Message from the Executive Director:

Dear Members and Supporters,

2018 was a year of collaboration and partnerships here at the Women’s Resource Center. We worked closely with Sexual Assault Services Organization and Planned Parenthood to plan and organize our Keys to High School Success program including facilitating one of the 12 different workshops that are offered to the 8th grade girls. We partner with Ignacio, Bayfield and Durango schools to transport the students to Fort Lewis College so they can participate the day of the conference. And, we couldn't pull off this program without the many volunteers who join us for a day filled with excitement and fun.

We continued our partnership with Bayfield Intermediate School by holding our Get Your Girl Power program for their 5th grade girls at the school. Some of the same facilitators for our KTHSS provide four workshops that day for these girls.

We work jointly with the Small Business Development Center at Fort Lewis College to facilitate our Small Business Consultations and with the Fort Lewis College Foundation to administer two of our scholarships.

Although we've partnered with the Durango Adult Education Center and the La Plata Family Center Coalition for many years, in 2018 we collaborated and wrote a grant proposal for funding from the Women’s Foundation of Colorado called Southwest Colorado Women’s Project. We were one of 12 direct service awardees and the only partner agencies who applied. We were chosen to participate in this grant to assist ten low-income women in becoming economically self-sufficient! This grant allowed us to work as a team by utilizing our expertise, networks and available resources to collectively expand opportunities for low-income women and to streamline the accessibility of resources and strategies. By funneling opportunities through a primary case manager from each agency rather than participants having three different case managers, we can streamline the process for the clients.

Our strong relationships with the many non-profits and businesses in our community makes for a stronger safety net for the many women (and a few men) and the girls we serve right here in La Plata County.

We couldn't provide the eight different programs in our community without your contribution of time, resources and financial assistance. You allow us in keeping our door open and give us the means to serve our community.

With gratitude,

Christy Schaerer
Executive Director
2018 Program Highlights

Resource and Referral
Imagine running out of money and not being able to purchase the insulin you need to survive…or finding yourself homeless after you and your children fled an abusive relationship…or dreaming of a higher education, but not having the money to attend? How would you feel? What would you do? Would you have the courage to ask for help? Some women do, and Women’s Resource Center (WRC) answers their calls through the Resource & Referral program, the cornerstone of our work, serving 1,260 clients in 2018 alone. From food bank referrals and affordable housing to domestic violence support and legal assistance, WRC proudly offers one of the most comprehensive and up-to-date resource databases in the region. Local women and girls (and a few men) enjoy the freedom of walking in without the constraint of an appointment, sharing their struggles and triumphs with our staff and volunteers, and obtaining the guidance, assistance, and enthusiastic support they need.

Keys to High School Success Conference
Having successfully satisfied its mission for 18 years in a row, the Keys to High School Success (KTHSS) program continues to help young women become more aware of the skills they’ll need to successfully negotiate life’s trials and tribulations so that those challenges don’t interfere with their education and ultimate career goals. During the 2018 conference, over 200 La Plata County eighth-grade girls participated in interactive, engaging workshops related to positive self-image, healthy relationships, advocacy, and the importance of graduating high school.

“Get Your Girl Power” Conference
Modeled after the powerful Keys to High School Success program, Get Your Girl Power takes a similar message to fifth grade girls in Bayfield, as they prepare to transition to the challenges of middle school. In a changing world where cyber bullying, body image expectations, academic pressures and unhealthy temptations bombard our youth, this program empowers young girls with knowledge, skills and tools to make healthy choices and stay in school.

Low Bono Program
Trying to navigate through the legal paperwork and court hearings surrounding divorce and custody cases can be downright overwhelming, and retaining an attorney is financially impossible for many people in our community. WRC’s Low Bono program provides clients with a one-hour consultation with a lawyer that specializes in family law for only $30. In 2018, this program helped 22 clients fill out court documents, become educated about their legal rights, understand court proceedings, and represent themselves with confidence. Beyond the Low Bono Program, the need for legal resources and services remained one of our biggest categories of need, with a total of 352 legal referrals last year.

Professional Development Coaching Program
Our Professional Development Coaching program matches professional coaches with women who are in a career transition or who want to take their professional development to the next level, and who want support and tools as they figure out what’s next in life. For a fraction of the normal cost of coaching, this program has transformed lives and catapulted numerous women in their careers, often lifting them into a living wage and pulling their families out of poverty. The program has helped over 30 women since its inception in 2015, and in 2018, five clients benefitted from coaching services. WRC is honored to have Tonya Ensign, Barbara Gormally, Mindy Meiering, and Kim Morton providing professional coaching for our clients.

