



PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

selfpower

2018

ANNUAL  
REPORT



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By now, we hope you are familiar with the concept of selfpower in our work at Project Self-Sufficiency. Selfpower honors the crucial role that each Participant plays in their own success, in pushing through barriers in order to accomplish education and career goals. The journey to a new life is very much self-driven. At Project Self-Sufficiency we simply help Participants own their selfpower...to see it, to believe it, and to achieve it.

We are enormously grateful to you for the power you have brought to our work in your role as supporter, collaborator and friend. Read on to learn about some of what we accomplished with your help in 2018. Together, we embolden single parents to tap into their selfpower to complete education goals, launch into a career, and create a vibrant and sustainable future for themselves and their children. And if you are not already a supporter of our work, we invite you to join us in bringing the power of education to single-parent families. Visit our website at [www.bringthepower.org](http://www.bringthepower.org) to find out how.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Mead". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Tracy Mead  
*Executive Director*

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Since 1985, Project Self-Sufficiency has impacted more than 1,000 single-parent families in Larimer County. Evidence now exists for the multi-generational impact of our work; the children of our graduates are now themselves graduating from college and launching into successful careers.

As the 2019 Board President, I am a proud investor in Project Self-Sufficiency's ongoing success. I want to share a few reasons why:

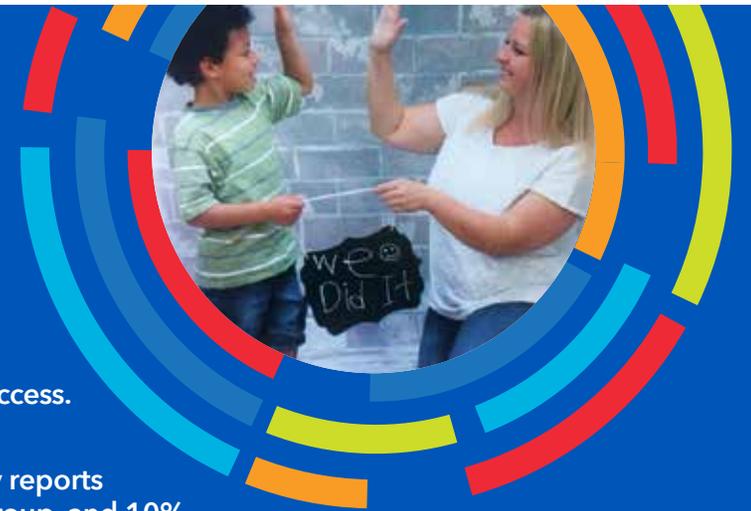
- Poverty continues in Larimer County: the 2010-14 American Community Survey reports 33% of households living in poverty are headed by single parents, our target group, and 10% have children under the age of five. According to the 2018 Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado, the salary needed for a single parent to support an infant and toddler in Larimer County is \$69,760, or \$33.54 per hour. The average wage for a family enrolled in Project Self-Sufficiency is \$13,729. To increase wages by over \$55,000, education or training is necessary. Access to post-secondary education is important to me personally, and this is the cornerstone of our model.
- There is no quick fix to generational poverty. Project Self-Sufficiency takes the long view, investing as much as \$16,000 each year in support for our families. On average, families are in our program for four years, and some, for as long as eight years. During this time we bring a variety of resources and partnerships to remove obstacles, and provide guidance and coaching to strengthen Participants' selfpower to reach the finish line and beyond. This is not a huge investment when considering the cost to our communities in public benefits, community supports, and perhaps most important, untapped human potential, when families cannot support themselves.
- For the second year in a row, Project Self-Sufficiency's strong financial standards and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. I agree with Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator when he says, "Project Self-Sufficiency's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public, only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating." This recognition validates my belief that my investment is being used wisely and as intended.

Project Self-Sufficiency brings the power of education to single-parent families in Larimer County. My investment allows me to play a vital role in this important work. Thank you for the role that you play in our work.

Thank you,



Nancy Symes  
2019 Board President



## OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to assist low-income, single parents in their efforts to achieve economic independence and become free from community and government assistance while building and maintaining strong, healthy families.

