



United Way
of Larimer County

United
Way



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

*Transforming communities so
everyone thrives.*

2022 - 2023 marks another full year of listening, learning, and activating solutions to evolving community priorities for UWLC. Thankfully, there were no fires, floods, or new pandemics, but we suited up to respond to long standing community issues exacerbated by our region's rapid growth, rising cost of living, and educational and economic challenges.

Highlights this year include helping bring the Loveland Youth Campus to life by convening organizational leaders to re-imagine what a full spectrum of services for families looks like under one roof and how a different way of working is not only good for families but also our sector. In this partnership, we committed to raising \$2M for Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center to quadruple their capacity for care for children ages 0-5.

In addition to the Loveland Youth Campus, UWLC exceeded \$1 million in funding for affordable child care this year! Through WomenGive, the Larimer Child Care fund, and grants to Larimer County's nonprofit child care providers, we increased funding for child care - one of our community's most critical priorities - by 128%.

In 2022-2023, we also launched Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, increased funding for Colorado Reading Corps to support expansion in the Poudre School District, built out the Fort Collins Community Impact Center, and strengthened our commitment to public policy by advocating for attainable housing across Larimer County.

We are thrilled to share this Annual Report with you and invite you to continue to learn alongside us as we work to deepen our roots and make our community a place where everyone has what they need to live, work, play and thrive for generations to come.

In partnership,



Joy Sullivan
President and CEO
United Way of Larimer County



Anne Folk
2023-24 Board Chair
United Way of Larimer County



2022 - 2023 Board of Directors

Executive Board Members

Kelly McBartlett - *Board Chair*
Justin Davis - *Past Chair*
Anne Folk - *Secretary*
Stephen West - *Treasurer*
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The State of Larimer County

Larimer County families are struggling, and without the proper support, the future looks more challenging. From gaps in early childhood education to significant threats to the emotional well-being of youth, especially those most marginalized, the data tells a very real story of the barriers Larimer County families are facing to financial stability and well-being.

There is an urgent need for affordable and accessible child care:

3 out of 4 infants and toddlers and 1 out of 3 preschool-age children do not have access to quality, licensed care. Even for those who are able to find care, the cost is nearly \$15,000 a year, a barrier many low or middle-income families cannot overcome alone.

Resources are stretched thin: The state of Colorado predicts Larimer County's population will increase by 37% within the next 25 years. The number of Colorado children under the age of 4 in Colorado is anticipated to increase by 22% in the next two years.

Youth are struggling. For over 65 years, United Way of Larimer County has prioritized youth in our community. Recent data highlights increased struggles among youth, with 40% reporting depression in the 2021 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, up from 35% in 2019.

We leverage diverse data sources and foster partnerships with schools, local governments, and nonprofits to target our efforts towards closing disparity gaps for the most impacted youth.

Understanding the specific challenges and trusted resources of our youth enables us to forge effective partnerships and tailor our efforts for maximum impact, ensuring youth have the support they need to thrive.

As a leader in philanthropy for Larimer County, United Way sees it as our job to meet residents where they are and respond to the ever-changing needs of the community. With that in mind, we are acutely aware of the need to support our Legacy Programs, proven long-term commitments, and also nimbly respond to the real-time needs of our neighbors through a range of community investments.

This report captures the highlights from Fiscal Year 2022-2023 as well as the story of our impact through the personal experience of community members themselves.

Larimer Child Care Fund

In 2022, United Way of Larimer County began working with the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County to take on the administration of the Larimer Child Care Fund while simultaneously deepening our commitment to funding this program. The fund helps low-and moderate-income families afford high-quality care for their children at the licensed providers of their choice.

The fund is structured to provide scholarships to families who are not eligible for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) due to income, mixed immigration status, or other factors. Recipients of the fund do not pay more than 15% of their income on child care for an entire year.



