

Fall 2018

## POWERFUL TIMES



## Andy's selfpower

Life for Andy, a middle-aged, single father of three teenaged sons, Lucas, Marcus and Nicholas, was bleak and exhausting. Without any family support in the area, Andy worked multiple jobs around the clock and relied on babysitters to tuck in his children at night so he could afford to keep a roof over their heads. Everything started to change for Andy when his children's babysitter, who is a current Participant in Project Self-Sufficiency, and a mother of one of the boys he was coaching, urged him to check out the program. Andy was already attending Colorado State University and was studying Electrical Engineering when he contacted us. He had heard that Project Self-Sufficiency could help with school scholarships and he was looking for encouragement and support to continue with school. After being accepted into the program, Andy was paired up with his program Advisor, Maggie, who was his rock for when the going got extra tough while attending school, working full-time, and while trying to be a present father for his children. Not only did Maggie help, but so did the wrap-around supports and essential funding that provided so many necessities to Andy. The Transportation Fund

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provided Andy with a Jeep Cherokee when his previous car was totaled. The Boundless Children's Fund provided driver's education classes for his son, and the Cool Kids Fund helped with snazzy back-to-school clothes for his kids. He used the Housing Fund to cover utility costs, the Scholarship Fund covered a large chunk of college expenses, and Andy even received financial assistance for new prescription eyeglasses, a donated computer, and under-the-tree Christmas gifts from the Holiday Fund.

With much grit and determination, Andy graduated from CSU in 2018 with a Bachelor Degree in Electrical Engineering. He landed a job at Salient Power Engineering, LLC in Wheatridge through the recommendation of a previous supervisor. Although Andy has to

wake up at 3:30AM in order to get ready for his brutal daily commute, he is making plenty of money at his new job to support his family, and feels that the position is a very good fit. "The culture is work hard, play hard, and I really like that," Andy said, "We put in long hours and we stay busy throughout the day. It's a very close-knit company because it's just starting out and it's growing really quickly. They focus on doing a lot of work and giving back to the community. We're slated to go help build for Habitat for Humanity. We get to go help cook chili at the Ronald McDonald House and feed all the people there. The culture here really resonates with me."

Andy's sons have thrived. They have been faithfully supportive and understanding throughout Andy's journey with Project Self-Sufficiency and beyond. Nicholas, Andy's youngest son, plans to attend college for Electrical Engineering to follow in his father's footsteps. He has also whipped up some dinners for the family while Andy is making the long commute home. "He's able to conjure up a crazy concoction and it usually turns out pretty awesome,"

**(Continued on page 3, Andy)**



## A Conversation with Debbie and Jeff McCubbin

*To say that we are grateful that the McCubbins found Project Self-Sufficiency would be an understatement. The couple's impact expands way beyond their financial commitment to our work. In 2015, Debbie joined our Board of Directors and quickly brought her leadership skills, passion, and influence to bring the power of education to our single-parent families. Today, Debbie leads our Board of Directors and encourages and advocates for success in our mission.*

### As a philanthropic couple, can you speak to your partnership in philanthropy and also your giving philosophy?

When it comes to partnering in our philanthropy, we're really quite lucky. We share very similar values and our passions align quite nicely. Health, Education and Family are always at the top of our lists. So most of our philanthropic giving goes to those areas that support Health – in any and all its forms, think “public health” and it pretty much covers the gambit; Education – whether it be scholarship, diversity or leadership funds at Universities, non-profits, like Project Self-Sufficiency whose missions are to support education, or special interests educating on a specific cause; and Family – supporting non-profits, again like Project Self-Sufficiency, where “healthy families” are an integral part of their mission.

When we think of our “giving philosophy” – which actually we don't think about all

that much, it just kind of comes naturally, you help where you think you can make a difference. I think it boils down to we feel very fortunate that we're able to contribute to our communities in ways that are important to us and where we believe our time, talent or treasure can make a difference – whether large or small. We believe one has an opportunity to be as engaged in their community as they are able in areas they are passionate about. To us, it's a gift to be able to give.

### What is a Give10 donor and why did you decide to become one?

Not long after we moved to Fort Collins in 2011, I learned about the Give10 program offered through Bohemian Foundation. Give10 provides a match of \$10,000, after the donor has completed three years of incrementally increasing their local giving from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and then \$10,000. We were happy to award our \$10,000 match to Project Self-Sufficiency and we can't thank Bohemian Foundation enough

for this amazing program!

### Why is the mission of Project Self-Sufficiency important to you?

Health, Education and Family! Project Self-Sufficiency provides a healthy, well thought out program, supporting single parents earning their education, so they may provide a self-sufficient lifestyle for their family. The wrap-around services that Project Self-Sufficiency provides are essential for changing lives. Project Self-Sufficiency's generational approach to breaking the cycle of poverty not only creates healthy families, it also creates a healthy community as the kiddos of the Participants also learn the importance of education and a self-sufficient career. Project Self-Sufficiency embodies our three main passions in one non-profit. “Healthy Families” is literally one of the names of a Project Self-Sufficiency program – what's not to love about that! And the fact that Project Self-Sufficiency works with single parents who are ‘ready and willing to help themselves’ is of utmost importance to us.

