Year: *Veda Salon & Spa*
- Stewardship Partner of the Year: *Mile High Youth Corps*
- Land Management Partner of the Year: *City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services*
- Volunteer Group of the Year: *Colorado Springs School*
- Volunteer of the Year: *Mike Scott*

**ROCKSTAR VOLUNTEERS:**

- |                 |                  |                |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Sage Andorka    | Michael Flanagan | John Perkowski |
| Barb Brown      | Andrea Hassler   | Noah Rausch    |
| Rich Broyles    | Eric Julian      | Jim Reed       |
| Brianna Castro  | Jeffrey King     | Lucas Rolo     |
| Josh Deck       | George Lee       | Mike Scott     |
| Steve Driska    | Lori Lilly       | Dan Stabler    |
| Justin Duerksen | Alex Mimplitsch  | Dean Waits     |
| Jeff Erhard     | Albert Nelson    |                |
| Ethan Flanagan  | Nicholas Perez   |                |

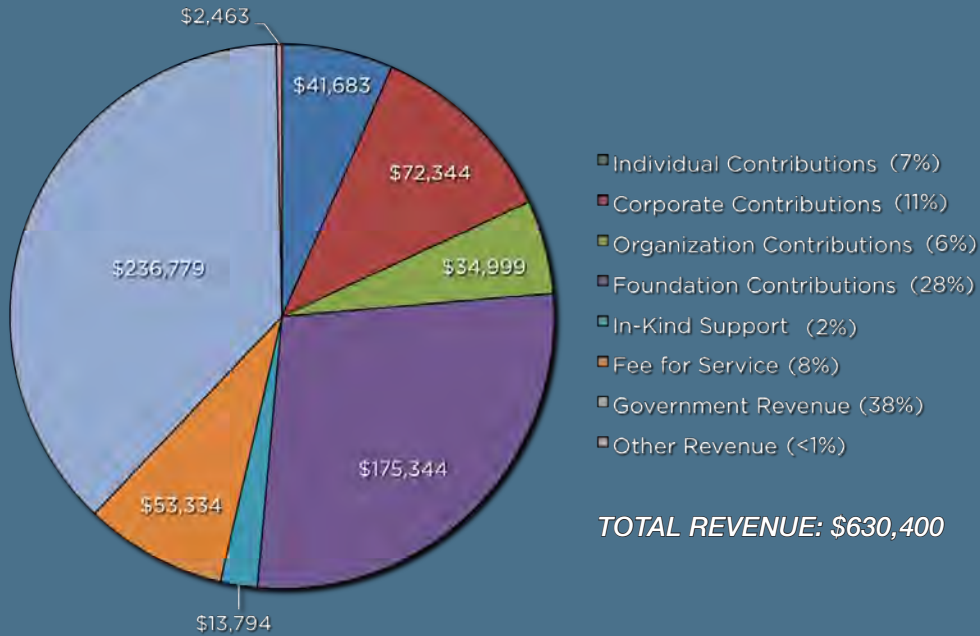


The City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services staff accepting their Land Management Partner of the Year award at RMFI's annual Fall ShinDIG.



