



PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

selfpower

2017

ANNUAL  
REPORT



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We hope by now you've seen the **POWER!** This was a year to change up our look and introduce a new branding concept that has paid **BIG** dividends. Emotionally on the mark, **selfpower** is the best way to describe what we help single parents cultivate in themselves at Project Self-Sufficiency.

What is **selfpower**? It's the power and confidence that comes from deep conviction that **IT CAN BE DONE**, that anything is possible, anything can be - regardless of circumstances. The greatest human achievements are born from adversity and there is nothing more powerful for a parent or for their children than to push past boundaries to earn an advanced education and create a healthy family.

Nothing can take the momentum from the person who realizes their **selfpower**, and boy do we have some amazing new stats and updates this year. As a result of the success of our Participants and our community's generous financial support, there is more **selfpower** in Larimer County than ever before.

Thank you for joining our mission at Project Self-Sufficiency to ignite the **selfpower** among the single-parent families in Larimer County. There is never a shortage of need in our community and looking to the future, we intend to address more than ever before - we'll need you every step of the way.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Mead". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tracy Mead  
*Executive Director*

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

We have over 9,000 AMAZING single parents in Larimer County. Raising children and earning an income alone bring emotional, physical and financial challenges that can lead to depression, anxiety, failure and desperation. We give single parents the boost they need to believe in themselves and muster up the courage to face the odds and know they aren't ever really alone.

### **As one Project Self-Sufficiency graduate notes:**

*"I thought college would be an impossible option, however with my Project Self-Sufficiency Advisor's encouragement and support, college became a legitimate option for me."*

Post-secondary education is the number one essential element for single parents to thrive. One of the largest expenses in time and money is education - without it, single parents lack the credentials and legitimacy they need to get ahead. Your investment allows single parents to achieve an education that does more than help them gain self-sufficiency; it provides the 'lead by example' approach to their children. The children see their parents overcome barriers and succeed. Witnessing a parent attain a post-secondary education will strongly influence a child's success.

Project Self-Sufficiency's multi-generational model has proven outcomes. We empower our Participants to become contributing members of society through budgeting, career exploration, education, and obtaining a career! With our organizational commitment to ethics and our sophisticated programming, we are breaking the cycle of poverty through our program graduates and their families. This is why community members have chosen to invest in us for the past 32 years.

As an organization, we are proud of being awarded the *Better Business Bureau Torch Award* for Ethics; and, in 2018, receiving a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. This rating recognizes strong financial health, commitment to accountability and transparency, and sets Project Self-Sufficiency apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public. Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the 4-star distinction.

We're proud as an organization and proud to share our successes with you. Our most cherished successes, of course, are our program graduates who have found their selfpower and achieved self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. We're also proud of you, our donors, and greatly appreciate your sharing of your time, talent and treasures towards Project Self-Sufficiency successes. We all have something to contribute, and I believe investing in education is key for a healthy community for many years to come.

Thank you,



Debbie McCubbin

2018 Board Chair



# OUR MODEL



## DISCOVER

### **Stabilize, explore career options, lay foundation**

Key resources and basic needs met for a healthy foundation in order to reach career goals and recognize selfpower.

## STRENGTHEN

### **Engage, learn, apply skills, balance family life**

Accomplish educational goals to cultivate selfpower as GEDs, Certificates, Degrees and internships are completed, while maintaining a healthy family life.

## ACTUALIZE

### **Initiate job search, career prep and begin family transition to a new life**

Selfpower is fully realized, families are grounded in their new future and the rewarding job search is on, charting new territory in career field.

## LAUNCH

### **Graduate selfpowered and employed in chosen career path**

Full transition to selfpower. Long-term careers begin, better income and stability become the new normal. This is the payoff for the grit and determination it takes to commit to full transformation through education.

## OUR FINANCIALS

Financial stability is a cornerstone of our work with our Participants. As an organization, we, too, need financial stability to mitigate the risk of falling short on our commitment to our families.