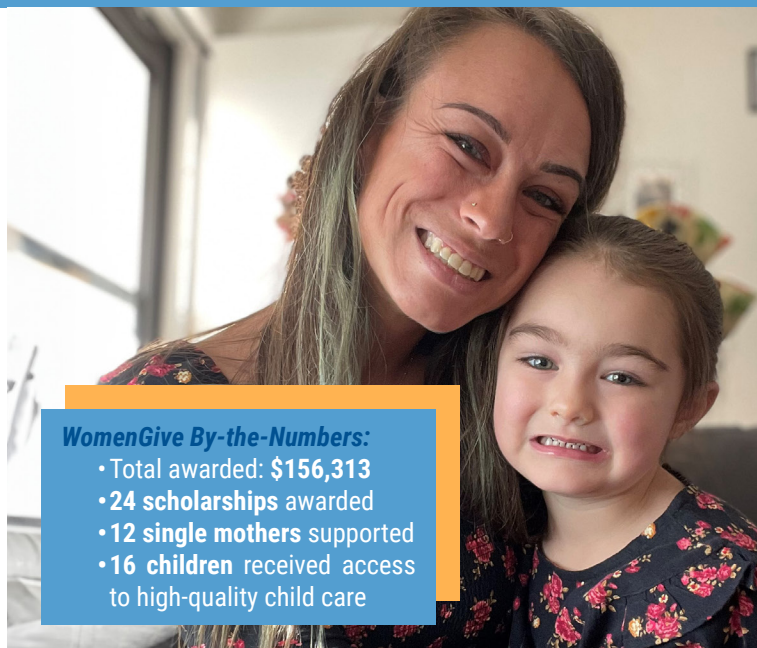
Larimer Child Care Fund By-the-Numbers

- \$465,650.73 distributed through Larimer Child Care Fund
- Served 90 families and 126 children

Commitment in Action

For 65 years, United Way of Larimer County has invested in programs that support children in improving their literacy skills and families in achieving financial security, as well as accessing quality child care and education. **These programs are foundational to the stability of our community and the success of future generations.** As legacy programs, we have committed to running or funding these projects well into the future and supporting their growth as the population of our community continues to grow.

Legacy Programs



WomenGive By-the-Numbers:

- Total awarded: \$156,313
- 24 scholarships awarded
- 12 single mothers supported
- 16 children received access to high-quality child care

WomenGive

WomenGive is comprised of a dynamic network of more than 500 members who give their financial resources to support women in Larimer County in achieving economic self-sufficiency.

WomenGive provides support and financial assistance through child care scholarships to single mothers pursuing post-secondary education. WomenGive empowers families to achieve self-sufficiency, allowing them to focus on their education knowing their children are receiving high-quality care in a safe environment.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Started in Tennessee in 1995, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has now gone global, gifting millions of books to children all over the world. United Way of Larimer County is thrilled to serve as the local affiliate, ensuring the program is available and accessible to all Larimer County children ages 0-5. Every month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails high-quality, age-appropriate books to registered children at no cost to the child's family, regardless of income, igniting a love for reading and jump-starting their educational journey.

The Power of a Book: Families in their own words

"For my family, the Imagination Library has not only provided access to a diverse range of age-appropriate books but also has helped foster my boys' love for reading. My sons can't wait to get the mail every day in case there's a new book 'from Dolly'! The books we've received have become a source of shared joy and bonding as we learn and laugh together. My oldest son graduated from the program when he turned five and is now learning to read his favorite stories from our home library to his one year-old brother."

- Mary Ericson, Parent



Imagination Library of Larimer County By-the-Numbers

- Children enrolled in the first year of the program: **5,338**
- Graduated from the program at age 5: **868**



"My kids absolutely love getting a new book in the mail every month! My four-year-old son always asks if there is a new book when we check the mail. He absolutely must read his new book right away and look through my daughter's book with her. He is so proud and excited to see his book collection grow! My one-year-old daughter is starting to grab more books off the shelf on her own to sit and look at them. Our family has grown in our love for reading and gotten closer as we read our DPIL books together."

- Aimee Shigematsu, Parent



One Word at a Time: Educators in their own words

"We count on Reading Corps as a vital part of our intervention program. I can confidently say that every student in our building is receiving the resources they need to become proficient readers. Reading Corps serves a population in our building who would otherwise not likely receive that type of support."

