People often tell us they get involved with one of the many programs or events hosted by the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation because they want to give back to the community, and they know the Leadership Foundation is the place to gain the skills and connections needed to find solutions to issues facing Colorado.

This desire to give back and pay it forward was on our minds when we convened in November 2012 to consider how we, as a Leadership Foundation board, could accelerate the Foundation’s mission and increase our impact on the region. After many productive hours of focused discussion with the remarkably talented and dedicated community leaders on our board, our strategic planning for the next five years began to take shape around one simple, profound idea: GIVE.

The four key focus areas within Vision 2017—captured by the GIVE acronym—build on the Leadership Foundation’s long history of success in developing strong, enduring community leadership. But they also raise the bar on our commitment to our mission and the community:

**GROWTH**—We will strengthen organizational capacity to support growth.

**IMPACT**—We will be thought leaders, leading conversations and convening individuals to implement solutions to critical challenges facing our community.

**VISIBILITY**—We will increase awareness of the Leadership Foundation in the broader community and communicate the meaningful impact and civic engagement of alumni.

**ENGAGEMENT**—We will create pathways for continued civic engagement and leadership development for alumni and new stakeholders and leaders.

This year, we have organized our report to highlight these four key areas so that you can see how we are working toward our vision for the Leadership Foundation to truly GIVE back—and lead—as we build stronger communities for a better Colorado.

Dan Lewis
2012-13 Board Chair
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation

Tameka Montgomery
Executive Director
Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation
THE LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE

VISION
Inspiring a diverse community of leadership to improve Colorado.

MISSION
Providing content, context and access to inspire leaders to engage in issues critical to the region’s success.

VALUES
• Cooperative, collaborative relationships
• Inclusivity and diversity of perspective
• Dedication to quality
• Commitment to volunteerism

VISION 2017
Vision 2017 lays the foundation for greater service to the community and builds on our strong history of excellence.

GROWTH
We will strengthen organizational capacity to support growth

IMPACT
We will be thought leaders, leading conversations and convening individuals to implement solutions to critical challenges facing our community

ENGAGEMENT
We will create pathways for continued civic engagement and leadership development for alumni and new stakeholders and leaders

VISIBILITY
We will increase awareness of the Leadership Foundation in the broader community and communicate the meaningful impact and civic engagement of alumni
In its 39th year, Leadership Denver continued to connect a diverse group of leaders and guide them on a path where they learn about the issues facing the region and use what they have learned to become agents of change.
The Leadership Denver (LD) 2013 class has begun to make an impact in the community by working on its class project: to see Denver Kids through its Vision 2020 Initiative. The initiative aims to increase Denver Kids’ graduating class to 20 percent of the total expected Denver Public Schools graduates who live in poverty and in single-guardian households—or approximately 425 students by the school year 2020-21.

Engaging the class on civic issues was highly effective: 93 percent of LD ’13 graduates felt the program expanded their knowledge base. The group partook in a number of experiences that illustrated important issues in the region. Among these experiences was an in-depth discussion with members of the Metro Mayors Caucus to learn about regional collaboration. Participants also explored inclusivity with Denver City & County Human Resources Executive Director Nita Mosby Henry, and, as part of a larger discussion on economic development, visited Sierra Nevada in Louisville to test-land the Dream Chaser.

LD ’13 graduates who felt the program offered experience that would be applicable in their current jobs.

“How I understand how important it is to be a civic leader in the community. My professional career is important to me, but now my civic responsibility is equally important. I will engage more in the needs of my community through the experiences I had from Leadership Denver.”

– Judson Robertson, Director, Stream Realty
The Leadership Exchange has convened Denver’s prominent business and civic leaders for 24 years, exploring innovations and best practices of other cities around the nation. In 2012, 150 delegates traveled to Austin, taking in the city’s unique charm and learning about its vibrant tech and creative economies. LEX strengthens the collective vision and collaboration among leaders in our state.
$4.35 BILLION

generated by Austin’s creative class—including musicians, gamers, filmmakers and fashion designers.

“The best, most creative things you ever come up with happen when you’re looking at another city’s great idea, and it makes you think about something completely different, but you come up with an idea you wouldn’t have had if you hadn’t been in that other environment.”

