

#### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends and supporters of RMFI,

The culmination of each year provides us all with the opportunity to reflect on the people and events that have made a profound impact on our lives. As I contemplate RMFI's 2022 season, the two words that continue to come to mind are gratitude and resilience. There is no question that 2022 was a year of significant change here at RMFI. As many of you know, we experienced a major transition in our leadership. Longtime RMFI Executive Director Jennifer Peterson left her position at RMFI in October for an amazing opportunity with the U.S. Forest Service. We are forever grateful to Jen for her dedication to RMFI's mission and for the impact she has had on us as individuals and for the community. We also saw several of our key program staff depart to explore new places and opportunities. We thank them all for the mark they have left on this organization and we look forward to seeing all the incredible things they will accomplish.

2022 was an incredibly successful and historic year. We employed the largest staff in RMFI history, completed the most project workdays in RMFI history, and worked at more project locations than ever before. We increased volunteer engagement by 40% compared to 2021, and nearly 440% compared to 2020. We hosted the 21st annual Earth Corps Program, completed the 10th annual Pikes Peak Regional Crew Leader training program, and secured long term funding for a number of important projects. We developed several exciting new partnerships with the City of Manitou Springs and the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs. We returned to the Dixon Trail in Cheyenne Mountain State Park, a RMFI legacy project site, to build upon the work of RMFI founder Mark Hesse. We completed over 255 stewardship workdays in Colorado Springs parks and open spaces, a feat that could not be accomplished without support provided by the TOPS program through the City of Colorado Springs and the Resilient Communities grant through Great Outdoors Colorado.

Change is often daunting and always challenging, but the support from each of you has helped see us through. We are grateful to every partner, donor, volunteer, event-goer, hiker, biker, rider and well-wisher who have contributed a piece of yourself towards our mission. The strength of this organization has always been in our community, and we thank each and every one of you for your support. See you in 2023!

Sincerely,

Carl Woody

RMFI Interim Executive Director





#### **OUR MISSION**

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute conserves and protects public lands in Southern Colorado through volunteer-based trail and restoration projects, environmental education, and restoration research.

#### **OUR VISION**

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute envisions a world where our work fosters vibrant and healthy natural systems that are respected and cared for by the public.

#### **OUR VALUES**

**Excellence in programs**. We are committed to providing the highest standard of programming for our project partners, supporters, and participants.

**Volunteerism**. We will implement a restoration model that centers on community involvement as a means of connecting people to the outdoors, promoting a healthy lifestyle, and fostering an ethic of environmental responsibility and stewardship.

**Outdoor recreation and education**. We respect the natural environment and seek to provide the opportunity for youth and adults to enjoy our natural world. Through our educational efforts, we will seek to develop the next generation of environmental leaders and stewards.

**Science-based solutions**. We are committed to furthering the field of restoration through the study and application of science-based solutions.

**Inclusiveness in partnerships**. We encourage strong and diverse partnerships through broad stakeholder and public participation.

**Integrity in actions.** We are committed to holding ourselves to the highest degree of responsibility and accountability.

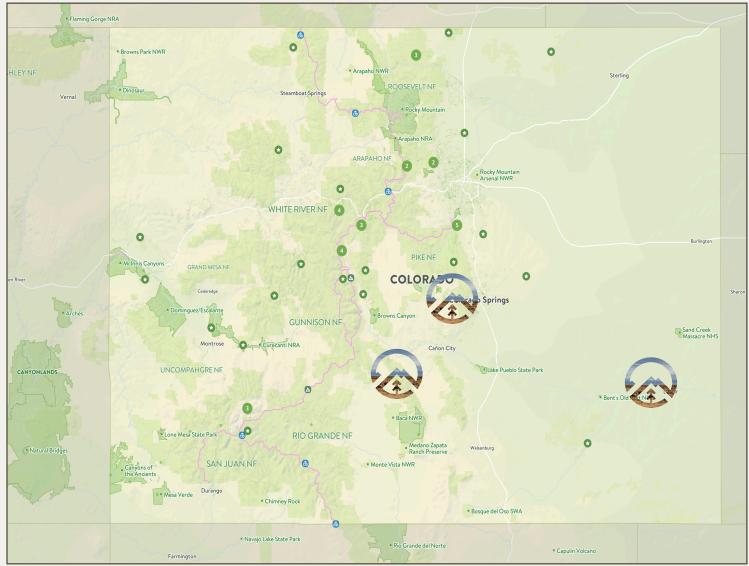
**Courage**. In furthering our mission, we will have the courage to undertake difficult and complex projects.