Educational Opportunity Fund
The more education a woman attains, the greater her chances of earning a sustainable income, which allows her and her family to avoid the cycle of poverty for generations to come. Whether our clients are working toward a GED, bachelor’s degree, vocational education, or professional certification, our Educational Opportunity Scholarship program makes it possible for them to expand their knowledge and earn a living wage. WRC has awarded $118,102 since the program’s inception in 2012, and last year 11 women received a total of $10,282 in scholarship funds.
WOMENADE
As one of only a few emergency financial assistance programs in our county, Womenade is a grassroots program that provides direct assistance to normally self-sufficient community members who are struggling with an unexpected financial hardship. Every two months we invite donors and supporters to attend a gathering where applications are reviewed and money is collected in an effort to fund applicants. Since its inception in 2002, the program has awarded $184,789 to 463 individuals. In 2018 alone, 37 women were awarded a total of over $16,000.

2018 Fundraisers

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
In 2018, the WRC celebrated Women’s History Month and the national theme “Nevertheless She Persisted.” Events included a Chocolate & Wine Pairing, a special performance of “Five Women Wearing the Same Dress,” an Extraordinary Woman Award Dinner where we honored three local women, Eugenia (Geni) Miller, Lesley Lach, and Valerie Schwiderski, and several benefits hosted by female business owners in the community.

MEN WHO GRILL
Durango’s premier summer kick-off party was back again for the 15th year in Buckley Park. Even with the 416 Fire raging at the time, 8 teams and a couple hundred local people and tourists came out in support of WRC’s biggest fundraiser. This family-friendly event featured deliciously grilled creations, live music and good, clean fun. Men Who Grill has become a steadfast gathering that allows the community and local businesses to support women and girls in La Plata County.

THE DURANGO DOUBLE
The Durango Double integrated the local running and mountain biking communities in the Four Corners in 2018. The event included a challenging and scenic 10.8-mile trail run, a 17-mile mountain bike ride, live music and refreshments. Our friends and colleagues showed up in force to support this terrific fundraiser that benefits WRC.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
As the year winds down we look to the Annual Campaign to carry us through, and carry us through it did. In 2018, 205 individuals made donations toward our end-of-year fundraising effort with a total raised of over $43,000. With the support of our community and our dedicated volunteers, the door to the WRC will remain open for another year.
Dear Women's Resource Center Members,

For going on four years, I have had the distinct privilege of serving on the Board of Directors of the Women's Resource Center. I joined the Board wanting to support the extremely important services that the Center provides to women and families in La Plata County. Indeed, I myself had previously been a recipient of their services, specifically in the arena of starting a small business. Just like so many other women in our community, I knew that I would find direction by contacting the Center. During my tenure on the Board, I have been continually amazed by the depth and breadth of services and resources provided at the WRC by a small core of dedicated staff and volunteers. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our community, of local businesses and, most importantly, of individual members like you.

Listening to the stories of clients and the tremendous challenges they overcome fills me with awe at the tenacity, resourcefulness and creativity of these women. Their dedication to their families and to improving their future is truly inspiring. I have particularly enjoyed participating in the programs for school age girls aimed at preparing them to make healthy choices and advocate for themselves. It has also been a true pleasure to work with so many smart, creative, passionate board members and staff during my tenure on the Board.

A year ago, our community was sorely tested with the 416 Fire and the job losses and physical displacements that came with it. The WRC participated in a community-wide effort to help support those who were affected. The Center also suffered financially because one of our largest (and outdoor) fundraisers, Men Who Grill, took place during those smoke-filled weeks and attendance was well below average. Amazingly, all of you, our members, stepped up to the donation plate at the end of the year resulting in our best annual campaign ever to make up much of the deficit. We are eternally grateful for your ongoing support!

It has truly been an honor to be part of such an impactful organization. Please join me in continuing to support the Women's Resource Center so women in La Plata County can have a place to go for help when they need it. Our mission is to serve even more women and girls in our community, at all levels, and support them to achieve their highest potential.