### *Give 10, an initiative of Bohemian Foundation, is designed to inspire charitable connections, celebrate philanthropy and build a stronger community.*

**Give 10** supports two networks of local philanthropists – Emerging Leaders and Partners. Emerging Leaders are committed to growing their local giving, while Partners have been giving locally at high levels consistently. Give 10 offers engagement, learning and connection opportunities. The initiative aims to support and inspire local philanthropists so that they set and achieve a generous local giving goal of at least \$10,000 annually.

Give 10 Emerging Leaders make a commitment to incrementally grow their local giving over three years. In the first year, donors give \$5,000 to Larimer County nonprofits; in the second year, they give \$7,500; and in the third year, they give \$10,000. Once donors meet this three-year challenge, their participation is recognized with a one-time matching gift of \$10,000 from Bohemian Foundation. After completion of the three-year giving challenge, Emerging Leaders become Give 10 Partners.

Give 10 Partners are philanthropists who are already giving \$10,000 or more annually to Larimer County nonprofits. These individuals are important ambassadors for giving and inspire others to give locally. To learn more, visit <https://www.bohemianfoundation.org/community-programs/give-10>.

# National Charity League



National Charity League is a national non-profit organization comprised of mother and daughter members. The Chapter in Fort Collins was founded in 1990 and includes members from Fort Collins, Loveland, Wellington and Windsor. The mission of NCL is to foster mother-daughter relationships in a philanthropic organization committed to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. The organization has over 28 local philanthropies with whom they volunteer their time, and Project Self-Sufficiency is fortunate to be one of those. In donating their time to us, they fulfil the community service aspect of their commitment.

When Project Self-Sufficiency has an event that requires volunteers, we know we can rely on NCL to help us make it fantastic. One of the most important annual events that we rely on for NCL assistance is our Participant Family Holiday Party. NCL purchases needed supplies and

**(Continued from page 1, Andy)**

Andy chuckled, "He's pretty amazing at making calzones from scratch, and even hand kneads the dough. We have an apple tree in the backyard and he's even made some apple pies."

As for finally being financially self-sufficient, Andy stated, "It's very liberating. It's really a proud moment for me. It's something when you have to depend on other people to provide for your family....a lot of people might not think about it, but it is truly an embarrassment to not be able to do what you need to do to make sure your family is taken care of. It's not only an embarrassment for you as a parent, but for your children as well. Maybe not to the same extent, but my kids always expressed that. They always said they were looking forward to a time when they weren't looking for money. That time has arrived and it's a proud moment for all of us."

Maggie, Andy's Advisor, is also quite proud of Andy and remarked, "Andy is an amazing example of a single parent who was motivated by goals that held deep meaning for him. All the roadblocks that he encountered served as fuel to help him reach his goals. His positive outlook, perseverance and strong values made him a winner in all aspects of his life. He's an inspiration to so many." *Congratulations Andy on finishing your journey and reaching your selfpower goals!*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

provides instruction and guidance for up to seven creative crafts for the kiddos to make and take home. These projects include snow globes, picture frames and ornaments, all created by the kids themselves. The Holiday Party is just one of the events that we rely on for their talents. They supply many hours of childcare for our annual Participant Recognition Event. They bring their artistic face painting skills during the Friends of Project Self-Sufficiency's Mini Masters Family Fun Day. They also get to use their serving skills at the Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Party and provide service projects to uplift our Participants throughout the school semesters.

When asked what the NCL organization means to her, one Ticktocker (Daughter) stated, "I like knowing I am helping people, it makes me feel good. Even if it is small, it matters to the people I am helping."

A Patroness (Mother) recently stated, "As moms we volunteer with our daughters to give them a taste of what helping others feels like. They get to look outside of themselves and see what a difference they can make in our community, at an age when most of their peers are self-focused. More importantly, they make a difference to individuals in

our community."

Leslie Beaton, current President of the Fort Collins chapter reports, "For the year, our organization of mothers and daughters has volunteered over 2200 hours to 26 different philanthropies in our community."

We congratulate and thank the mother/daughter partners of NCL on their work to assist local philanthropies and develop future leaders in our community. To find out more about National Charity League, visit their website <http://fortcollins.nationalcharityleague.org/>.



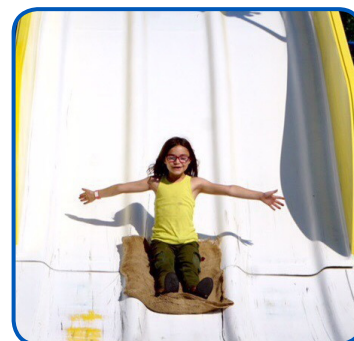
# Sounds and Samplings of Summer

Summertime proved anything but “lazy” at Project Self-Sufficiency! Lots of events and happenings for our staff and our families. We started with the **Rock Garden Concert at Fort Collins Nursery** on June 14th, with music provided by Rob Drabkin and Brian David Collins. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening AND we raised over \$1,000 for our families.



