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THE DENVER POST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, SUPPORTED BY WELLS FARGO, AWARDS \$35,000 TO SIX NONPROFIT AGENCIES AS PART OF 2015 RIDE THE ROCKIES BICYCLE TOUR

Denver, CO – The Denver Post Community Foundation is proud to award \$35,000 in charitable grants to six nonprofit organizations in the communities hosting the 30th annual Denver Post Ride The Rockies Bicycle Tour. A grant of \$5,000 will be presented in each of the seven towns along the route to an agency that provides literacy programs or serves low-income youth through recreation, education or the arts.

The Colorado communities receiving grants and serving as host towns for Ride The Rockies are: Grand Junction, Hotchkiss, Gunnison, Crested Butte, Salida, Cañon City and Westcliffe. Checks will be presented to the selected nonprofit organizations as the Tour travels through each host community between June 13 and June 20.

“Ride The Rockies is Colorado’s premier recreational cycling event and much more,” said Frank Newman, Wells Fargo executive vice president for Colorado, Montana and Wyoming. “It’s also a builder of strong local communities, a passion and commitment we share. Through our support of Ride The Rockies, we’re pleased to provide the funding for the \$5,000 grant each host community will receive this year. We’re humbled to know that each of these grants, though small on their own, will add up to make a big difference in our communities.”

The host towns provide valuable resources in order to make the Tour run smoothly. They offer lodging, food, transportation, entertainment and volunteers to support the riders during the event. The grant program, supported by Wells Fargo, allows The Denver Post Community Foundation and Ride The Rockies to thank the host towns by providing financial support that will impact the communities long after the last cyclist departs their town.

"Awarding a \$5,000 check to a deserving nonprofit in each host community is a highlight of my job," says Renee Wheelock, Community Relations Manager. "So many fantastic organizations benefit from Ride The Rockies and we're thrilled to help them continue the great work they provide locally."

Since its inception in 2001 and including this year’s grants, The Denver Post Community Foundation grant program has distributed over half a million dollars. The selection process is competitive and recipients are recommended by an Advisory Committee that reviews each application.

Learn about the 2015 recipients below:

Grand Junction - Grand Junction Imagination Library

Grand Junction Imagination Library (GJIL) believes all young children should have books in their homes to inspire imagination, develop a love of learning and prepare them for success in school and beyond. GJIL provides brand new, carefully selected books to young children in our community, at no cost to their families. Once registered, a child will receive a book in the mail each and every month until their fifth

birthday, creating their very own Imagination Library. To register or sponsor a child, please visit www.gjimaginationlibrary.org.

Hotchkiss – Western Slope Conservation Center

Western Slope Conservation Center formed in 1977 to disseminate information about regional energy development and its impacts on the region's natural resources. Today, their mission is to build an active and aware community to protect and enhance the lands, air, water and wildlife of the Lower Gunnison Watershed. Western Slope Conservation Center achieves their mission through the dedicated efforts of their staff, board and volunteers; with the help of many partners; by using a collaborative approach; and by staying true to their values - integrity, respect and long-lasting tangible results. Their current goals are watershed stewardship, protection of public lands, and providing meaningful education and outreach.

Gunnison & Crested Butte – Gunnison Valley Mentors

Gunnison Valley Mentors is a private, nonprofit, youth mentoring organization serving Gunnison, Crested Butte and Lake City. The mission of GV Mentors is to promote the healthy growth of young people through one-to-one mentoring and supporting services. Over 200 referred youth are matched into partnerships with caring, pro-social mentors each year. Mentors lift their junior partners by finding opportunities for them to reach higher, dream bigger and achieve greater.

Salida – The Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Chaffee County inspires and enables all young people, especially those who need them most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. Every day at the Club stories unfold that show staff, families, and Club kids the most important role of the Boys & Girls Club: to provide kids with the opportunity to belong, to succeed, to serve their communities, and to share their voice with the world. Club kids have new experiences every day that give hope to our youth's future. The Boys & Girls Club of Chaffee County strives to be the most vital youth development organization in all of Colorado.

Cañon City – The Boys & Girls Club of Fremont County

The Boys & Girls Club of Fremont County provides a safe, fun, and positive environment for all youth in the community to grow and develop. To establish the Club as a premiere nonprofit organization and one that touches the lives of each member in the community. Boys & Girls Club of Fremont County strives to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need them most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.

Westcliffe - Club America Wet Mountain Valley

Club America WMV (Wet Mountain Valley) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving their community aquatics and fitness center as a community asset to positively impact the quality of life of Custer County residents and visitors. Programs include swim lessons free of charge to all 4th and 5th graders in the county, free club membership to all county 6th graders, student athlete memberships, the Bobcat Triathlon for the 4th, 5th and 6th graders and many more.

The Denver Post Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serves to improve and enrich the lives of those in our community by raising and distributing funds to metro-area and Colorado nonprofit agencies serving the areas of arts, youth, education and human services. For more information, visit denverpostcommunity.com.

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(photos available upon request)