With gratitude,
Kicki Searfus, President, Board of Directors 2018
MEMBERSHIP—2018 DONORS
When you become a member of the Women’s Resource Center, you not only help to empower women and girls to take control of their lives for the better, you help women and families find the resources they need to:

- Feed, shelter and clothe themselves and their families
- Get access to affordable and quality legal assistance
- Learn how to write an effective résumé and conduct a successful job search
- Find educational opportunities that promote personal and professional growth

LIFETIME MEMBERS
Betty Haskell (In Memoriam)
Barbara Shore
Candice Carson and George Banker
Carol Salomon and Norman Broad
Cissy & John Anderson
Diane Wildfang & Kirk Komik, Rochester Hotel
Durango Sports Club
Elizabeth “Bette” Serzen, in husband Russ’ memory
Enid and Herb Brodsky
Erteszek Family Foundation
Gail Aalund
JM Jones & Jim Mohle
Jessie Morgan
Lenora Tracy
Lloyd B. Lifton, M.D.
Lucia & the late Charles Jenney M.D.
Lynn Gray
Maria & Patrick Vaughn
Mindy & Patrick Meiering
Morley Ballantine (In Memoriam)
Nancy Henry-Lasley
Polly Garner & Bill Vega
Richard and Mary Lyn Ballantine
Susan Lander
Terry Bacon and Debra Parmenter

GUIDING MEMBERS
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Carolyn Moller and David Smith
Cathy & David Sanders
Deborah Uroda
Elizabeth Blumenfeld
Gail Aalund
Jill Schuman
Karen Thompson and Larry Eads
Kim Martin
Ljuba Lemke
Lynn Gallati & Martin Cagan
Martie Maloney
Mary Husemoller
Melyssa Watson & Brian O’Donnell
Meryl Fischer
Michelle Hemingway
Moni (Ann) Grushkin
Robert & Emily Therrell
Vallecito Service League

INSPIRING MEMBERS
Carol and Ron Ozaki
Circle of Dreams
Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado
Deborah Sussex
Debra Parmenter
Eric Kiesel
Fresh Off the Press
Gina Santoro
James and Claudia Milner
Janet Plosser
Joe & Debbie Bishop
Kirsten Seafus
Laura Addington
Laurel Schaffer
Liz Mora
Lynn Cole
Margaret Ackerman
Margie Deane Gray
Mary Nowotny
Mary Lyn and Richard Ballantine
Mindy & Patrick Meiering
Phyllis Max

ROLE MODEL MEMBERS
Four Corners OBGYN
Advanced Concrete Solutions
Carol Salomon and Norman Broad
James Foster
Julianne Ward & Ed Lehner
Patrick & Maria Vaughn
Petra Hinke
Sue & Dick Griffith
The Sharma Foundation
Robert & Jennifer Carney
Specialists in Women’s Care, PC
Stephens Parker & Geni Miller
Susan Sanders
Susanna Westerwick
Timothy Hanagan
Tom-Ann Casey
Tracy Cornutt

(INSPIRING MEMBERS cont.)

Robert & Jennifer Carney
Stephens Parker & Geni Miller
Susan Sanders
Susanna Westerwick
Timothy Hanagan
Tom-Ann Casey
Tracy Cornutt

EMPOWERING MEMBERS

Andrea Katres
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Anita Rancatti
Ann Stringfellow
Anne Putnam
Anne Swisher
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Barbara Martin
Barbara McLachlan
Barbara Morrison
Barbara Shore
Becky Surmeier
Beta Sigma Phi
Beth Henchel
Beth McMacken
Bette Ralph
Brady, Brett, Kyle & Mason Rowland
Carla Marie Toth
Carol Appelbaum
Cathy Alfandre
Christina Rinderle
Christine Monk
Christine Rachlin
Chuck & Cheryl Carson
Claudia Sprowsco
Connie Gordon
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Eileen Waterbach
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Ginny Brown
Grant Richards
Henry Matthew
Jack Morrison
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Jean Van sickle
Jennifer Nelson
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Kathleen Shadell
Kathy Black
Katrina Roberts
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Leah and Perry Pahlmeyer
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Lilly Burkett
Lisa Barrett
Lynne Sholler
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Marchell Fletcher
Margaret Simon
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Mary O’Donnell
Mary Patterson
Mary Wagner
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Melanie McLean
Melissa Glick
Mike and Joan Russell
Mitchell Haeuszer
Molly Martin
Nanci Moore
Nancy Ottman
Nancy Uhl
Naomi Marty
Nicki Massicon
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Patricia Hall
Patti Zink
Penny O’Keefe
Peter Norton and Judy Hodges
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S.A. Davies
Sally Bellerue
Sandra Berman-LaFrance
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Shauna Agnew
Shelley Leader
Sheri R. Rochford Figgs
Skyhorse Saddle Co
Steve Elias

(EMPOWERING MEMBERS cont.)

