

# NEWS

## From Southwest Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days

February 1, 2010

### Mancos to host 2010 Rural Philanthropy Days Conference June 9-11

Mancos, Colorado, proudly located "Between Mesa Verde and the Mountains," will host the 2010 Southwest Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days Conference – "Grow Partnerships and Harvest Success," scheduled for June 9-11.

Rural Philanthropy Days is a three-day conference sponsored by the Community Resource Center that brings together nonprofit organizations from Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties with funding agencies from the Front Range area. Similar conferences are scheduled in seven other rural regions throughout the state, and each region hosts a conference every four years. The Southwest region last hosted a conference in 2006.

This year's conference has been developed by a local steering committee of volunteers and representatives from Southwest Colorado nonprofit organizations. Co-chairs are Nancy Whitson, Executive Director of the Ballantine Family Fund, and Chuck McAfee, a community volunteer from Lewis, Colorado. Deanna Devereaux, an active community volunteer in La Plata County, serves as conference coordinator. Directory Plus is this year's presenting sponsor.

More than 300 nonprofit representatives are expected to attend along with approximately foundations, state agencies and other grant-makers from the Front Range. All activities will be held in Mancos to emphasize the unique characteristics of rural communities in Southwest Colorado.

The conference includes workshops covering everything from leadership and board development to marketing and branding to fund-raising. Representatives from the state's leading foundations are expected to lead several of the capacity-building sessions. The conference also includes opportunities for nonprofits to network with other nonprofits. A Friday morning round-table session will give local organizations the chance to meet one-on-one with Front Range grant-makers.

"Our theme, 'Grow Partnerships and Harvest Success,' captures the essence of Rural Philanthropy Days. It's all about getting to know who does what and who will fund what you do in Southwest Colorado," said Devereaux. "Rural Philanthropy Days is the state's premiere opportunity for public agencies and nonprofit organizations to learn about the resources available to them in their own state. It also gives Colorado grantmakers an opportunity to learn more about the unique needs of rural areas beyond the Front Range. Every time we host RPD here, Southwest Colorado nonprofits generate millions of dollars in new grant support for their communities."

***As a result of the relationships formed at the 2006 Conference, Southwest Colorado received 434 grants totaling more than \$8.8 million.***

Non-profits in Southwest Colorado account for 7.2 percent of total employment in the Region 9 Economic Development District, according to the Colorado Nonprofit Association.

In Fiscal Year 2008, nonprofits in the five-county region held total assets of more than \$201 million and generated revenues of \$128 million.

The largest nonprofits in Southwest Colorado are Southwest Health Systems, Southwest Colorado Mental Health, Southern Ute Community Action Program, Community Connections, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, the Fort Lewis College Foundation, and the Campaign for America's Wilderness.

Twenty-four nonprofits have annual budgets exceeding \$1 million.

For more information about Southwest Colorado Rural Philanthropy Days, visit the Web site at [www.southwestrpd.org](http://www.southwestrpd.org).

###

