



2024 Community Grant Cycle – Impact Statements from 11 Nonprofit Recipients

YVCF's 2024 Community Grant Cycle awarded \$656,068 to 79 nonprofit organizations serving the Yampa Valley. Nearly half of the funding went toward unrestricted General Operating grants, 41% for Program Grants, and two Impact Grants for a total of \$50,000 were awarded.

Below are testimonials from eleven grantees discussing their programming and the meaningful impact of YVCF's Community Grant Cycle.

BookTrails

General Operating: \$9,500

In 2024, we served over 250 children through a blend of outdoor, book-themed summer camps and year-round academic support. Our BookTrails Scholars Program provided weekly literacy instruction and mentorship to 42 Emerging Bilingual students and children reading below grade level. These students made impressive gains of 1–2 reading levels, and 95% reported feeling more confident as readers. During the summer, our Reading Ranch hosted 250 campers, with 43% receiving scholarships, ensuring access for low-income families. In 2024, we made significant progress on the Reading Ranch Capital Project. We installed a new solar array, completed the interior of the washhouse, and added critical site infrastructure like greywater systems, accessible ramps, and electrical connections. These improvements allow us to host fall programs and serve a wider range of learners. We also expanded our commitment to equity and inclusion by diversifying our curriculum, offering cultural sensitivity training to staff, and ensuring accessibility across our campus. BookTrails remains committed to serving children from all backgrounds. We are deeply grateful for the support that makes this work possible and look forward to continuing to grow our reach and impact in the year ahead.

LiftUp of Routt County

Program Grant: \$10,000

Thank you so much for this grant funding for our Rocket Pack program. The demand for Rocket Pack snacks was higher this past school year than it has ever been. We have been serving up to 729 children per week (over 100 more children weekly than the previous school year), and have spent \$62,333 on snacks since we received this grant funding (through April, 2025). We have served 177,060 snacks to 22,288 duplicated children since receiving these grant funds. While the numbers provide you with pertinent data, the administrators and teachers facilitating the program can tell you more. Here are some quotes from the Rocket Pack Administrative Survey that we are currently receiving:

“We have several children who need additional protein at arrival due to no breakfast at home.”

“Since I work with young students (5-7 years old) they have trouble regulating their emotions when they are hungry. We often try a snack when someone is having a difficult time, this gives the student the time, space, and satisfied appetite.”

“Our students that are most compromised have a series of issues going on in their lives, so one of the ways that we (you) were able to help them was make sure that hunger was not one of them! Thank you- they made a difference every day!!”

“Kids come straight to the health room in the morning for snacks and also highly anticipate Tuesday (our drop off day).”

“Kids LOVE this program from PreK - 12th grade”

“Fifth grade students are always hungry, and if they have access to healthy food, they can focus and learn much better.”

“Thank you, again, for your continued funding of the Rocket Pack program. It makes a very real difference in the lives of children every day.”

The Cycle Effect

Program Grant: \$9,000

The Cycle Effect (TCE) applied for funding from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation (YVCF) to advance the core mission of serving young women ages 10–18 in Routt County through mountain biking, mentorship, leadership development, and community connection. The ambitious goal across all program locations is to support 70% of participants who identify as Latina and/or BIPOC. Support from YVCF has been instrumental in covering general operating expenses, expanding the diversity of our coaching staff, acquiring additional equipment, and addressing transportation needs to ensure participants can access our programs. Thanks to YVCF’s generous support, TCE has achieved the following outcomes in Routt County during the 2024 program year: Who we served in 2024 through the Girls Mountain Bike Mentorship Program, Routt County: 49 total unique participants served with 130 hours of individualized support for each participant; 6,370 hours total 67% of participants identified as Latina and/or BIPOC. 80% of participants self-reported risk factors on their applications (e.g., high stress, difficulty making friends, low self-esteem, bullying, self-harm, thoughts of suicide, and more). The most commonly reported risks included: challenges making friends, victims of bullying, experiencing high levels of stress, and a lack of physical activity. Participants reported an average of two risk factors. 65% of families reported household income below the self-sufficiency threshold for Routt County. Routt is TCE’s community with the highest percentage of families reporting this. 84% of TCE participants were awarded a scholarship.

TCE Parent Testimonial - “I have seen a huge improvement in [my daughter’s] self-confidence, her self-esteem and overall behavior. She has loved being a part of the team and pushing herself to do the best she can. She tells me all about the shoutouts at the end and I love hearing the girls lift each other up! I love hearing what she has accomplished after each practice. [My daughter] has grown so much with TCEs help and I couldn’t be more grateful. She’s still nervous about new things but who isn’t. Now though she is also ready to conquer new things.”

Athlete testimonial - “I was in a really dark spot before I came to The Cycle Effect. I joined and thought it was going to be another sport where I quit but it made me happier. I made friends and I don't have many.

This helped me so much and I love it. I sometimes fall into that dark spot again but now I know someone on my team or a coach or a friend. I love you all! Thanks for your support through everything and making me believe in myself during mountain biking! This is the best mountain biking program I've been a part of. I liked that it was all girls and it was fun being the youngest. I like being with the older girls."