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Susan Kroes
Susan Moss
Susan and Wayne Caplan
Tekla Miller
The Colorado Health Foundation
There’s No Place Like Home, Inc.
Thomas Staatz
Tim Miller
Tom and Maggie Cowing
Vantiv Services Company
Whitnie Stopani
William Allred

ADVOCATE MEMBERS

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Angeline Faye Schrater
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Ann Willard
Annie McGraw
Antoinette Nowakowski
Arden Westerwick
Barb Gysel
Barb Horn
Bonnie Schmidt-Cabrera
Brooke Goulding
Calixto Cabrera
Carol & Bob Simmons
Catherine & Louis Kiene
Catherine Cathy Craig
Chelsea Farmer
Christy & Gerry Schaerer
Cindy Coleman
Claudia Rebne
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Deb Ruddell
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Ellen and Jim Cunningham-Morgan
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Kim Morton
Kristin Nielsen
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Leslie Wigley
Linda Mannix
Lisa Costello
Marcia Sabeti
Margaret Susan Peterson
Margo & Ernest Cotton
Marlene Gebhardt
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Maureen B Keilty
Merida Odiorne
Micah Juntenun
Michelle Reott
Myoung Lee
Nancy and Robert Whitson
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Peggy Cloy
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Rose Niederauer
Sharon Carroll
Sharon Hargett
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Susan Lyons
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Jana & Larry Goldstein
Kathy Redford
Katy Pepinsky
Leesa Gawlik
Marcia Clouser
Margaret & Ronald Ochsenreiter
Marsha Porter Norton
Maura Demko
Pattie Adler

(ADVOCATE MEMBERS cont.)
Peg Ochsenreiter
Sherrod Beall
Sonja Hecker
Tammy Tyner
Timothy Wheeler

JOIN US!
Donate to the Women’s Resource Center and Become a Member

WHAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS:

☐ $1,000 Role Model Member: Supports the cost of one woman receiving an educational scholarship

☐ $500 Guiding Member: Supports the cost of seven girls attending our educational conferences

☐ $250 Inspiring Member: Supports the cost of one day as an open door center

☐ $100 Empowering Member: Supports the cost of one Low Bono appointment

☐ $50 Advocate Member: Supports one hour of professional coaching

Name____________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
City:_____________________________  St.:_______
Zip: ____________  Phone:_____________________
Email:____________________________________________

(please include email so you can receive our newsletter and updates.)

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE A DONATION AT:
www.wrcdurango.org
Questions? Email members@wrcdurango.org for more information or call the Center at 970-247-1242
Mail this form and payment to:
Women’s Resource Center
679 E. 2nd Ave. #6
Durango, CO 81301
Program & Event Sponsors
Corporate and Individual Sponsorships of the Women’s Resource Center programs and fund-raising events gives businesses the opportunity to gain valuable publicity before an engaged and caring audience: women and men who support the Women’s Resource Center. We’d like to thank all who participated in these sponsorships in 2018.

Program & Operation Grants
Durango Area Assm of REALTORS – Operations
The Schramm Foundation – Operations
Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado – Operations
George W. Hopper Family Foundation – Keys to High School Success
La Plata Electric Association, Inc. – Keys to High School Success
Colorado Bar Association / Denver Bar Association – Low Bono
United Way – Resource & Referral
Crawford Taylor Foundation – Resource & Referral
Sam S. Bloom Foundation – Resource & Referral
Ballantine Family Fund – Resource & Referral
Anschutz Family Foundation – Resource & Referral
Coutts & Clark Western Foundation – Educational Opportunity Fund

Program Sponsorships
Bank of the San Juans – Resource & Referral
Durango Education Foundation – Keys to High School Success
Durango Motor Company – Resource & Referral
Larry & Elizabeth Crawford Family Foundation – Educational Opportunity Fund
Four Corners Community Bank – Resource & Referral
Kiwanis Club of Durango – Keys to High School Success
Kroegers Ace Hardware – Resource & Referral
Munchkin Kids Mart – Resource & Referral
The Moniker Foundation – Educational Opportunity Fund
Toyota Dealer Match Program – Resource & Referral

Event Sponsorships
3D Corporation – Men Who Grill
Advanced Concrete Solutions – Men Who Grill
Alpine Bank – Women’s History Month
Backcountry Experience – Men Who Grill
Bank of Colorado – Men Who Grill
Christina Erteszek – Women’s History Month
Durango Double – Durango Double organizers
Ethan Wilkinson – Men in Heels
Coldwell Banker – Women’s History Month
La Plata Electric Association, Inc. – Men Who Grill
Lile Brothers dba El Rancho Tavern – Men Who Grill
Pathways Physical Therapy – Women’s History Month
Relove Design and Consign, LLC – Women’s History Month
Southwest Appliance Inc. – Men Who Grill
Sunnyside Farms Market, Inc. – Women’s History Month
Sunshine Gardens – Women’s History Month
Think Network Technologies – Women’s History Month
Title Durango, LLC – Men Who Grill
Wendy Most – Women’s History Month

Mad grilling skills on display at our Men Who Grill event in June.

