



Bringing the Power of Education to Single Parents



**PROJECT
SELF-SUFFICIENCY**
OF NORTHERN COLORADO

IMPACT REPORT 2025

A Note from the CEO and Board President

Dear Friends,

At Project Self-Sufficiency, we walk side-by-side with single parents as they build stability for themselves and their children, one step at a time. Education, housing, transportation, financial literacy, and self-advocacy are the building blocks that fuel our mission and bring SelfPower to single-parent families in Northern Colorado.

In 2025, federal cuts to food bank programs, delays in SNAP payments, and a freeze on federally funded childcare assistance strained household budgets across our communities. Those pressures compromised our families' financial stability and indirectly affected the revenue and resources that support our programs and services, requiring quick action from our staff. We crafted innovative solutions to address immediate threats to the stability of our families so that they could continue devoting time and effort to their education and career goals.

Our expansion into Weld County has continued to grow. We held our Weld Appreciation Breakfast to express our gratitude to our partners and supporters there. While I-25 might divide our counties physically, we are united in our dedication to lifting up single parent families across the region.

Our work is grounded in life-altering, generational change, and we are in this for the long haul. The support we provide for single-parent families is particularly important during these times when so much is changing, and families need to be able to stand on their own.

We are inspired by the resilience and sheer determination of our participants. Our team is strong and ready for what comes next, but we can't do this alone. This work does not succeed without you. As always, we are grateful for the steadfast support of our community.

Thank you for being part of this work. We're so glad to have you with us.

With gratitude,



Tracy Mead
Chief Executive Officer



Blake McBartlett
Board President



Tracy Mead
Chief Executive Officer



Blake McBartlett
Board President



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SelfPower Model

We partner with single parents to help them build a clear career path, complete the college education or training required, and secure their first job—all while empowering them through our SelfPower model. Recognizing that barriers to success can be overwhelming without support, we provide intensive, personalized guidance from highly skilled Program Advisors to ensure every parent has the tools and confidence to thrive.

1

Discover

Stabilize, explore career options, and lay the foundation

Key resources and basic needs met with the assistance of program advisors, as well as direct service providers in the community; career and education goals defined; family budget and time management skills developed.

2

Strengthen

Engage, learn, apply skills, and balance family life

Achieve educational goals and strengthen SelfPower by completing GEDs, certificates, degrees, apprenticeships, and work-based learning experiences, while maintaining a healthy family life.

3

Actualize

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

SelfPower is fully actualized; families are grounded in their new future; and the rewarding job search is on, charting new territory in a career field.

4

Launch

Graduate SelfPowered and employed in chosen career field

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 work is to empower low-income single parents to build a bright future for themselves and their children. Our advisors use proven best practices in post-secondary education, employment training, and wraparound supports to help single parents map a pathway out of poverty.

Participants can spend up to eight years in our program, from intake to degree completion and employment in their chosen career field. During this time, advisors provide intensive, personalized support to help participants achieve economic independence while building and maintaining strong, healthy families.

Lifting single-parent families out of poverty takes time, resources, and commitment. In alignment with our mission, we do not charge for our services. Project Self-Sufficiency is entirely funded by the generous members of our community who contribute their time, talent, and treasure.

Thank you for transforming the lives of single-parent families in Northern Colorado!

Meet Weld County Single Parent, Jessica

My mom asked me, “Do you just want a paycheck or do you want to do something that you love for the rest of your life?”

– Jessica



My mom was a widow with six children, and we all had to go to work to help pay the bills. As an adult, I found myself in the same situation as a single parent. She helped me realize that I had to start doing something for myself, because all of my life I had been doing everything for others. And that's when you lose yourself as a person.

So, I enrolled in online classes at Aims Community College and started driving for Amazon Flex, delivering packages while my kids were in school. On weekends, I would put them in the car and make deliveries for five hours. It was hard, but it's what I had to do to survive.

Then I found Project Self-Sufficiency, and I loved it right away. Knowing that my advisors understood my situation and really wanted to help was awesome! From there, I had their guidance, resources for my family, and funding to pay bills and go to school. My situation changed completely, and I was able to focus on my classes. It's like a miracle.