– School staff member at Coyote Ridge Elementary (Thompson School District)

Colorado Reading Corps By-the-Numbers

- \$190,000 in funding to support Colorado Reading Corps
- 602 students served across 17 school sites
- 11,732 hours of one-on-one tutoring
- 36,500 individual tutoring sessions
- 74% of students served are exceeding the target growth rate, meaning they are catching up with grade-level peers

Colorado Reading Corps

Colorado Reading Corps supports students in kindergarten through third grade to increase early literacy and reading proficiency. The program places AmeriCorps members in classrooms to provide one-on-one tutoring to students who are reading below grade level.

United Way of Larimer County launched Colorado Reading Corps in Thompson School District in 2014, expanded to Estes Park School District in 2017, and grew into Poudre School District in 2022. United Way partners with Colorado Youth for a Change, our program implementation partner for Colorado Reading Corps, while remaining committed to funding the program locally.

"One of my students, Adriel, reached 96 words in one minute, and I wrote a note about his success to take home to his mom. He was so proud of himself and said, 'My mom is going to be so proud of me!' Later that day, another teacher shared with me that Adriel showed them the note and expressed how happy and proud of himself he was. It is fun to see all these adults in his life celebrating alongside him."

– Alexis, Reading Corps tutor at Estes Park Elementary (Estes Park School District)



211

211 is a multilingual and confidential service that connects individuals to critical resources, including food, shelter, rental assistance, child care, and more. 211 utilizes highly-trained information and referral specialists who assist the public and provide answers regarding community services year-round, day and night.

Real-time Response: 211 Call Center Staff Testimonials

- “I was able to help a mother whose son has autism. She had to move to a different county, and so she was starting all over with benefits, housing, and employment. Meanwhile she needed help with medical supplies and to know what benefits she and her son could get. It was nice to be able to help answer her questions and get her a go-to resource that will answer even more questions in the future!”*
- “I answered a call from a mom who had recently left an abusive relationship and needed resources to help her settle in a new location, help her fix her car, and help her get to her first week of work before she got her first paycheck. I helped connect her to an agency that helped cover the cost of gas for her first week of work and another organization that helped get new tires for her car as well!”*
- “I spoke to a caller who had been struggling financially since moving to Colorado. They lived on a fixed income, and I was able to help submit a SNAP application for them and provide additional resources for rent and utility assistance that they were unaware even existed!*
- “I spoke to a family who was living out of their car and did not know where to start but needed lots of help. I was able to get them connected with food pantries, transitional housing resources, and a safe-parking program where they could receive case management and a range of other supports.”*

211 By-the-Numbers

- **2,684 calls** taken from Larimer County residents
- **The top 5 needs:** rent payment assistance, electric service payments, food pantries, food stamps/SNAP, and community shelters

Community Support

We believe that excellent nonprofits are vital to creating and maintaining a resilient community. Furthering our mission to address the community needs of today, we also invest in a responsive manner, in real-time, directly supporting nonprofit partners doing critical work across in the areas of youth & education and financial stability throughout our county. Below is a complete list of our grantees within the following categories: Community Impact, Equity and Excellence, Nonprofit Excellence, and Emerging Priorities.

Alliance for Suicide Prevention	\$9,000.00
BIPOC Alliance	\$13,000.00
Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County	\$141,000.00
CASA of Larimer County	\$4,250.00
Catholic Charities	\$20,000.00
Children's Speech and Reading Center	\$17,000.00
CSU Campus Connections	\$5,897.30
Cultural Enrichment Center	\$20,000.00
Dance Express	\$10,000.00
Estes Park Education Foundation	\$15,000.00
Estes Park Learning Place	\$15,000.00
EVICS	\$43,113.85
Family Housing Network	\$16,000.00
Food Bank for Larimer County	\$18,000.00
GreenPath Financial Wellness	\$6,375.00
Heart and Sol	\$5,000.00
Homeward Alliance	\$2,500.00
House of Neighborly Service	\$25,000.00
JEDI Coalition	\$25,000.00
Larimer County Fire Fund	\$187,423.06
Murphy Center	\$34,000.00
Neighbor to Neighbor	\$30,000.00
North 40 Mountain Alliance Food Pantry	\$15,000.00
Partners	\$18,000.00
Poudre School District Foundation	\$40,000.00
Project Self-Sufficiency	\$15,000.00
Queen's Legacy Foundation	\$8,000.00
Respite Care Inc	\$18,000.00
Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center	\$38,000.00
The Family Center/La Familia	\$75,404.00
The Genesis Project	\$4,000.00
The Latino Dream	\$25,000.00
The Matthews House	\$119,406.10
Thompson School District	\$25,000.00
Thompson Valley Preschool	\$14,000.00
Unified Workforce	\$19,000.00
Vindeket Foods	\$8,000.00
Volunteers of America - Colorado	\$8,500.00
Yarrow Collective	\$20,000.00
YMCA of Northern Colorado	\$20,000.00