**Generosity of others.** We are committed to being responsible stewards of the time, money, and gifts entrusted to us.

### **2022 PROJECT LOCATIONS**

For the past 41 years, RMFI has accomplished its mission by completing a wide variety of important trail and restoration projects in recreational areas throughout the Southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau. RMFI has received national, state, and local recognition for its stewardship work that is widely regarded as some of the finest work of its kind accomplished in the region.

Our stewardship model centers on community engagement as a means of connecting people to the outdoors, providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, and fostering an ethic of environmental responsibility and stewardship. From recreational trail work to watershed protection and forest mitigation, our work keeps Colorado's great outdoors great.



Map courtesy of COTREX



Devils Playground Trail - Pikes Peak South Colony Lakes Basin



Bear Creek Watershed
Gray Back Peak Trail
Guffey Gorge
Mueller State Park
North Cheyenne Cañon Park
Pike National Forest
Rampart Recreation Area



Austin Bluffs Open Space
Barr Trail
Blodgett Open Space
Cheyenne Mountain State Park
Garden of the Gods Park
John Martin Reservoir
Palmer Park
Red Mountain Trail
Red Rock Canyon Open Space Shelf
Road Recreation Area Stratton
Open Space
Ute Valley Park



RMFI.ORG | 5



# PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



#### Dixon Trail maintenance with Cheyenne Mountain State Park

In 2022, RMFI partnered with Cheyenne Mountain State Park to perform some critical maintenance to the upper section of the Dixon Trail. RMFI has a long history of stewardship in the Park. In 2013, RMFI founder Mark Hesse, working under his firm Wildscapes Planning and Design, LLC and under contract with Cheyenne Mountain State Park, completed a comprehensive Trail Development and Construction Plan for the design and construction of a trail system in the Top of the Mountain (TOM) area of the park. The Dixon Trail, which provides access to the Top of the Mountain, was completed in 2018 through a partnership between Cheyenne Mountain State Park, the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park (FoCMSP), Mile High Youth Corps, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, RMFI and many other partners and stakeholders.

We were thrilled to return to this legacy site in 2022 to honor Mark and his impact on the community. Our crews completed 32 workdays on the trail, rebuilding a number of eroded and defunct switchbacks. We also joined forces with the FoCMSP Trail Dogs and many community volunteers on the project. The Trail Dogs and volunteers assisted with the transportation of material and helped construct retaining and erosion control structures.

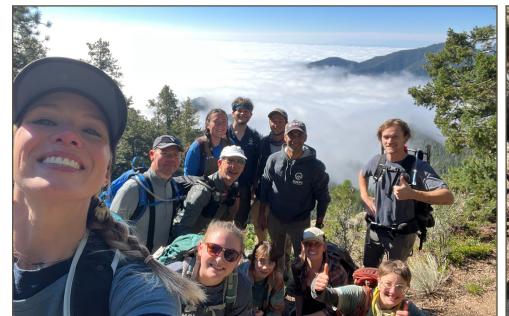
The Dixon Trail project was one of the most physically challenging projects RMFI undertook in 2022, which made it all the more rewarding to see completed. We hope that next time you are out on the Dixon enjoying the challenging hike, you think of Mark and all of the people that helped make it one of the most beloved trails in the region.





















## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT



#### Colorado Springs Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) Programming

RMFI has a close working relationship with the City of Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department that spans decades. If you enjoy hiking, biking, or horseback riding in one of our city's wonderful parks and open spaces, chances are RMFI has had a hand in taking care of that special place. We are incredibly fortunate to have the honor of stewarding the places that make Colorado Springs one of the best places to live in the country.

The vast majority of our stewardship work on city properties is made possible through the Trails, Open Space, and Parks (TOPS) tax. This .01-cent sales and use tax goes directly towards acquiring new park and open space property (protecting it from future development), building more trails, and maintaining the parks, trails, and open spaces that we already have.