– Governor John Hickenlooper

HOW WE GIVE:

Delegates were most impacted by Austin’s authentic brand, conveyed through both clear and cohesive messaging and direct experience in the community. In early 2013, members of the Austin delegation connected with Colorado Chief Marketing Officer Aaron Kennedy on the state’s efforts to develop a statewide brand and worked to elevate our state’s visibility.
Impact Denver provides an introduction to civic leadership, offering a spark to kick-start community involvement.

“Volunteers from our Impact Denver team exhibited such passion, generosity and dedication to our organization and our clients. The team’s exceptional work in developing the mobile food pantry feasibility study will boost our organization into the next century! The team’s outstanding leadership efforts, production and presentation delivery of the mobile pantry feasibility study went above and beyond our expectations. Due to their generosity, more and more impoverished seniors will be given the opportunity to experience sustaining resources and services to enhance and stabilize their lives.”

– Carol "CJ" Johnson and Paul Scheidig, Executive Director and Board President of the Senior Assistance Center
HOW WE GIVE:

The Impact Denver (ID) class divided into six project teams to make an impact on six organizations in six months.

At Bright Beginnings, an ID team worked to increase volunteers, updated the door-to-door marketing plan and collected more than $10,000 in donations.

At Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), an ID team increased organizational capacity by developing a more streamlined application process for volunteers and alumni, finding an intern and helping ELK justify a full-time volunteer coordinator.

At Mile High Montessori, an ID team moved more than two tons of dirt. They also completed an indoor planting session and craft activity at several sites. The project culminated with four outdoor garden installations.

At Ekar Farms, an ID team created a toolkit that included building site requirements and fundraising and marketing strategies. To kick off fundraising efforts for a pavilion, the team hosted a cocktail party and silent auction, garnering more than 75 new donor prospects and raising $2,500.

At Junior Achievement (JA) an ID team taught the diverse JA curriculum to more than 200 students in eight different schools. The team also completed a volunteer recruitment, retention, training and marketing-communication plan to assist JA with its high school volunteer recruitment gap, and they successfully recruited 11 new volunteers that started in the fall.

At the Senior Assistance Center (SAC), an ID team provided a feasibility study for a mobile food bank. The recommendations have the capacity to increase SAC’s impact by approximately 150 people per week.
For senior-level executives looking to become more civically engaged, the newly reframed Access Denver immerses participants in metro area issues in two days.
of Access Denver ’13 graduates felt they had the tools needed to engage in the community and deepen those connections.

“

The community benefits by having more leaders actively involved in the issues facing Denver. Individuals benefit from the relationships they form, the knowledge they gain and the renewed passions that rise, which drive them to give to the community.”

– Helen Wood, Director of Marketing, Tavern Hospitality Group

HOW WE GIVE:

For two days in April, Access Denver engaged 54 new, newly promoted and new-to-Denver senior-level executives with an exclusive introduction to the city’s business and community landscape. This year’s topics included economic development, energy, public-private partnerships, the challenges to producing an educated workforce, arts and cultural vitality and getting civically involved in metro Denver.
LEGACY DENVER

Legacy Denver is a forum for Denver’s business and community leaders to learn about issues of regional importance in a small group setting, to increase awareness and encourage problem solving.

THIS YEAR’S GROUPS WERE LED BY:

Vic Ahmed, CEO of BusinessGenetics and Founder/Chairman of Innovation Pavilion
Creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem: Who’s doing it best, and how can Colorado compete?

James Griesemer, Director of Strategic Issues Program at the University of Denver; Professor and Dean Emeritus at the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver
Architecture for immigration reform: How do we create a comprehensive immigration policy?

Jill Tietjen, President and CEO of Technically Speaking
Our failing infrastructure: How do we save our country—and Colorado—from collapse?

Cathey Finlon, retired Chair/CEO of McClain Finlon; retired President of the Denver Art Museum
Changing the community and yourself: How community service can make you a more effective business leader

Wellington Webb, former Mayor of Denver; Founder of Webb Group International
What makes a great city: How can political and civic engagement shape a city?