Our total grant allocations for FY 22-23 were \$1,152,869.31

Of this funding, \$161,295 specifically supported grassroots and community-led organizations focused on building equitable systems.



Strategic Investment and Evolution

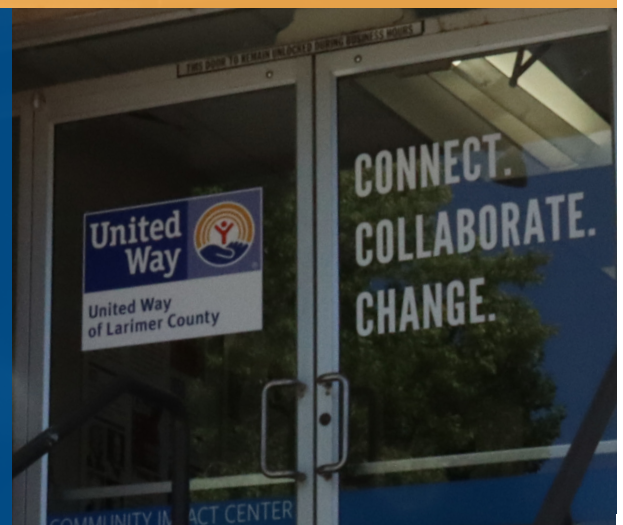
Since 1958, United Way of Larimer County has led philanthropy in our community, addressing both the needs of today and working to prevent the needs of tomorrow. One of the underlying issues we are focusing more of our attention on is connection and belonging. It is not a need that we often “see” or one that feels immediate, yet it affects us all. Especially among our most historically marginalized populations, our neighbors are feeling disconnected from our community and reporting that they don’t feel they belong.

Belonging: By-the-Numbers

- A psychological sense of belonging is a greater predictor of major depression than other factors commonly associated with depression, such as social support, conflict, and loneliness, according to a new University of Michigan School of Nursing study.
- Often “invisible,” feelings of isolation and lack of belonging are difficult to identify in physical symptoms, but a recent study published by the National Library of Medicine showed that we experience social exclusion in the same area of the brain as physical pain.
- In the 2021 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, the data tells a concerning story about the state of youth and lack of belonging in our state:
 - * 37% of genderqueer/nonbinary youth felt like they belong at their school, compared to 63% of their female peers and 69% of male peers.
 - * 49% of bisexual youth, 48% of gay/lesbian youth, and 48% of asexual youth felt like they belong at their school, compared to 71% of their heterosexual peers.
 - * 38% of transgender youth felt like they belong at their school, compared to 66% of their cisgender peers.
 - * 61% of Hispanic/Latino/a/x and Multiracial youth feel like they belong at their school, compared to 68% of their white peers.

United Way of Larimer County is committed to meeting youth where they are, investing in programs that improve their well-being, and specifically supporting LGBTQ+, youth of color, and other historically marginalized populations.

We are proud to spotlight two projects this year that we believe will create a better sense of belonging and connection here in Larimer County: the **Loveland Youth Campus and the **Community Impact Center**.**





Loveland Youth Campus

One of the most urgent needs in Larimer County right now is the **significant gap in affordable and accessible child care for children and families**. The Loveland Youth Campus is not only an investment in the lives of young people and the adults working hard to raise them, but it is a catalyst for what is possible when nonprofit organizations come together to leverage ideas and resources for the betterment of all.