In 2022, RMFI completed 78 stewardship workdays across 4 TOPS properties: Austin Bluffs Open Space, Blodgett Open Space, Red Rock Canyon Open Space, and Stratton Open Space. Highlights of our 2022 field season include the closure and restoration of 8,720 linear feet of illegal trail, 218 square feet of tread armoring, and 3,213.5 linear feet of trail improvements.

RMFI strives to engage our community in all aspects of the work that we do. By activating members of the community, we hope to instill a sense of stewardship that will help ensure the places that we all enjoy are cared for for generations to come. We engaged 124 community volunteers in our TOPS stewardship programming in 2022, and aim to increase that dramatically in 2023.











### ON-THE-GROUND IMPACT

124 Tons of rock moved

398 Rock/timber steps built

Miles of social trail closed/restored

25 Total project sites

66 Youth conservation corps members

29 Community and school groups

1,348 Erosion control structures built/maintained









596 TOTAL WOTZKDAYS

787 TOTAL VOLUNTEETZS

35,109 TOTAL WOTZKHOUTZS

\$201,766 VOLUNTEETZ VALUE



3.9 Miles of trail built/maintained





Pounds of native seed

11,266

Native transplants used in restoration

1,212

Trees felled for forest health

### **STAFF**



Name: Jennifer Peterson Title: Executive Director



Name: Carl Woody Title: Program Director



Name: Bronwyn Woodward Name: Calla Balliett Title: Business Manager



Title: Volunteer & Partnership Coordinator



Name: Otzma-Bie Paz Title: Program Manager



Name: Jamie Goins Title: Program Manager



Name: Lindsay Williams

Title: Program Manager

Name: Elizabeth Barber Title: Field Coordinator



Name: Alex Hladkyj

Title: Program Manager

Name: Kelly Malone Title: Field Coordinator



Name: Sean McKenna Title: Field Coordinator



Name: Bri Herder Title: Field Coordinator



Name: Leslie Andros Title: Field Instructor



Name: Josh Grundy Title: Field Instructor



Name: Nicole Box Title: Field Instructor



Name: Kinsey Warnock Title: Field Instructor



Name: Hannah Mooney Title: Field Instructor



Name: Oliver Watkins Title: Field Instructor



Name: Mikayla Manyin Title: Field Instructor



Title: Field Instructor



Name: Emma Stonesmyth Title: Field Instructor



Name: Bronson Rivera Title: Field Instructor



Name: Kimberly Fowler Title: Field Instructor



Name: Robbie Schwartz Title: Field Instructor



Name: Austin Killen Title: Field Instructor



Name: Riley Jones Title: Field Instructor



Name: Thomas Orfan Title: Field Instructor



Name: Joe Lococo Title: Field Instructor



Name: Molly Matheson Title: Field Instructor



Name: Allison Wyszynski Title: Field Instructor



Name: Cassie Rogers Title: Field Instructor



Name: Kari Wellman Title: Field Instructor



Name: Erin Reid Title: Field Instructor



Name: Dan Meleason Title: Environmental Leadership Intern



Name: Brew Tisson Title: Environmental Leadership Intern



Name: Torianne Austin Title: Environmental Leadership Intern

### **GEAR AND PHOTO VOLUNTEERS**

Jon Fisher Robert Hoff Wesley Trimble

Dean Waits Isaih Vega Tyler Woodward



Name: Evie Angevine Title: Bonner Fellow, Colorado College

