

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

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Sophia Phillips

PAGE 01

### WHERE WE ARE NOW

The 2019-2020 school year was more difficult than any other year the Foundation has experienced. However, despite the challenges that our community faced, 2020 showed how strong and adaptable the Foundation remains. It was a year of change, of challenge, of adaptability and ultimately, of new ideas. COVID-19 presented certain obstacles, but the Outdoor Lab community consistently showed up with their support. We are inspired to persevere and overcome future obstacles because of YOU, our outstanding, committed community.

The 2019 year ended strong, with a record-breaking After Dark event and inspirational support shown on Colorado Gives Day. We re-designed Spirit Wear hoodies, attended many amazing parent nights and even had a locally-made beer named for us, brewed by Colorado Plus Brewing. New people became Foundation champions while others increased their involvement and generous support.

Then, just as we were inducting new legacy members and beginning to plan After Dark 2020, COVID-19 emerged, causing us to shut our physical doors. The world was uncertain, but OLF's staff and board worked diligently to ensure the Foundation continued without skipping a beat. We hosted our first-ever virtual event on April 16, which included outstanding guest speakers from all over the state, including former Bronco's Player, Karl Mecklenburg and staff from Colorado Open Lands. Throughout COVID-19, one message has been the same: Outdoor Lab is a priority and is here to stay.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS















- 04 Mission & Vision
- 05 Staff & Board
- 06 By the Numbers & Legacy Society
- 07 Scholarships & Site Updates
- 08 High School Leader Scholarships
- **09** Individual Donors
- 10 Individual Donors, Cont'd.
- **11** Financial Overview
- **12 Event Highlights**

# MISSION & VISION



#### WE ARE

Champions of experiential outdoor learning as a base for stewardship of oneself, others and the environment.

#### WE BELIEVE

Outdoor Lab creates the path of lifelong learning.

#### OUR MISSION

Inspire community support and advocate for the Outdoor Lab Schools.

#### **OUR VISION**

Enduring program, inspired students, cherished sites.

#### The Outdoor Lab Foundation

supports the Outdoor Lab Schools through advocacy, financial support and strategic projects, making the schools a leading national program that begins a lifetime of learning on the trail.

#### Outdoor Lab

is a week-long residential experiential learning program that every 6th grade student in Jeffco attends in the Colorado wilderness. This 61-year old program has over 385,000 alumni and impacts 7,000 Jefferson County students each year.

### **STAFF & BOARD**



From Left to Right, Top to Bottom:

Jens Jensen, Litigation Attorney | Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C. (Board Chair) Kim Gieseler, Co-Founder and Wealth Advocate Advisor | Valorem Financial (Vice Chair) Kathy Weiss, Retired | Jefferson County School Principal Barry Wiebe, Founder and President | Avout John Hamilton, Principal | FCM, LLC Michelle Winzent, Co-Owner | Merkl's Automotive Richard Armitage, Senior Project Manager | Temenos Bryan Head, Major Account Executive, Government Specialist | Lewan Technology Kristen Meier, Human Resources Director | CAA Icon Brandon Friedman, Assistant Vice President | First Bank

### 2019-2020 BY THE NUMBERS

40

Interns served

789

High school leaders visited the sites for one week each

3,600

6th grade students attended Mount Evans or Windy Peak

31

Jeffco Schools participated in the program

# LEGACY SOCIETY

The Outdoor Lab Legacy Society is an extraordinary group of philanthropists and volunteers who are committed to ensuring that Outdoor Lab's excellence in education and experiential learning continues for future generations. They lead the "because of you" legacy in our community with bravery and passion.

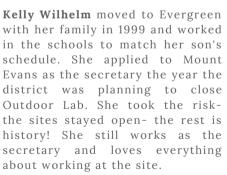


**Rafe Maestas** attended Green Mountain High School and served as an Outdoor Lab high school leader many times. He volunteered during summers at Mount Evans and following his volunteer work, served as an on-site technician while finishing his degree. A former member of the OLF Board of Directors, he continues to be an advocate and supporter.



**Kristen Meier** is a Jeffco native and a Golden HS alum. Kristen has lived almost her entire life in the Jeffco area. She attended both sites when she was younger and now she stays connected to the mission in new ways. She's involved in an endowment to the schools in honor of her late mother, a former nurse at Mount Evans. She also serves on the OLF Board of Directors.







**Bo and Tressa Riley** both grew up in Jeffco. Bo attended Foothills Elementary, Mount Evans as a 6th grade student and graduated from Green Mountain High School. Tressa attended Stober Elementary, Windy Peak as a sixth grade student and graduated from Wheat Ridge High School. Bo's now a lawyer and Tressa a teacher. Bo served on the OLF Board for four years. They live in Applewood with their three beautiful daughters.

### HIGH SCHOOL LEADER SCHOLARSHIPS

In its second year, the High School Leader Scholarship Program awards two high school leaders who have served at least one week at an Outdoor Lab site with a scholarship for higher education (any private or public vocational training program, college or university of their choice). This year, the competition was high. The Foundation was impressed with the applicant pool – over 42 high school students applied. Meet the 2019 recipients:



#### Nicole Matuszynski Chatfield Senior High Plans: Montana State University

"Outdoor Lab is such a special program which provides a unique opportunity for kids to get away from the countless distractions in life. It allows for genuine connections and bonds to be formed through laughter and pure happiness!"