Visual art has always been my passion. I studied graphic design in Mexico. Now I'm studying liberal arts at Aims and will graduate with my AA in Studio Art in May. I plan to transfer to the University of Northern Colorado and earn my Bachelor of Arts in Education.

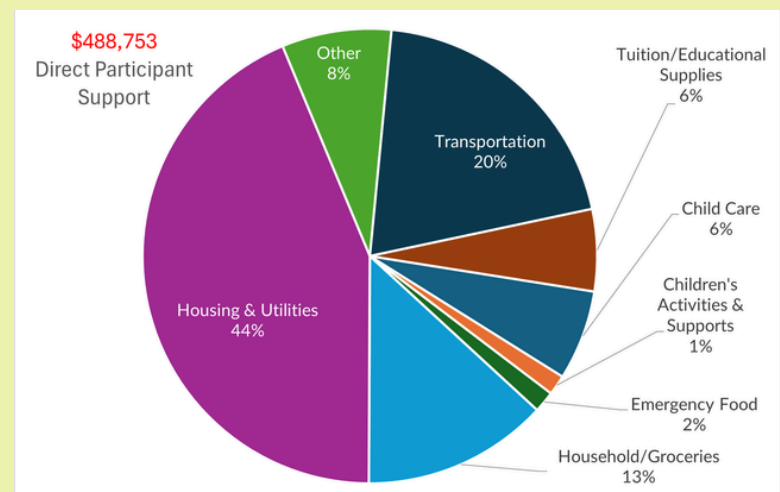
I see myself teaching art to elementary school students. When I was in 6th grade, art class was the best part of my day. Art helped me escape from my struggles. I want to be that vision for other kids. I think art is a good therapeutic way for people to get through life.

I would like to tell other single parents what I always tell my kids—education is important. The more you focus on yourself and your education, the more opportunities will come your way. You're smart. You're going to be fine. Work hard and take care of yourself.

2025 Impact Highlights

- 143 single parents with 276 children served
- 87% retention rate
- 42 new single parent families onboarded
- 203 individuals participated in 327 Applicant Help Sessions
- 46 single parents preparing for college received \$46,000 in Discover Fund Awards
- 60 single parent college students received \$210,000 in Strengthen Fund Awards
- 5 single parent college students received \$5,000 in Off-Cycle Strengthen Fund Awards
- 14 single parent college graduates entering the workforce received \$14,000 in Actualize Fund Awards
- 135 single parents received yearly allotments totaling \$90,726

- 94 families received \$213,380 to stabilize housing
- 9 families received cars valued at \$29,344
- 74 families received \$80,595 for transportation needs
- 11 families received \$21,920 for childcare



Meet Larimer County Single Parent, Kendall



“At 33 years old, I finally took that leap in faith and said I am going to make it happen.”
– Kendall

I've been on my own since my daughter was born. I was working a mid-shift job in manufacturing, making less than \$20 an hour. And you know, 11pm is pretty late to come get a child and take her home. There are no daycares that stay open that late, so I had to ask family or friends to watch her.

It was incredibly exhausting. There were many moments when I felt completely overwhelmed and helpless. Was I doing the right thing? Making enough money? When would I ever get the chance to just be present with my child?

That weighed heavily on me. I wanted to be there for her in every way. It was a constant emotional struggle, feeling torn between being a provider and being the mother I wanted to be.

I had tried taking college classes, but my circumstances made it difficult to succeed. When my cousin told me about Project Self-Sufficiency, I immediately took her advice and signed up for it.

I didn't know what to expect and felt overwhelmed. I met with my advisor, and she reassured me that everything was going to be okay. With her support, I signed up to drive for Uber and enrolled at FRCC, which helped me get back on track and move forward with my education. Then my advisor helped me develop the ability to stick with things and not give up. I learned about resources available to me, like tutoring. I've received financial support to help pay the bills, and I signed my daughter up for basketball.

All of this has made me realize how important it is to gain the education and skills needed to create better opportunities and a more stable future. I am planning on graduating from FRCC with my AA in Business next year, then transferring to CSU for my BSBA with a concentration in management. I'm interested in learning how to build strong teams and help guide a company toward achieving its goals and reaching its full potential.

I used to feel like it was never going to be the right time to get an education. My advice for someone who is starting out is to GO FOR IT! DO IT NOW! The sooner the better, and you will be so glad you did.