WRC supporters enjoying our Chocolate & Wine Pairing event during Women’s History Month.
Jody’s story

She scooped her sleeping son up in her arms, walked swiftly toward the front of the house, and gently placed her ear to the outside door. Several seconds passed as she listened intently to determine if it was safe enough to leave. Her husband had forgotten to take her purse with him into the bedroom, as he usually did to prevent her escape. Her son began to stretch and open his eyes. This was it, the time was now. She had to escape before her husband realized his mistake, and before her son let out a groggy cry. She carefully turned the knob, pulled open the door, and slipped outside…and then she began to run!

Jody and her son escaped with the clothes on their backs, the contents of her purse, and a vehicle to take them far away. With the help of a good friend, they arrived in Durango late at night and checked into the local women’s shelter. The next morning, Jody began working feverishly toward their new life.

In the six months since Jody’s escape, WRC has helped her obtain health insurance, find affordable housing, enroll her son in childcare, secure employment, put food on the table, pay her car insurance, and seek the mental health assistance that she needs to heal from the domestic violence she endured. Jody has a tenacious work ethic and has used her drive to persistently move forward and find the resources she needs to create a life that is safe, joyous and free. The Women’s Resource Center provided the financial boost she needed to succeed. While Jody is not yet entirely self-sufficient, she is well on her way!

“To stay positive, even with the challenges I’m facing, I simply have to remember that I’m lucky to be alive.”
~ Jody

Client Demographics
Volunteers
In 2018, 295 volunteers donated 2,719 hours of service for WRC in the office, for our programs and working hard at fundraisers and events.

The Center is lucky to have a handful of longtime volunteers who commit their time on a weekly basis to help us woman the phones, assist clients who come through the door and keep the office running smoothly despite having only three full-time staff.

Staff and Key Volunteers
Christy Schaerer, Executive Director
Tammy Tyner, Program & Marketing Director
Kelly DiGiacomo, Special Event Coordinator
Judy Abercrombie, Bookkeeper
Shauna Agnew, Volunteer Office Support
Sue Griffith, Volunteer Office Support
Barb Shore, Volunteer Office Support
Liz Blumenfeld, Volunteer Office Support
Judie Watson, Volunteer Office Support
Beth Henchel, Volunteer Office Support
Lisa Reed, Volunteer Office Support
Caren Smart, Volunteer Office Support
Laura Aldrich, Volunteer Office Support
Barbara Erkkila, Volunteer Office Support

Women's Resource Center Advisory Board
Carol Salomon
Debra Parmenter
Julie Ward
Margie Deane Gray
Martha Minot
Phyllis Max
Susan Lander

Board of Directors 2018
Dr. Kicki Searfus, President
Physician, Mountain View TLC

Dr. Michelle Hemingway, Past President
Physician, Namaste Health Center

Jennifer Bassignani, Vice President
Human Resource Director, Conservation Lands Foundation

Kristin Nielsen, Secretary
Director of Sales & Marketing, Double Tree Hotel

Anita Rancatti, Treasurer
Retired, Xerox Finance Director

Nancy Ottman
Ticketing Services Manager, Ft. Lewis Community Concert Hall

Petra Hinke
Marketing Consultant

Lisa Barrett
Retired, Educator

Katrina Roberts

Office: 679 E 2nd Ave. Unit 6, Durango, CO 81301  Phone: 970-247-1242  Fax: 970-247-8722  Web: www.WRCdurango.org
UPCOMING 2019 FUNDRAISERS

Men in Heels

Thursday
September 5, 5:30pm

Men competing in the first annual Men in Heels event.

Learn more at: WRCdurango.org

Benefiting Women's Resource Center & Gena Rych Scholarship Fund

2019 Annual Campaign

Help us keep the doors open in 2020, by donating to our Annual Campaign!

Visit www.WRCdurango.org and click on DONATE.

WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER

679 E 2nd Ave, #6
Durango, CO
970-247-1242

ADVOCATE | EDUCATE | EMPOWER