#### Kenzie O'Neil Columbine High School Plans: Montana State University

"I will always remember the relationships I built with the students, leaders, interns and faculty at Outdoor Lab. It was amazing being able to learn and teach in one of the most beautiful places."

### SITE UPDATES

In the early days of COVID-19, when all things were unknown, both Windy Peak and Mount Evans Outdoor Lab Schools closed their doors to assess, stay safe and regroup. Outdoor Lab is such a rite of passage that many parents and students were concerned about getting to experience the program. Thanks to site principals and district leaders, all students were rescheduled to attend in early 2021- as 7th grade students!



Meanwhile, sites are planning a modified program for the fall for students, and if all goes to plan, students will still get to enjoy an abbreviated, 2-day Outdoor Lab stay with no overnights. Site staff fully plans to encourage students to watch and learn about the wildlife, hike, learn how to work together and connect with one another outside, all the while wearing masks. We commend the sites and the district for making the best of the situation- and still serving our students.

# LAB CARDS PROGRAM

King Soopers and Safeway are two of our best partners. Their dedication to the program has remained consistent throughout the years and helps ensure the continued success of the Outdoor Lab Program. Parents and participating community members fundraise for Outdoor Lab programs through their week-to-week shopping and each quarter, redeem their fundraised dollars to support their local school's experiences. See below for the 2019-2020 Lab Cards results.

**1,180** JEFFCO 6TH GRADE STUDENTS AIDED

31

JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM





\$6,470

AVERAGE DONATION EACH SCHOOL RECEIVED

4,334

K-5 FAMILIES ENROLLED IN THE LAB CARDS PROGRAM FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR



A special thanks to King Soopers for donating a total of \$3 million over the past 9 years!

#### **INDIVIDUAL DONORS OF 2019-2020**

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#### **INDIVIDUAL DONORS OF 2019-2020**

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Carolyn Norblom

### FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

#### Assets:

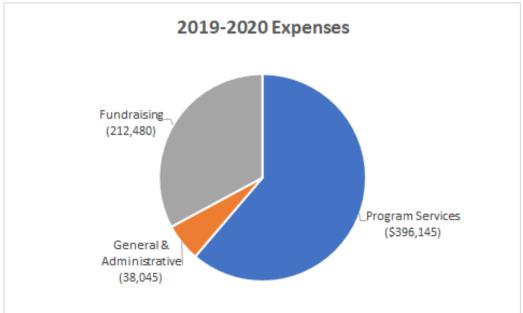
Unrestricted: 1,019,944 Restricted:51,506 Total Assets: 1,071,450

#### Income:

Contributions & Grants: \$790,043 In-Kind Support: \$39,739 Investment Income: \$5,037 Assets Released from Restriction: \$82,087 Total Income: \$916,906

#### **Expenses:**

Fundraising: \$212,480 Program Services: \$396,145 General & Administration: \$38,045 Total: \$646,670



### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



#### AFTER DARK 2019: DARE TO EXPLORE

After Dark is Outdoor Lab Foundation's annual, not-so-traditional fundraiser that takes place every fall. People of the Jeffco Community and beyond gather to celebrate and give back to OLF and support local students from 6th grade to high school attending the program. After Dark of 2019 was a record-setting event. Over 315 people attended and over \$195,000 was raised during an evening filled with live music, silent and live auctions and amazing camaraderie. The theme was "Dare to Explore," complete with an adventure station and live birds-of-prey hosted by HawkQuest. Thanks again to all of you who attended and a huge shoutout to our sponsors.

# COLORADO PLUS BREWING: CUSTOM BREW & EVENT

Colorado Plus Brewing Company out of Wheat Ridge supports their community in a multitude of ways. In 2019, just in time for Colorado Gives Day, Colorado Plus Brewery brewed a signature beer just for the Foundation, even letting staff and board help with the brewing process. The result? A great-tasting cherry milkshake IPA - and part of the proceeds from the sales went to the Outdoor Lab Foundation as a Colorado Gives Day gift. Thank you, Colorado Plus Brewing Company. You are truly community leaders.

#### COLORADO GIVES DAY NOW

When COVID-19 came to light in March of 2020, the Outdoor Lab community responded without hesitation. While the sites temporarily closed their doors, we knew that the mission must continue promptly when the doors opened, though we didn't know when that would be. Like many nonprofits, we participated in Colorado Gives Day Now, a one-time, special giving event designed to boost nonprofits affected by COVID-19. Together, we raised \$6,400 to support continued programming.







### WE WANT TO THANK YOU.

#### For Your Commitment

To ensuring ALL Jeffco Students get to attend Outdoor Lab

#### For Your Support

Of our mission, even when a global pandemic alters how we operate

#### Because of You

We met and exceeded our goals to provide the best experience for students

#### You're The Reason

We can assist interns in their semesterlong journeys and that high school leader scholarships exist

#### We Welcome You

To continue to join us as we make a difference in the lives of 7,000+ Jeffco students