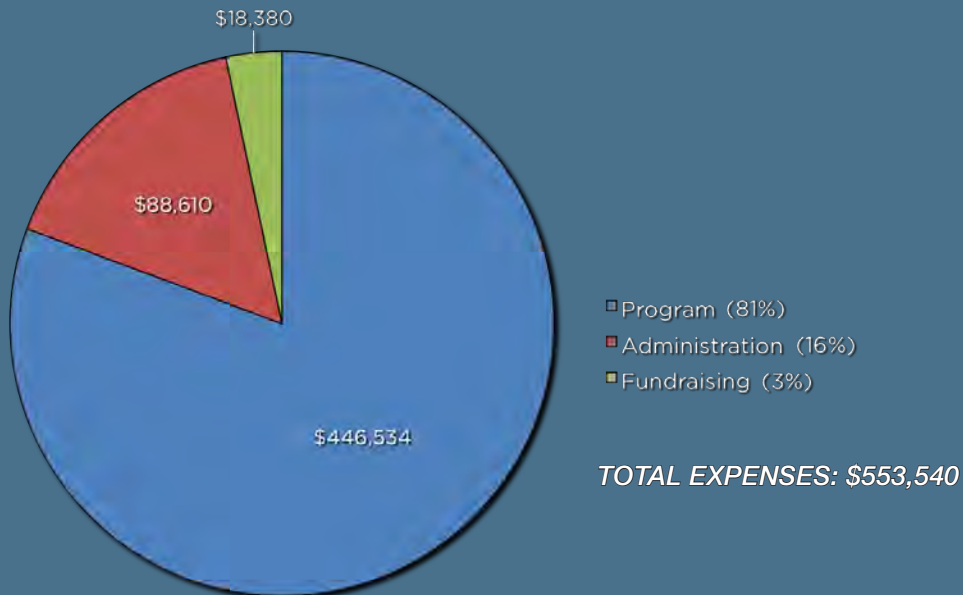
Rockstar Volunteers are recognized at RMFI's annual Fall ShinDIG for volunteering 5 or more times for RMFI during the year.

## Revenue



**TOTAL REVENUE: \$630,400**

## Expenses



**TOTAL EXPENSES: \$553,540**



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW





## 2015 GRANTORS, CONTRIBUTORS, AND SPONSORS

### **GOVERNMENT**

City of Colorado Springs  
City of Manitou Springs  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife  
Colorado Springs Utilities  
El Paso County Parks  
USDA Forest Service  
USDI Bureau of Land Management

### **ORGANIZATIONS**

American Alpine Club  
Broadmoor Garden Club  
Cheyenne Mountain Zoo  
Colorado Springs Philharmonic  
Combined Federal Campaign  
Friends of Garden of the Gods  
Friends of the Peak  
Kirkpatrick Family Fund  
Kissing Camels Garden Club  
Leadership Pikes Peak  
Pikes Peak Climbers Alliance  
Pikes Peak Fund  
Pikes Peak Marathon  
Rocky Mountain Field Institute Board of Directors  
The Access Fund  
The Mitguards

### **FOUNDATIONS**

Amazon Smile Foundation  
Clif Bar Family Foundation  
El Pomar Foundation  
George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation  
Hillsdale Fund  
Leighty Foundation  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
National Forest Foundation  
Pikes Peak Community Foundation  
-Black Forest Fire Fund  
-Pikes Peak Conservation Fund  
-Swinford Sister Fund  
-Trust for Community Parks  
-Waldo Waldo Fund  
Public Lands Foundation  
The Cornell Douglas Foundation  
T. Rowe Price Foundation

### **BUSINESSES**

4imprint  
Alpine Visions  
Angler's Covey  
Axe and the Oak Distillery  
Barr Trail Mountain Race  
Blackberry Maverick  
Bristol Brewing Company  
Challenge Unlimited  
CityROCK Climbing Center  
Coaltrain  
Colorado Springs Philharmonic  
ConocoPhillips  
CorePower Yoga  
Distillery 291  
ES Translation Services  
FedEx  
First Ascent Mountain School  
Fossil Brewing Company  
Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center  
Great Western Bank  
Julie Sprinkle Studio  
Justin Peterson Photography  
King Soopers  
Kirkpatrick Bank  
La'au's Taco Shop  
LexisNexis  
Manitou Auto Service  
Manitou Clif Dwellings Museum  
Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway Company  
MHM  
Mike's Camera  
Mountain Chalet  
Mountain Equipment Recyclers  
Northrop Grumman  
Patagonia  
Picnic Basket Catering  
Pikes Peak Marathon  
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“I hike and run and go for family walks in areas maintained, repaired, and kept open thanks to RMFI, so I give (my time). I don’t volunteer my time as much as I wish I could, so I give (money). I want groups like RMFI and the work they do to persist and thrive, so I give.”

*Dr. David Havlick, RMFI Board Member*



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE

815 South 25th Street, Suite 101, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904  
719.471.7736 • [rmfi@rmfi.org](mailto:rmfi@rmfi.org) • [www.rmfi.org](http://www.rmfi.org)