Reach Out and Read Colorado

Program Grant: \$2,500

With the generous \$2,500 grant from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, we were able to provide new, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive books to children as well as essential early literacy and early relational health to families at 417 well-child visits in the region. This funding helped ensure that local clinics remained fully stocked with high-quality books and that participating medical providers received ongoing support to deliver our evidence-based model. At each of these visits, this brand-new book served as assessment tools for pediatricians to evaluate the child's development during the examination.

Routt County Search & Rescue

General Operating: \$10,000

We were so grateful to be able to use the funds awarded from the 2024-2025 Community Grant Cycle for educational purposes this past winter. We stress safety, training and preparedness and these private training sessions are essential to keeping the team at the highest level of performance possible. This past January we brought instructors in for a ProAvSAR back country avalanche training course over a period of 4 days, which was completed in various places around the County. We had 12 team members attend the advanced training and it was a huge success. The following week we sent some of advanced snowmobile rescue team members to Next Level Clinics in Alpine, WY for a super advanced backcountry snowmobile training with some of the most talented experts in the country. We do this every two years with a fresh crew of members to build our expert level rider's experience and we have them cater the training to our specific rescue efforts and scenarios.

Steamboat Montessori

Impact Grant: \$20,000

This past year, Steamboat Montessori (SM) was honored to receive the Impact Grant from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation (YVCF). This critical support helped launch our highly successful free lunch program for all students in grades K–5 during the 2024–25 school year.

Prior to this launch, Steamboat Montessori's students were required to bring lunch each day. Additionally, this program has helped each and every student and their families by ensuring access to one hot, nutritious meal each school day (more on anecdotal support included herein). Recognizing this need, Steamboat Montessori launched a school-wide free lunch program—an ambitious effort made possible by the generous Impact Grant from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation (YVCF) and strengthened by collaborative partnerships.

These funds made it possible to:

- Remodel our cafeteria to meet food service standards

- Hire a dedicated school lunch coordinator
- Partner with SOROCO Food District to supply fresh, nutritious meals daily

Key towards ensuring this program's operation was the purchase of a reliable transportation vehicle to pick up meals twice a week. Through this funding, Steamboat Montessori was able to purchase a Suburban locally from Cook Chevrolet. Through this purchase, YVCF has done more than fund logistics—you have helped guarantee daily access to healthy meals for every child in our school lunch.

The support provided by YVCF was absolutely critical in launching our free school lunch program. Without this funding, Steamboat Montessori would not have been able to purchase the transportation vehicle essential to collecting and delivering meals to our students. Nearly a year into the program, the results speak for themselves—daily participation has far exceeded initial expectations (90% on most days), and the impact on student well-being and family stress has been profound. Building on this success, we are now looking to expand the program to include our preschool students, providing nutritious meals to an additional 46 children each day

Love INC of the Yampa Valley

Program Grant: \$7,000

Support from the YVCF was used to support the organization's basic needs programming. Program work is accomplished by filling gaps in existing community services for disadvantaged individuals and families by providing food, household goods, furniture, school supplies, training in cooking and personal financial management, and financial support (e.g., rent deposit, utilities). This past year was a year of tremendous accomplishments for the Love INC of the Yampa Valley, including providing 92,000+ pounds of food to 366 adults and 839 children (unduplicated count). Increasing outreach and services to Latino households. In December 2024, 179 Latino households received food pantry assistance, compared to fewer than five Latino households one year ago. Developing new partnerships in Routt and Rio Blanco counties to increase food box deliveries in rural communities. New delivery routes were implemented this January, and Love INC is now delivering to Hayden, Rangely, Maybell, and Sunbeam. Love INC is now delivering 44 senior meal boxes in Rio Blanco County and 10 in Routt County. Securing a location for a consolidated food pantry in Craig that operates on a set schedule, including evening and weekend hours. A lease was signed in January, and Love INC began food distribution from its new location on February 3, 2025.

Continued support from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation helps Love INC support individuals in a time of personal upheaval and crisis. The impact of addressing these needs is best illustrated through the stories of the individuals and families served. Last summer, a Latina woman contacted Love INC after a referral to the organization from the Church of Destiny. She had five children and was going through a divorce. She needed beds and furniture; everyone was currently sleeping on the floor. Love INC met with her and listened to her struggles, including the admission that her family was experiencing food insecurity. Love INC encouraged her to attend the weekly food distribution to determine her eligibility for TEFAP. Love INC also helped her secure furniture and beds. The next day, this brave woman arrived 30 minutes early because she wanted to volunteer! After volunteering, she completed her

TEFAP eligibility paperwork, where it was determined that she qualified for assistance. She continued to show up to volunteer because she wanted to give back to the program that supported her. This is just one example of how Yampa Valley Community Foundation funding makes a difference in the lives of local residents.