RMFI.ORG | 15 RMFI.ORG | 16

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**Jeff Mohrmann**President



**Alex Lippert** Vice President



Kristen Cahill
Treasurer



**Melissa McCormick** Secretary



**Jason Alwine** Member



**Lee Derr** Member



Priscilla Marbaker Member



**Anna Parrish** Member



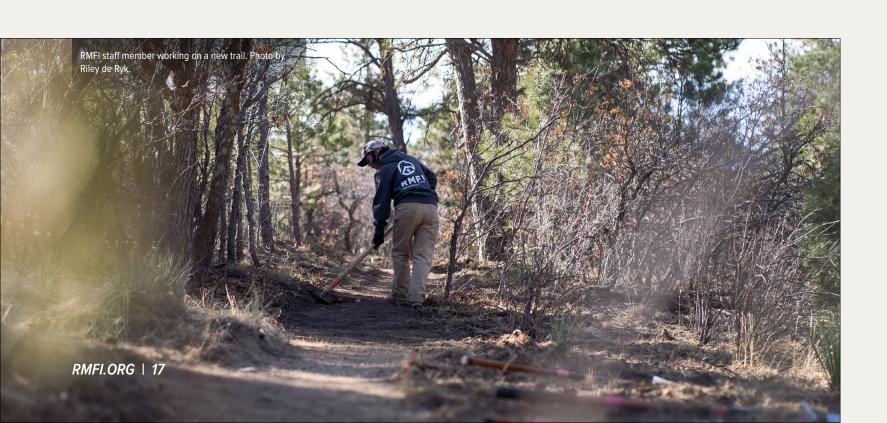
**Katie Regan** Member



**Karen Shuman** Member



Lily Weissgold Member





### THE ROBERT J. WEGGEL FUND

Robert "Bob" Weggel has long been an avid hiker and backpacker, having trekked two hundred miles to gaze enraptured by Mt. Everest and its vicinity and summited Mt. Whitney and all but nine of Colorado's 14ers—the first in 1970, the most recent at age 73. He's also an avid conservationist and trail builder, specializing in rock steps, stepping stones and soil-retention walls. RMFI's Volunteer Vacation program hosted him in 2006 at South Colony Lakes and subsequently at Lake Como, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne Mountain. In gratitude, in March of 2017 he established RMFI's first Endowment Fund to help support its conservation and stewardship work.

Bob earned a B.S. degree in physics from MIT, followed by graduate work at Harvard. For thirty-six years he designed magnets for the National Magnet Laboratory at MIT; 1980s editions of The Guinness Book of World Records cite him as co-designer of a magnet that generated the most intense continuous magnetic field in the world. He now is contributing to expeditiously bringing to our energy-hungry world abundant, economical, environmentally-benign electric power from thermonuclear fusion.

The Robert J. Weggel Fund for the Rocky Mountain Field Institute will help ensure the organization's long-term financial viability and sustainability. If you'd like to learn more about the Fund and how you can contribute to it, please contact RMFI at 719-471-7736, or rmfi@rmfi.org.



### RMFI FALL SHINDIG

Thank you to everyone who attended RMFI's annual Fall ShinDIG! After 2 years of virtual and hybrid events, we were so grateful to celebrate our 2022 season in -person with the people that make what we do possible. Thank you to our award winners, NATURE! Photo contestants, and to all of our amazing supporters.

#### **SHINDIG AWARD WINNERS:**

Robert Weggel Funder of the Year: Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO)
Mark Hesse Stewardship Partner of the Year: Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance (PPORA)
Land Management Partner of the Year: Manitou Springs Parks & Recreation
Volunteer Group of the Year: Colorado 4x4 Rescue and Recovery
Volunteer of the Year: Dudley Yeoman
Mountain Chalet Crew Leader of the Year: Gary Carollo

#### **NATURE! PHOTO CONTEST FINALISTS:**

Restoration: Wesley Trimble, David Kennedy Mountains: John Goddard, Jamie Johnston Flora: Cooper Shuman, Wendy Gedack Fauna: Jamie Johnston, Jamie Johnston Interaction: Becky Lippencott, Jamie Johnston Youth: Alaura Montgomery-Warren, Ava Parker Staff Pick: James Van Hoy Grand Prize Winner: Cooper Shuman

#### **PHOTO CONTEST SPONSORS:**

Mountain Chalet Mike's Camera Give! Campaign



RMFI Fall ShinDIG, Photo courtesy of Tyler Woodward.