## 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.

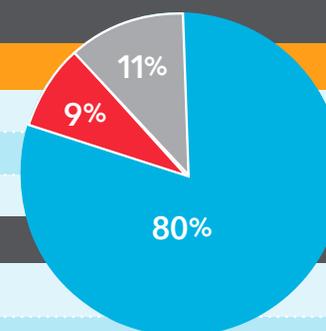
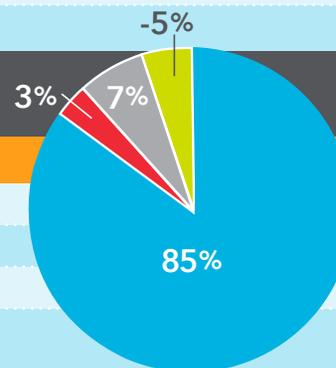
### LAUNCH

#### **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 2018 FINANCIALS

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 816,665
Accounts receivable	\$ 43,927
Prepaid expenses	\$ 1,856
Investments	\$ 19,752
Beneficial interest in investments held at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado	\$ 1,203,291
Property and equipment, net	\$ 337,234
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,422,725</b>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
<b>Liabilities:</b>	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 45,140
<b>Net Assets:</b>	
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$ 1,648,971
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$ 728,614
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,377,585</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,422,725</b>
REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
● Grants and contributions	\$ 1,341,038
● Value of cars provided to families	\$ 48,562
● In-kind donations	\$ 106,845
● Net investment (loss)	\$ (77,297)
● Other income	\$ 35
<b>Total revenue and support</b>	<b>\$ 1,443,343</b>
EXPENSES	
● Program services	\$ 1,111,051
● Management and general	\$ 120,616
● Fundraising	\$ 156,193
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,387,860</b>
Change in Net Assets	\$ 55,483
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 2,322,102
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 2,377,585</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 gives single parents the solid foundation of education, along with a well mapped out career pathway linked to self-sufficient employment. We provide a two-generational approach, breaking the cycle of poverty for both parent and child.

Through the Healthy Families Program, we provide financial resources and referrals in key areas such as access to housing and eviction prevention, childcare, car repairs and donated cars, and mental health services, to name just a few. The safety net provided by the Healthy Families Program mitigates the cycle of crisis that many families face when living in poverty and sustains momentum and focus toward the completion of education and career goals.

In collaboration with our housing partners, we housed or maintained housing for 41 families and their 120 children by providing \$54,397 in funds to assist with move in costs, rent assistance, and eviction prevention.

We supported the transportation needs of our families by providing 16 donated cars and covering repair costs totaling \$75,963.

Between our partnership with WomenGive and our own Project Self-Sufficiency Childcare Fund, we covered \$104,873 in licensed child care and early childhood education expenses, allowing Participants to maintain employment, attend classes, and complete internships.

We awarded \$71,075 of Project Self-Sufficiency donor-designated scholarship funds to 42 single parents to cover education expenses in the 2018-19 academic year.

We leveraged community and national partnerships to make available an additional \$144,120 in educational scholarships.



140 families with 252 children were served in 2018

\$13,729 per year was the average annual income of our Participants at intake

68% of our single parents are first-generation college students

36% of single parents served are ethnically diverse

53% of Participants served were homeless upon entering the program

81% of Participants reported survival of abuse

1,859 hours of time, given by 143 volunteers



## KEY SUCCESSES IN 2018

**19** single parents earned **degrees, certificates or GEDs**

**20** Participants **successfully graduated** from the program

**86%** of Program Graduates obtained employment **in their career field**

**\$25,953** was the **average annual wage increase** for Program Graduates

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Debbie McCubbin**, *President*  
Community Volunteer/  
Retired Higher Education

**Nancy Symes**, *President-Elect*  
Community Volunteer/HR Consultant

**Ann Bedient**, *Fiscal Officer*  
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**Kerrie Luginbill**, *Secretary*  
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**Paul Thayer**, *Past-President*  
Intel Corporation

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Colorado State University

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





Seated (L-R): Chrissa Percival, Tracy Mead, Michele Scheetz, Audrey McElwain  
Standing (L-R): Neva Menchaca, Diane Ellsworth, Connie DeMercurio, John Kinnaird, Hannah Bade,  
Nicole Gawronski, Anna Beeby, Hannah Dahl | Photo Credit: Zebra Jellyfish Photography

**bringthepower.org**



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