Steamboat Soccer Club

General Operating: \$9,000

This grant from YVCF help the club expand programing from Craig to SOROCO to North Routt, deepened community ties and witness incredible individual and team achievement. The club also hired a new Director of community Engagement and Special Events. His energy alongside the dedicated staff, helped us organize free soccer clinics at the Boy & Girls Clubs in both Craig and Steamboat, reaching 120 kids. Additionally, we brought the game directly into PE classes across Steamboat elementary school engaging with another 425 children. These grassroots efforts made possible with about \$2,200 in staff time, are planning the seeds for lifelong participating in sport and community. With growing participation comes a growing need for support. Since August 1, 2024, we've distributed \$20,528 in financial aid to ensure that every child who wants to play, can.

A shining example of this impact is the young man from Nicaragua mentioned in our application. Once dreaming of playing soccer in the United States, he now not only speaks English fluently but often serves as a translator for his coaches and teammates. His dedication on and off the field is inspiring. He helped lead his team to victory at the Colorado Soccer Association Presidents Cup, earning the title of top team in the state. Next stop: Regionals in Boise, Idaho! Thanks to scholarships and the generosity of his teammates and their families, he's living his dream—and lifting up those around him.

Colorado New Play Festival

General Operating: \$5,000

Funding from this opportunity was used to support the Colorado New Play Festival (CNPF), our cornerstone annual event, as well as our growing Youth Playwriting Program.

The 2024 Colorado New Play Festival featured four new plays selected from a competitive pool of 30 submissions. We brought together 32 actors, directors, dramaturgs, and stage managers from Colorado and across the country for a week of rehearsals, rewrites, and culminating performances. Each script experienced significant growth during the week- with all projects benefitting from rewrites and new pages.

Our Youth Playwriting Program also experienced exciting growth. Now in its third year, the program has experienced year over year growth, with 10 stories being completed and shared for a wonderful audience of family and friends at the Bud Werner Memorial Library. The program continues to offer a safe, supportive space for students to explore storytelling and express themselves through creative writing. The final sharing event featured professional actors performing these scripts, celebrating the voices and imagination of young writers in our community. Based on growing demand, we plan to hire an additional instructor in 2026 with plans to expand this program to serve groups outside of just the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Colorado.

We sincerely appreciate the support that we have received from YVCF as this funding allows us to pursue and further develop our mission of supporting the art and tradition of storytelling as something that is central to human experience.

Humane Society of Moffat County

General Operating: \$7,500

This past year we have responded to 831 calls for service. We have served the needs for pet food, subsidized spay/neuters/vaccinations and emergency veterinary care for 144 lower income households. Pet food distribution totaled 2,160 Subsidized 62 spay/neuters for lower income households. Subsidized 65 lower income households (hardship cases) with emergency veterinary care Expanding to a wider community basis, we covered the cost of 42 unowned “community cats” spay/neuters through our “TNR” (trap, neuter, release) program to curb the rising number of unwanted, homeless litters, especially kittens in the community. We transported 71 unadopted dogs and cats from Moffat County to other regional shelters to increase their opportunity for adoption and to relieve the local animal shelter. We maintained Petfinder.com and received 51,000 hits, resulting in 134 local shelter adoptions. We expanded our services to the wider county area through the TNR program for community cats and increased the number of successful fosters families. We also launched a Canine Care team to take dogs to visit the residents of Sandrock Ridge weekly, which has become a very popular program with the residents.

Our volunteers logged 188 hours of service this past year. The HSMC is growing and expanding its services, and we hope to continue to do so in 2025-2026.

Yampa Valley Autism Program (YVAP)

General Operating: \$10,000

Over the past year, Yampa Valley Autism Program (YVAP) experienced tremendous growth in reach, services, and impact. We expanded ABA therapy into five local school districts through in-school push-in and pull-out models, removing scheduling barriers and increasing access for families. We also provided over 1,700 hours of free therapy to uninsured families and trained 540+ educators, employers, and partners to better support neurodiverse individuals in schools, workplaces, and community settings.

We launched a full-day Extended School Year (ESY) program in Steamboat Springs based on family feedback and saw a 50% increase in student participation in Hayden. Our Work Readiness Program delivered 2,384 hours of training and helped individuals gain the skills—and confidence—to succeed in real employment settings.

In December 2024, YVAP formally launched its diagnostic program with support from an impact grant from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation. Through this initiative, we partnered with Dr. Dana Gau, a licensed psychologist based in Denver, who now travels to Steamboat every other month to provide on-site autism evaluations. This has allowed us to clear our diagnostic waitlist and ensure that families no longer have to travel to the Front Range for timely, high- quality assessments. The program has become a vital entry point for families seeking care, enabling earlier access to therapy, school services,

and long-term support. We also supported two team members pursuing BCBA credentials, helping build internal capacity.

Our programs—Therapy, Education Support, Work Readiness, Community Partnerships, Community Workshops, and Family Resources—continue to work in concert to ensure neurodiverse individuals and their families have the support they need to thrive in Northwest Colorado. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to continuing this essential work together.