2025 Participant Profiles

- \$22,668 Average income at intake
- 98% Mothers; 2% Fathers
- 80% Survivors of domestic violence and other crimes
- 71% First generation college students
- 38% Racially/ethnically diverse
- 34% Individuals with disabilities
- 29% New participants unhoused or unstably housed at intake

2025 Participant Accomplishments

- \$37,953 Participant's average wage increase from intake to program graduation
- 23 degrees and certificates were completed by Participants
- 14 Program graduates; 100% employed in their career field

2025 Degrees Earned

- BSBA Accounting
- BSW (3 participants)
- BS Hospitality and Event Management
- BA Communication Studies
- BA Spanish
- BA Psychology
- AS General
- AA Business
- AA Psychology (2 participants)
- AS General
- AAS Networking & Virtualization
- AAS Radiologic Technology
- AAS Dental Hygiene
- AAS Nursing (RN)
- AAS Respiratory Therapist
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Early Childhood Director Certificate
- Business Certificate
- Radiation Therapy Industry Certification



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Looking Ahead

Shifting federal policies and budget priorities — particularly those affecting safety-net programs like Medicaid and SNAP — along with possible state cuts, highlight the need to stay proactive in securing resources for the families we serve. In the year ahead, we will continue to communicate emerging needs and share any impacts on our work.

We also expect increasing employment challenges for our participants. To respond, we are pursuing deeper partnerships with employers who can provide meaningful work-based learning experiences — job shadowing, informational interviews, internships, apprenticeships, and entry-level roles. These opportunities help single parents build confidence, gain skills, and move toward long-term stability.

At the same time, we will strengthen collaboration with other nonprofits, faith communities, and grantors. Working together allows us to respond quickly and effectively to unpredictable needs. In these challenging times, we invite you to stay engaged and stand with us as we work to ensure every single parent has the support they need to reach the finish line.

2025 Financials

Net Assets on December 31, 2025: \$3,710,334

Note these figures are not yet audited

2025 Revenue, Support, and Gains

Fundraising and Contributions	\$ 1,023,177
Value of Cars Provided to Families	\$ 13,128
In-kind Donations	\$ 63,663
Grants	\$ 782,405
Special Event Revenue	\$ 178,172
Other Revenue	\$ 57,730
Total Revenue, Support, and Gains	\$ 2,118,275

2025 Expenses

Program Direct Expenses	\$ 533,906
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 1,235,726
Operations and Occupancy	\$ 218,925
Marketing & Fundraising Expenses	\$ 219,100
Total Expenses	\$ 2,207,657

2025 Board of Directors



Amanda Erickson



Blake McBartlett



Carol Barnes



Chris Serafin



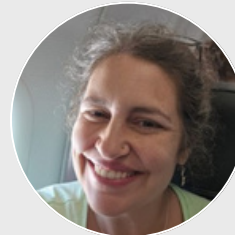
Deanna O'Connell



Deb Devereaux



Debi Triplett



Katherine O'Hara



Lauren Larsen



Michelle Vance



Peter Boyle



Shawn Collins



Team Awesome

Back Row: Connor Bergman, Anngie Sloan, Tracy Mead, Jodi Terwilliger-Stacey, Jan Barela-Smith, Atalanta Chacon
Front Row: Darrick Hildman, Cheryl Brown, Kristen Molinario, Mayra Gonzalez, Robin Adams, Amber Martin, Fenn Williams



2025 Vision Maker Award

In 2025, we honored two outstanding volunteers, Don Griffith and Gary Bragdon, for their invaluable contributions to our Cars for Families Program.

Don works closely with garages to negotiate repairs and navigates title transfers and registration with the DMV. Meanwhile, Gary identifies high-quality used cars, making the most of our donated funds.

Their dedication ensures that reliable transportation is a constant for the single parents we serve, helping them literally stay on the road to success. We are deeply grateful for their outstanding service and the difference they continue to make in our community!



Help us bring the promise and the power of education to single parents and their children.

Ways to Give



Ways to Volunteer



Stay Informed



Special thanks to Sandberg Photography and ZebraJellyfish Photography for providing the images of Project Self-Sufficiency participants.



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