HOW WE GIVE:
Participants of the Legacy Denver program engaged on five important community issues and learned the importance of building consensus to move ideas and initiatives forward. In addition to gaining a deeper understanding of how state and local governments function, participants in Mayor Wellington Webb’s group completed a project to improve the vitality of Centennial Gardens in Denver.

“Engaging in community-focused (and broader) discussions with business and civic leaders showed me how many people are working to find their place in civic conversations.”
— Jill Hollingsworth, Director, Internal and External Communications, Molson Coors Brewing Company
COLORADO LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

The Colorado Leadership Alliance unites 12 collegiate undergraduate leadership training programs throughout the state. More than 200 students participated in CLA’s fourth annual Leadership Alliance Summit on January 26, 2013.

HOW WE GIVE:
Students committed to take action and make an impact by pledging to volunteer and model what they believe a leader is in their community. Students also engaged in interactive exercises that challenged them to research causes and develop solutions to address childhood obesity in Colorado.

60 COMMITMENTS TO ACT AT CLA SUMMIT

The Leadership Foundation, in partnership with the Boettcher Foundation, named Wayne Caudill II the 2013 CLA Student Leader of the Year. Caudill is a senior at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs in the Chancellor’s Leadership Class.
The Leadership Foundation’s annual fundraising event, the Celebrating Civic Leadership Luncheon, supports our efforts to foster civic trusteeship with Colorado’s established and emerging leaders. Christine Marquez-Hudson, CEO and Executive Director of the Mi Casa Resource Center, was honored as the 9NEWS Leader of the Year at the April 11, 2013, luncheon.
HOW WE GIVE:
More than 700 attendees were engaged and encouraged to get involved civically to create change in their communities. This event helps the Leadership Foundation raise its visibility among people who may not have experienced our organization.

$20,000 raised for the Leadership Foundation’s Emerging Leaders Scholarship Fund, including a $10,000 gift match from DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc.

“Inspiring action is about helping others, perfect strangers, believe the impossible is possible.”
~ Luncheon Keynote Speaker Luis Benitez, Adventurer and Eagle County Learning and Development Manager, Vail Resorts
Colorado in Context was a campaign designed to raise awareness, start conversations and ultimately inspire engagement to resolve regional issues. Colorado in Context addressed the areas of education, health and well-being and economic vitality.

HOW WE GIVE:

Colorado in Context, a one-year initiative, brought to light key challenges facing the state, the community’s perceptions of these challenges and the correlations among them. The Leadership Foundation refreshed our alumni’s passion, enriched the context with which we present these issues in our programs and showcased the work of our alumni to resolve these community challenges.

Utilizing our network of civic leaders, the Leadership Foundation briefed more than 250 community members with Colorado in Context to both educate and motivate our community to take action. We also shared key findings through a social media campaign to stir dialogue and action beyond our networks.
CATALYST LAB
This pilot program was launched on August 23, 2013, and engaged Leadership Foundation alumni in a design thinking approach to quickly create innovative solutions to critical issues facing our region.

“Whenever there’s a problem to solve, the solution is often determined by whoever is the most persuasive, has the highest status or the most experience. This is a ready-fire-aim method and often fails. Rapid prototyping is ready-aim-fire—a method that greatly improves the probability of implementing the right solution, the first time around.”
– Andy Seth, Catalyst Lab Facilitator and Managing Partner, LotusGroup Advisors

HOW WE GIVE:
Catalyst Lab challenged Leadership Foundation alumni to develop out-of-the-box solutions for issues faced by organizations working to reduce childhood obesity. The work was fast-paced and hands-on. It inspired our alumni to stay civically involved with matters central to our community’s health.