In August 2023, we broke ground on the Loveland Youth Campus, located at 2500 E. 1st Street in Loveland. The location is already home to one of Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County's (BGCLC) flagship facilities. The Loveland Youth Campus will provide the opportunity to serve 350 youth per day, quadruple Teaching Tree's current available Loveland child care spots for infants and toddlers, and impact thousands of Loveland families. In addition to child care for children ages 0-5, and out-of-school care for youth ages 5-18, the Loveland Youth Campus will also provide wrap-around supports for individuals, families and youth such as:

- Teen development services (academic support, workforce readiness, and more)
- Mental health support for youth and families
- Food and basic needs distribution
- Family support services such as immigration assistance, housing and legal counseling, job training and placement opportunities

The Loveland Youth Campus was developed by 4 primary partners: Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County, United Way of Larimer County, Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center, and the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County. Additional partners, including ChildSafe, Loveland Youth Gardeners, SummitStone Health Partners, and more, will be joining the campus later this year.

- Thanks to our partners for bringing this vision to life: Buell Foundation, City of Loveland, Colorado Dept. of Human Services, Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, ENT Credit Union, Gates Family Foundation, Larimer County, Nutrien, SCHEELS, Senator Bennet, Woodward Charitable Trust

Visit www.lovelandyouthcampus.org to learn more or get involved.



Community Impact Center

United Way of Larimer County's Community Impact Center (CIC), located at 525 W. Oak Street in Fort Collins, offers rent-free or low-cost office space to grassroots and community-led organizations. By co-locating organizations with aligned missions, community members can access a broad array of services, and together, we are building a more connected community aspiring towards equitable outcomes.

A Place for Connection: Members in their own words

"This is a community. We need to know each other. We need to be able to cheer each other on. We protect each other's hearts and souls in order to sustain this work."

- Melissa Lozano, *Community Youth Advocate for Yarrow Collective*

"CIC has been a great fit because I have a space to work with many of these individuals in a safe place. Before the CIC space, I met clients at the library or coffee shop and this creates a more personal experience. My hope is that this community keeps growing. We can make it our own, a place for everyone, a safe place where we can share commonalities through our differences. United Way and this space have helped me fulfill my first-generation immigrant dream!"

- Karen Wong-Brown (she/her), *Founder of Unified Workforce*



Community Impact Center Spotlight: Queen X, Founder of Queen's Legacy Foundation

Born in Brooklyn, Queen relocated to Fort Collins 16 years ago and recalls feeling immediately marginalized. "Only when I got here did I really realize I was black," she said.

Thus began a lifelong passion for supporting her community through her Queen's Legacy Foundation (QLF). QLF aims to support the Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) community by assisting families in navigating complex systems and advocating on their behalf for change from the ground up. With the support of her foundation, individuals and families can receive government assistance, housing, mental health, and other benefits available to them, instead of being excluded or belittled in the process.



"All I know is the system. I was born to a teenage heroin addict, was in foster care, on section 8, receiving food stamps, on welfare," she said. "Now, 50 years later, I am still needing the system so clearly something is broken. Instead of being angry, I decided to use my voice, get on nonprofit boards, join community initiatives, and help create safe black and BIPOC spaces in Fort Collins."



Queen learned of the Community Impact Center two years ago when she participated in an equity cohort offered by United Way. The cohort offered training in essential nonprofit skills such as managing a Board, writing grants, and balancing financials. The cohort was run by experts of color.

"I was shocked that the woman training us was black," she said. "It made all the difference because she understood what it feels like to be a black woman in this area. It created an environment that felt authentic and uplifting."

"Before joining the Community Impact Center, I was operating out of my house," Queen said. "I had people sleeping on my bus, I was feeding and housing homeless people in my home, giving people rides to church or their appointments, doing whatever I could. I would apply for grants, but no one was offering actual space until now."



Queen has built an instant community at the CIC, using the shared spaces and resources to create close connections with her fellow members like The Yarrow Collective, a group offering trauma support for youth, Memories of Us, which offers grief counseling, and other nonprofit organizations supporting Larimer County's most under-resourced communities.

"We meet up in the break room and talk about our work and instantly we have a new idea for collaboration!" Queen shared. "Recently we created a training for youth athletes to speak about racism in sports. We work together so easily."

For Queen, this new location has dramatically expanded the awareness of her work and the number of people coming to her for support, but it's given her a renewed sense of purpose.

"I used to come to this building to get services myself for mental health, or physical abuse, or legal assistance," she said. "Now, every day I put my key in the door, and I realize this is my office and I am on the other side supporting people."





