

PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

selfpower

2019

ANNUAL
REPORT



selfpower

PROJECT SELF SUFFICIENCY



Address: 375 W. 37th Street, Suite 150 • Loveland, CO 80538
Phone: 970.635.5912 Website: bringthepower.org



LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As I am writing this, we are in the midst of a global pandemic and an explosion of protest against long-standing racial inequalities that can no longer be ignored. Our community is feeling the pain of these crises, and I am watching local businesses close, friends lose jobs, and fear and anxiety skyrocket as we are thrown into financial and social disruption; our calm and predictable lives have become filled with uncertainty, fear, and social isolation. Many of us are comforted by the belief that this will be temporary, and that at some point, we will return to “normal.” Even though we do not know when that will be, we believe it is coming, and that belief brings solace and hope when we feel helpless.

This new reality has caused me to reflect on our work at Project Self-Sufficiency, and the grit and determination of the families we have been serving for more than 30 years. This temporary reality of disruption and loss of control for many of us today is actually the permanent reality for families we assist. On a daily basis, they do not know if they will keep their job, have the means to pay their rent, feed their kids, or if their car will start. And yet, they continue forward every single day. Yes, they are being disproportionately impacted right now with job loss, childcare needs and online learning requirements, yet their **selfpower** continues.

I believe there is much we can learn from our Participants:

We can learn to focus on what really matters.

We can learn to live within our means.

We can learn to support those we love, even when we are stressed and afraid.

I love Project Self-Sufficiency and I am grateful to play a role in the work that we do. I am grateful for what I learn from our Participants. I am grateful for the example that they set for their kids. And I am grateful for you and your support. Please don't stop. If we want to continue to bring education and career opportunities to single-parent families in Northern Colorado, we must ensure that Project Self-Sufficiency maintains its vitality over the long term.

Thank you,

Kerrie Luginbill
President, Board of Directors



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In 2019, Project Self-Sufficiency staff and Board members participated in a three-day facilitated installation of a strategic planning process called StratOp. It is a comprehensive system and set of tools to help teams clarify where they are now, where they are headed, and how to get there. This system has become the methodology used by Project Self-Sufficiency for prioritizing and planning as the economy and community needs change. As 2020 began, we were moving forward with exciting new strategic priorities designed to expand community impact, improve our service delivery model and increase organizational efficiency. And then, COVID-19 hit. We were suddenly closing our offices and faced with the immediate dilemma of working with our families remotely and addressing their emergency needs.

We define **selfpower** as the grit and determination needed to push through barriers. Never has the concept of **selfpower** been as important in our work at Project Self-Sufficiency as it is this year, to both our staff and our Participants.

Our amazing Team Awesome summoned their **selfpower**, got busy, and completely transformed our model to work remotely. Today, working virtually, we are not only supporting families already in our program, but we are also interviewing and accepting new families. We've even found that with virtual options, we have a new line of accessibility for families not able to take time off work to drop into our offices.

Resiliency is defined as the skills and the capacity to be robust under conditions of enormous stress and change. Our team has embodied this trait in order to adapt and meet the needs of our families, learning new technologies, and working from home while supporting their own families.

Resiliency is a beautiful complement to **selfpower**, don't you think? **Selfpower** and resiliency are the traits that are carrying us through as we support single-parent families in very challenging times. Though not easy, we fully embrace this new path.

We invite you to read on and celebrate our 2019 successes. We invite you to support our work and get involved in our 2020 successes.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Mead". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Tracy Mead
Executive Director

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.

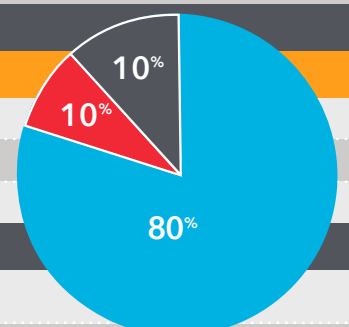
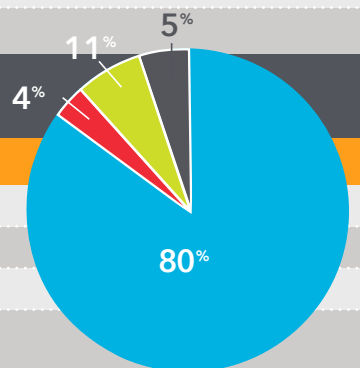
LAUNCH

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 2019 FINANCIALS

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 837,089
Accounts receivable	\$ 22,951
Prepaid expenses	\$ 7,416
Investments	\$ 21,029
Beneficial interest in investments held at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado	\$ 1,434,301
Property and equipment, net	\$ 326,099
Total assets	\$ 2,648,885
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 58,393
Net Assets:	
Net assets without donor restrictions	\$ 1,843,209
Net assets with donor restrictions	\$ 747,283
Total net assets	\$ 2,590,492
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 2,648,885
REVENUE AND SUPPORT	
Grants and contributions	\$ 1,342,561
Value of cars provided to families	\$ 63,243
In-kind donations	\$ 89,039
Net investment	\$ 193,652
Other income	\$ 81
Total revenue and support	\$ 1,688,576
EXPENSES	
Program services	\$ 1,185,051
Management and general	\$ 143,346
Fundraising	\$ 147,272
Total expenses	\$ 1,475,669
Change in Net Assets	\$ 212,907
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 2,377,585
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 2,590,492





OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our goal is to strengthen the self**power** 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 47 families and their 126 children by providing **\$78,760** in funds to assist with move in costs, rent assistance, and eviction prevention.

We supported the transportation needs of our families by providing 14 donated cars and covering repair costs totaling **\$70,510**.

Between our partnership with WomenGive and our own Project Self-Sufficiency Childcare Fund, we covered **\$168,561** in licensed childcare and early childhood education expenses, allowing Participants to maintain employment, attend classes, and complete internships.

We awarded **\$94,000** of Project Self-Sufficiency Strengthen Scholarship Funds to 39 single parents to cover education expenses in the 2019-20 academic year.

We leveraged community and national partnerships to make available an additional **\$113,464** in educational scholarships.



KEY SUCCESSES IN 2019

124 families with **216** children were served in 2019

\$15,089 per year was the **average annual income** of our Participants at intake

67% of our single parents are **first-generation** college students

41% of single parents served are **ethnically diverse**

47% of Participants served were **homeless upon entering** the program

80% of Participants reported **survival of abuse**

2,429 hours of time, given by **93** volunteers

\$25,723

was the **average annual wage increase** for Program Graduates

77%

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

15

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

13

Participants **successfully graduated** from the program

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nancy Symes, *President*
Community Volunteer/HR
Consultant

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CPAs



First Row: John Kinnaird, Ricki Runions, Neva Menchaca, Sarah Wooldridge
Second Row: Amanda Orozco, Hannah Dahl, Anna Beeby, Chrissa Percival
Third Row: Nicole Gawronski, Connie DeMercurio, Audrey McElwain, Tracy Mead
Fourth Row: Brittany Daas

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