IN MEMORIAM
This year, the Chamber family lost an extraordinary advocate for our work. Robert Blankenship passed away on July 21, 2013, just a few days shy of his 57th birthday. Robert embodied the Leadership Foundation’s work in so many ways—he was a true community leader, a proponent of all things metro Denver and beyond and a catalyst for change in everything he did. His role with the Leadership Foundation was as a partner in both our operational and our programs world, but also as our biggest cheerleader and constant source of new ideas. In his honor, the Denver Metro Chamber, with funding from Chase Bank, will create the Robert R. Blankenship Heart Award, to be given every year at the Chamber’s State of the State event. We will miss Robert and all he gave to us. Donations can be made in his name on the Leadership Foundation website.
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS

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Alires Jean Almon
Alexis Anderson
Anne Gottlieb Angerman
Ron Ausmus
Angela Baier
David R. Ball
Justin W. Ball
M. Gregory Bante
Brad Baumgartner
Peter Beaupré
John Beeble
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Brendan McGuire
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Travis Webb
Wellington E. Webb
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Theo Wilson
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2012–2013
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André van Hall
Jamie Van Leeuwen, Senior Policy Advisor/Director of Community Partnerships to Governor Hickenlooper, State of Colorado
Travis Webb, Managing Partner, Colorado, BKD, LLP
Bert Williams, President, UMB Bank Colorado
Tami Young, President, AdvenTech

“Vision 2017 was a major leap forward and those words came from this board. This is a strong vision built by the board.”
– Dan Lewis, 2012-13 Board Chair
2012–2013 LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION DONORS

$25,000 and Above
9News
Boettcher Foundation
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Kaiser Permanente
Molson Coors Brewing Company
PCL Construction Enterprises, Inc.

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Bryan Cave
Comcast
DaVita HealthCare Partners, Inc.
Frontier Airlines
IMA Financial Group
Lockton Companies, LLC
Mile High United Way
Polisnelli PC
U.S. Bank
UMB Bank
UnitedHealthcare
University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus
Xcel Energy

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American Red Cross Mile High Chapter
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Ulcca Hansen
University of Colorado Hospital
University of Denver - University College
University Physicians, Inc.
Urban League of Metro Denver
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Western Union
Western Union Foundation

GROWTH IMPACT VISIBILITY ENGAGEMENT
2012-2013 REVENUE AND INVESTMENTS

REVENUE SOURCES

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INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

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LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION TEAM

Back row:
Dave Suss, Senior Operations Manager
Mara MacKillop, Program Coordinator
Amanda Melroy, Office Coordinator
Denise King, Senior Program Manager
Sara Crocker, Communications and Marketing Manager

Front row:
Brittany Winkfield, Marketing and Events Coordinator
Kirsten Vermulen, Program Manager
Tameka Montgomery, Executive Director
Jenna Farley, Alumni Engagement Manager

Not pictured: Melissa Viola
ACCESS DENVER 2013
Co-chairs:
Travis Webb, Managing Partner, Colorado, BKD, LLP
Bert Williams, President, UMB Bank Colorado
Joseph Adams, EKS&H
Craig Anderson, UMB Financial Corporation
William Anderson, Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital
Linda Arneson, Delta Dental of Colorado
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Randy Haffner, Porter Adventist Hospital
Mark Herman, BBVA Compass
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Lindy Hinman, Colorado Health Benefit Exchange
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Mark Potter, Metropolitan State University of Denver
Ned Rule, First Eagle Investment Management
Leslie Russell, Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.
Scott Sampson, Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Roy Schwalm, IHS, Inc.
Abram Sloss, Small Business Development Center
Mike Spaulding, Comcast Mile Hi Region
Joanne Tabellija-Murphy, MillerCoors
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Jenn Webster, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce
Clancy Wells, Asian Chamber of Commerce
Chris Wilt, Grant Thornton LLP
Helen Wood, Tavern Hospitality Group

IMPACT DENVER 2013
Co-chairs:
GG Johnston, Principal, Be Intentional, LLC
Kristin Todd, Senior Vice President, Daniels Fund
Drew Bauer, Grant Thornton LLP
Lauren Benjamin, Intraxal, LLC
Katharine Bernuth Brenton, Mi Casa Resource Center
Leah Brinka, Executive Forum
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April Giles, Colorado BioScience Association
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Christina Hemphill, Pioneers
Barbara Jacobs, RxMechanical, Inc.
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Paul J. Kaiser, EKS&H
Nikki Kubly, BKD LLP
Monica Kumar, Disney and ESPN Media Networks
Matthew S. Larson, Ireland Stapleton Pryor & Pascoe, P.C.
Colin Laughlin, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Eric Joseph Laury, Minor & Brown, P.C.
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