Events + Community Outreach

To increase awareness of our work and connect more with a broader range of community members across the county, we hosted Larimer United Celebrations in Estes Park, Loveland, and Fort Collins.

Beyond hosting UWLC-specific events, we were honored to serve as the fiscal sponsor for Juneteenth in Fort Collins, provide financial support to events coordinated by Heart and Sol in Loveland, and other cultural celebrations across the county. We hope to continue this regional outreach in the coming years as we seek to elevate the significant contributions of our diverse communities and increase connection, belonging, and joy across Larimer County.

Amplifying Advocacy

We know that working at all levels within the system creates the most significant impact for our community. United Way of Larimer County engages with decision-makers to advocate for legislation that directly affects our county. UWLC's public policy committee creates annual priorities to recommend to the board of directors that focus on three areas:

1. Organizational effectiveness, including nonprofit structure, fundraising mechanisms, etc.
2. Financial stability, with the most effort being towards housing
3. Youth and education with emphasis on early childhood education policy

In FY 2022-2023, UWLC took an active role in policy advocacy for housing and served as the fiscal agent and a founding member of One Voice for Housing, a coalition of all Fort Collins affordable housing developers, the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Collins Board of Realtors, and others seeking attainable housing in Fort Collins.

UWLC's Board of Directors endorsed the following legislation and ballot initiatives in FY 2022-2023:

- Fort Collins Land Use Code Updates
- Proposition 6E: Estes Park Lodging Tax Extension - this ballot initiative passed and will increase the Estes Park Lodging Tax to generate additional funding for workforce housing and child care options across the Estes Valley.
- Proposition 123 - this statewide ballot initiative passed and dedicates 0.1% of state income tax revenue to affordable housing programs, including aid to develop more housing and assistance for certain renters and home buyers.



Top 10 workplace campaigns (by revenue)

Nutrien
The Group, Inc.
Woodward
Broadcom
UCHealth
Platte River Power Authority
Xcel Energy
KeySight Technologies
High Country Beverage
FNBO

Workplace Giving Spotlight

Every year, we are inspired by the support of our Workplace Giving Partners, corporate partners of all sizes who dedicate the time and energy to create internal fundraising campaigns through events, competitions, or payroll deductions. As the most successful element of our annual fundraising efforts, the passion and effort these companies have to support United Way of Larimer County year after year is humbling, and we are thrilled to spotlight our Workplace Giving Award Winners from FY22-23.

Gratitude for Our Partners

Campaign Awards

Rising Star Award: In-Situ - Awarded to a company that has proven through employee volunteerism and employee giving to be a new community leader.

Spirit of Giving: KeySight Technologies - Awarded to the company with a significant increase in donors/donations/financial impact.

Leadership Giving Award: Plante Moran - Signifies a campaign with consistent employee donors, longevity of UWLC support, and hosting successful campaigns year over year.

All Star Award: High Country Beverage - Recipient gives of time AND money.

Coordinator of the Year: Gary Skiles and York, The Red Lion - Honors outstanding corporate campaign coordinators who exemplify volunteer leadership.

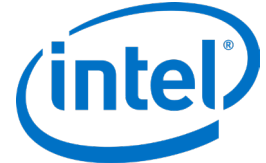
Campaign of the Year: Platte River Power Authority - Scores the most points based on the 12 criterion.

Hall of Fame – Dellenbach Motors and Ed Carroll Motor Company - Company or companies whose longevity of support puts them in as class all their own.

Cornerstone Partners

United Way of Larimer County's Cornerstone Partners invest directly in our internal operating and fundraising capacity so that individual donations can have the greatest impact on our programs and local nonprofit partners. Thank you to these Larimer County business leaders for their continued generosity.

Longs Peak



Mount Meeker



Horsetooth Rock

Bank of Colorado
Dellenbach Motors

Ed Carroll Motor Company
In-Situ
Kaiser Permanente

KUNC Colorado Sound
North Forty News
Odell Brewing CO

SCHEELS
Wawanesa Insurance

Reservoir Ridge

All Property Services
Anheuser-Busch

Color Pro
Cornerstone Home Lending

Encompass
HP

Madwire
Poudre Valley REA