#### **ROCK STAR VOLUNTEERS**

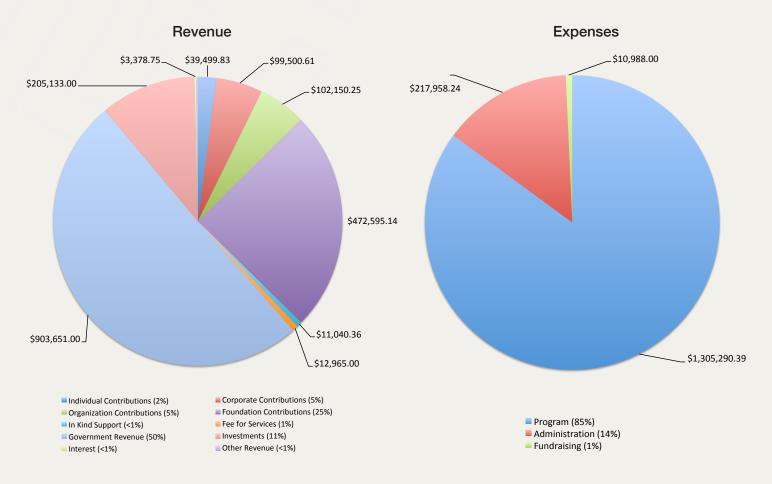
RMFI's volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization. Given our continued limited ability to engage community volunteers in 2022 we are recognizing those who volunteered with RMFI 3 or more times during the 2022 field season. Thank you, rock stars!

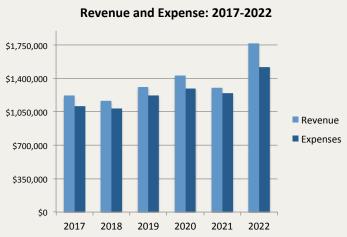
- 1. Larry Bogue
- 2. Gary Carollo
- 3. Dan Downs
- 4. Denise Downs
- 5. Jon Fisher
- 6. Darlene Jentzsch
- 7. Joel Marx
- 8. Brian McAlister
- 9. David Mink
- 10. Michael Sand
- 11. Mike Scott
- 12. Jack Sullivan
- 13. Jennifer Sullivan
- 14. Larry Swisher
- 15. Dean Waits
- 16. Jill Wohlbach
- 17. Dudley Yeoman
- 18. Daniel Yun

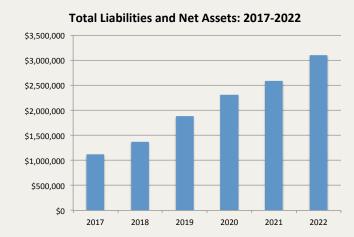


### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RMFI continued its strong financial performance in 2022 despite workforce challenges and continuing challenges faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. 2022 was the largest year in RMFI history in terms of project and program development and implementation. Both revenue and expenses increased significantly in 2022. We look forward to harnessing this growth to continue to provide outstanding program and project results.









#### **VOLUNTEER GROUPS**

Aravaipa - Colorado
Aspen Valley High School
Cheyenne Mountain State Park Trail Dogs
CIVA Charter School
CO 4x4 Rescue and Recovery
Colorado College Break Out
Colorado Early Colleges
Colorado Off Road Enterprise
Community Prep School
COS I Love You
CU Boulder - Theta Tau Engineering Society
Doherty High School
Ent Credit Union
EverOak Wealth Co.

FedEx
Globe Charter
Manitou Springs Elementary
Meadows Park Community Center
Scout Troop
MITRE Corp
Peak Education
Philips
Space Force -Host Aviation Resource Unit-HARM
The Colorado Springs School
UCCS Honors Program
UCCS Restoration Geographies Class
U.S. Air Force Academy
Western Digital
Young Men's Service League



THANK YOU TO OUR
987 VOLUNTEERS!

RMFI.ORG | 21

### GRANTORS, CONTRIBUTORS & SPONSORS

We've made every effort to ensure all of our donors are acknowledged in this report. Please let us know if we've made an error. We appreciate your support and understanding.

#### **GOVERNMENT**

Bureau of Land Management City of Colorado Springs City of Manitou Springs Colorado Parks & Wildlife Colorado Water Conservation Board Colorado Watershed Assembly El Paso County U.S. Forest Service

#### **ORGANIZATIONS**

All Colorado Beer Festoval

American Alpine Club

Colorado 4x4 Rescue & Recovery Colorado College Friends of Garden of the Gods Give! Campaign Great Outdoors Colorado Parks Project Pikes Peak Library District Pikes Peak Marathon, Inc. Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance Pikes Peak United Way Pikes Peak Workforce Center RMFI Board of Directors The Access Fund Trails and Open Space Coalition