The Annual **Houska Car Giveaway** tradition continues to keep our Participants in need of reliable transportation on their road to success. This is a key component of their ability to continue their education and transport their children safely. This year, we kicked off August at the CSU Lagoon Concert where the Houskas presented our Participant, Yaricza, with a “new to her” Mazda 3. She got to drive away in a great car as she launches from our program and begins her new career.

July included our annual **Mini Masters Family Fun Event** at Fort Fun. Our families had the opportunity to spend a Saturday morning together playing miniature golf, riding the giant slide and driving the bumper cars. The event sponsors also raised funds for our Cool Kids Back-to-School Clothing Fund.



Our **Cool Kids Fund** is a great way to “bring the power” to the children in our program by sending them back to school feeling really confident about their appearance! Again this year, donors stepped up to the challenge so all kids in our program entering grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade received a gift card to the store of their choice to purchase brand new clothes before heading back to school. Parents help their children to shop sales and budget their funds to get the most value for their purchases. This year 119 children received gift cards for new clothes to start the school year in style.

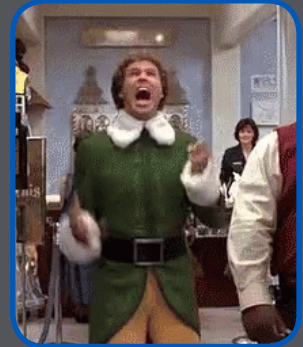
*Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers and sponsors for making events and activities possible!*

# Holiday Family Fund

We created our Holiday Family Fund for Project Self-Sufficiency families who have little or no outside family support. Since our families are devoted to school and their career path they often do not have the resources to provide a holiday celebration for their children. The upcoming holiday season can be greatly enhanced for our many hard working participants through the kindness of our thoughtful donors, both individual and business groups.

## Calling All Elves!

Tired of trying to come up with gift ideas for family members, teachers, coworkers and friends? Have we got a great idea for you! You can donate to our Holiday Family Fund in honor of that special someone and we will send the recipient a holiday note that you made a donation in their name. You can even do it online in your pajamas! Just go to <http://bringthepower.org/donate/> and click the "Donate Now" button. Make sure to specify the name of the honoree and that your gift is designated for the Holiday Fund. Or, if you'd prefer, you can send a check to our Loveland office at 375 W 37th St. #150, 80538. For more information, contact Connie at 970-635-5902 or [connie@bringthepower.org](mailto:connie@bringthepower.org).



Another great giving idea is to gather your family members and sponsor one of our families with "under the tree" gifts. We provide you with a "wish list" from one of our Participants and your family gets to do the shopping. No time to shop? We have an answer for that, too! Many of our Participants would prefer to shop for their own children with gift cards either purchased by you, or by us from your monetary donation. For more information on this option, contact Neva at 970-407-0305, ext. 5 or by email at [neva@bringthepower.org](mailto:neva@bringthepower.org).

## Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Party

On a lovely August evening, we gathered at the home of Carol Ann and Gary Hixon. Their beautiful and bountiful yard and gardens created the perfect backdrop for a celebration of the work and gifts of our very ardent supporters, our donors and volunteers.



President Elect, Nancy Symes presents Max and Judy Elliott with a gift for becoming the newest members of our Paragon Society.



Our hosts, Gary and Carol Ann Hixon welcome guests to their home. Gary also opened his studio for those in the mood to purchase a bobble or two.



Muriel Hach shows us that not only is she a talented artist, but a darn good hula hooper as well!



Participant, Latina, and her daughter provided entertainment by performing tricks and fire dancing for our guests.



## FRIENDS OF PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY FALL 2018 HOLIDAY

### PLANT SALE

It's fall again, and time for our annual Holiday Plant Sale. Purchase your red poinsettia, holiday cactus, and cyclamen for \$17 each for the holidays and all profits go to the Scholarship Fund! The plants will be available for pick-up at Fort Collins Nursery from **November 17-30**. A big thanks to **Fort Collins Nursery** for their continued support of our sale, and for always providing such beautiful plants! For more information, please contact **Kay Williams at 970-310-3093**. You can also purchase your plant vouchers directly by calling **Connie at 970-635-5902**, or online at [bit.ly/2018HolidaySalePlants](http://bit.ly/2018HolidaySalePlants). Orders taken through October 28th.



## 2019 Annual Luncheon

*"Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow"*

Tuesday, March 26, 2019

11:30am-1:00pm

Embassy Suites, Loveland

Come celebrate our successes and support the single parents and families of Project Self-Sufficiency. We would love for you to get to know us and share in the grit and determination of our Participants and celebrate that you are a partner in bringing the power or education to single parents! If you are interested in being a Table Host, contact Diane at [diane@bringthepower.org](mailto:diane@bringthepower.org).

Bring the power of education to single parents.

Return Service Requested



[bringthepower.org](http://bringthepower.org)

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PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

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