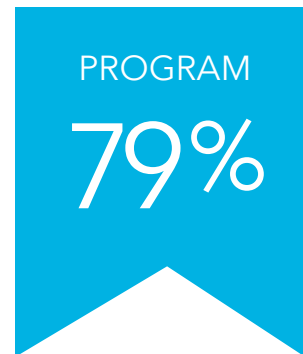
Just as for-profit businesses need working capital to function at peak capacity, so do nonprofits need the equivalent in operating reserves. Without an adequate reserve, an organization can find itself in cash flow stress and become diverted from effective, long-term decision-making. It can be forced to make expensive, short-term, crisis-based decisions or worse, it may not have adequate resources to continue delivery of its programs. Building operating reserves to navigate economic uncertainty continues to be a Board of Directors-defined strategic financial objective and we were able to add \$35,000 to our operating reserves last year.

In addition, we received special one-time gifts totaling \$163,390 that went to our Endowed Scholarship Funds and our regular Endowment Fund held at Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. While not accessible today, these gifts will make significant impact on our future sustainability.

### FY2017 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

INCOME	
Grant Income	\$515,013
Donations and Contributions	\$1,093,410
Interest Income	\$17,716
Unrealized Gain/(Losses) on Investments	\$99,192
In-Kind Value of Donated Vehicles, Goods & Services	\$91,925
<b>TOTAL: \$1,817,256</b>	

EXPENSES	
Program Direct Support, Donated Vehicles	\$424,542
Staff Salary & Wages, Payroll Taxes, Benefits	\$687,014
Occupancy & Office Expenses, Travel	\$95,670
In-Kind Value of Goods & Services	\$5,198
Contract Services	\$73,600
Special Event Expenses/Program Outreach	\$23,772
Recognition Activities - Staff, Volunteer, Donors	\$4,506
Depreciation	\$10,020
<b>TOTAL : \$1,324,322</b>	







## OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our goal is to strengthen the selfpower needed to move single parents and their children out of poverty to self-sufficiency and a livable wage. Project Self-Sufficiency provides a two-generational approach, breaking the cycle of poverty for both parent and child.

Project Self-Sufficiency intentionally set out to enhance programing in 2017 by consolidating our barrier-removal activities under the "Healthy Families Program." This integrated approach provides for effective and efficient coordination of resources for Participants, such as transportation, housing, childcare and mental health services.

We housed 32 families and provided \$60,642 in funds to assist with move-in costs, rent assistance, 12-month housing grants, and eviction prevention.

We supported transportation needs of our families by providing 18 cars and more than 130 maintenance and repair services, with a combined value of \$100,080.

We expended \$5,772 in child care assistance through our Child Care Fund and leveraged \$31,322 in WomenGive Childcare Scholarships.

We awarded \$68,100 of Project Self-Sufficiency donor designated scholarship funds to 39 Participants, and through the expertise of our Advisor Team, we leveraged nearly \$200,000 in additional scholarship dollars.

We provided \$5,650 in mental health supports to Participants and their children to address learning disabilities and mental health barriers, keeping them on track for program completion.



32% of single parents served are **Ethnically Diverse**

77% of **Participants** and 41% of their **children** reported survival of abuse

57% of **Participants** served **were homeless** when entering into the program

165 **Families** with 299 **children** were served in 2017

69% of our single parents **were first-generation college students**

# 2016

Project Self-Sufficiency was the first nonprofit to receive the Better Business Bureau's *Torch Award for Ethics*. This award is validation of more than **30 years** of integrity and ethics demonstrated by the organization.



## KEY SUCCESSES IN 2017

**23** Participants earned **degrees, certificates or High School Diploma/GEDs**

**20** Participants were successful **Program Graduates**

**100%** of Program Graduates obtained employment **in their career field**

**2,812** hours of time were given by **194 Volunteers** who assisted us with tutoring, events, office/clerical work, and mailings

## 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Paul Thayer**, *President*  
Intel Corporation

**Kara Jones**, *Director*  
Eide Bailly, LLP

**Debbie McCubbin**, *President-Elect*  
Community Volunteer

**Amy Kolczak**, *Director*  
UCHealth

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**Sarah Liggett**, *Director*  
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**Nancy Symes**, *Director*  
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**Ryan Cosner**, *Director*  
Cosner Financial Group

**Nicole Walters**, *Director*  
Soukup, Bush & Associates CPAs





*Seated (L-R): Diane Ellsworth, Connie DeMercurio, Neva Menchaca, Nicole Gawronski  
Standing (L-R): John Kinnaird, Anna Beeby, Amanda Chenkin, Maggie Murray, Tracy Mead,  
Michele Scheetz, Audrey McElwain Photo Credit: Sandberg Photography*

**bringthepower.org**



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