Trust for County Parks

#### **FOUNDATIONS**

AmazonSmile Foundation

American Express Foundation The Blees Charitable Fund Colorado Springs Health Foundation Community First Foundation El Pomar Foundation J William & Helen D Stuart Foundation Joseph Henry Edmondson Foundation Kirkpatrick Family Fund Leopold Foundation Louise Arnold Maddux Foundation Lyda Hill Philanthropies Margaret and Al Hill Family Foundation Moniker Foundation National Fish & Wildlife Foundation National Forest Foundation Pikes Peak Community Foundation Trust for County Parks VMware Foundation Wyss Foundation

#### BUSINESSES

Academy Riding Stables Athletic Brewing Buffalo Lodge Bicycle Resort Cerberus Brewing Company Conoco Phillips Design Rangers FedEx Fossil Brewing Company Garden of the Gods Trading Post GE Johnson Construction Company Goat Patch Brewing Company King Soopers Kinship Landing Kirkpatrick Bank Mike's Camera Mountain Chalet Mountain Equipment Recyclers New Belgium Brewing Nor'wood Limited Organic Climbing Osprey Packs PayPal Pizzeria Rustica Pocket Pals Trail Maps Rob Hoff Imagery Stargazer's Theatre & Event Center Steadfast Wealth Co. The Mitguards Tin Cup Distillery Waste Management Western Digital Co





#### **INDIVIDUALS**

Christopher Aaby Scott Abbott Ruth Adele Valerie Allan Gayle Allen Richard Allen Willie Allen Jan Anderson Michael Anderson Anonymous Anonymous Margie Arnold Amanda Baida Andrew Baker Renee Barall Elizabeth Barber Isobel Barnett Eric Basco Judy Bayley Bill Beagle Groucho Beckenhaupt Brian Becker Donna Becker Carol Beckman Benevity Elise Bergsten Timothy Bergsten Penny Bever Eric Billmeyer Kevin Binkley Tim & Cate Boddington Bob Bodor Deborah Bogue Larry Bogue Gail Bone Kent Borges

Marilyn Bosenbecker Aaron Boyles Steve Bremner Mike & Tanja Britton Dale Brooks Keith Brown Kristin Brown William Brown Rich Broyles Teri Buchanan Daniel Byrd Kristen Cahill R. J. Campbell Amy Carr Carmen Champlin Matthew Clark Elliot Cohn Micky Collard Lauren Collier Barb Colvin Chris Conboy Christine Conboy Suzy Connaughton Jen Coombes Chris Copeland Eric Corwin John Crandall David Crawford Steve Crosby Mark Curtis CyberGrants Chris Da Silva Cecilia Davies Jim Davies Susan Davies Jan and John Demmon

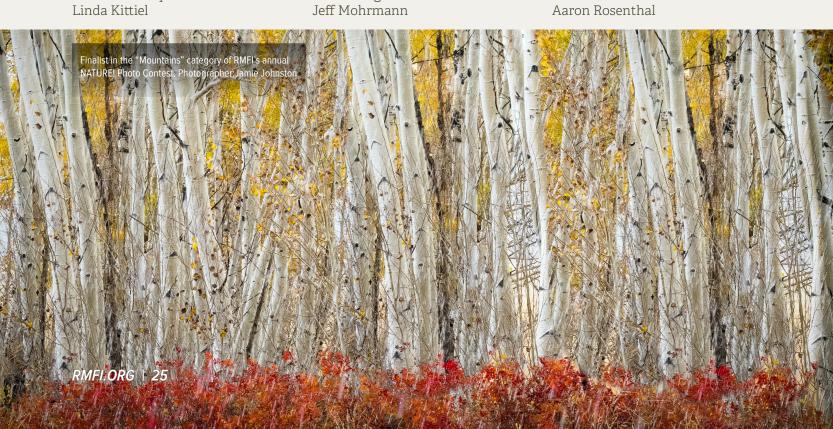
Isabel DeVito Rose DiCenso Regina Dipadova Jennifer Dorff Tim Downey Janie Driska Cynthia Dunn Alec Dutcher Kathy Eans Jenine Ebersohl Jim Ebersole Denise Eckstein Ernie Edgar Ann Edinger Katie Edson Bob Falcone Barbara Faulkenberry Jason Fazio Ben and Karol Finch Kylie Ford Nancy Fortuin Dani Francis Paul Franco Susan Frazee Kirk Fry Jenifer Furda Clifford Gardner Susan Garsoe Susan Gartung Mari Garza Wendy Gedack Thomas Geiger Edward Gemin Connie Gibbons Torie Giffin

Lee Derr

Sheila Gill Globe Charter Academy John Goddard Alan Goins Peter Goldin Elfego Gomez Dave Guhl Jean Gumpper Judy Hagge Lynne Hall Corrina Hamann Ryan Hammes Bob Hansen Jocelyn Harris Thomas Harris Joseph Hart John Hartung David Havlick John Hawk Nancy Herzog Laurel Hesse Vance Hewuse Janet Hildebrant Dee Hironimus Kayla Hix Alex Hladkyj James Hlavaty Janice and Bill Hornbostel Ken Hubbard Tom Huber Richard Idler Darlene Jentzsch Jamie Johnston Raymond Kaltenbach Randolph Karsh Tom Keating Susanna Kelland David Kennedy Linda Kittiel

lp kittiel James Klages Tim Kranz Deborah LaBarre Karen Lavee-Myers George Lee Becky Leinweber David Leinweber Elaine Leslie Lewis Family Foundation Brian Lewis Richard Lewis Diane Liggett Lori Lilly Becky Lippencott Alex Lippert Kevin Lloyd James Lockhart Carol Logan Carol Lubell Joanne Lucev Colleen and Andy Lyon Wendy Mack Matthew Madison Steve Malmberg Valerie Maltese Joel Marx Kimberly Matthews Darcy Mazel Justin McDonald Linnea McDonald Matthew McKinley Sigrid Meadows Mari Meintsma Shannon Mello Grant Miller Richard Miner Debra Mitguard

Maureen Morgan Shane Morrison Thomas Mourar Tom Mowle Tim Murphy Jolie NeSmith Sue Neufeld Elizabeth Nichol Liz Nichol Lori Nicholson Chris Nigro Curtis Nimz Old Town Bike Shop William Oliver Daniel Ostrom Janet Ostrom John Otto Lynne Otto Angela Pacheco Karen Palus Maddie Parker Stephen Parnell Nolan Patterson Susan Peach Maddie Peddy Terese Peisner Lee Penn Patrick Perry Bill Peterson Jennifer Peterson Mr. Darin Petty Katy Picard Erin Plant Amy, Dan, & Roland Pocius Arthur Porter Mary & Pete Rodas Kyle Rodman Martha Rosenau





Gillian Rossi Tim Royston Annie Rucker Andrea Rynne Deborah Sagen Hank Scarangella Justin Schnittker Gordon (Shorty) Schockey GM Schroeder Kurt Schwemmer Bryan Scott Wilbur Scott Kimberly Sheehan Deborah Sheinman Cooper Shuman Karen Shuman Steve Shuman Anju Sidhu Joan Skoog Kristin Skoog Corey Smith Mike Smith Terrence Smith Michele Sneath J Kim Snowdon Kim Snowdon Lynn Sommers Dick Standaert Corinne Standing Annmarie Stanley John Stansfield Sean Starkey Julie Stephens Ryan Sullivan Carrie Supino Stephanie Surch

Mark Surls Julie Sussman Cory Sutela Emily Tamayo Garrett Tanner Janet Tanner Michael Teter Greg Thornton Shanti Toll Steven Tragesser Steven Travis Greg Trent Wesley Trimble Sarah Troemel Emma Troller Erin Valenzuela James Van Hoy Emily Wagner Bob Wagstaff Dean Waits Melissa Walker Teresa Walker Sam Waller Jack Wallick Kinsey Warnock Beverly Weaver Becky Wegner John Weiss Chris Welch Anthony Wells Carol Wilcox Cathryn Wilson-ODonnell Nancy Wilson Anthony Wolf

Tim Wolken

Steve Wood

Bronwyn Woodward Carl Woody Fred Woody Phillip Wortman Harry Wrede Isaac Yee Dudley Yeoman Tim Yeomans Chris Young Eduardo Zanetta Steven Zaremba Rebecca Zwicker