

style

When the going gets tough, Coloradans keep giving

By Joanne Davidson
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Marilyn Van Derbur Adler. (David Zalubowski, Special to The Denver Post)

Don't let the downward-pointing arrows on the financial-page graphics fool you: Retail sales, the housing market and the Dow Jones continue to circle the drain, but charitable giving shows definite signs of life.

At least in Colorado. Here are some recent examples of gifts from individuals and groups alike:

- Officials at Roundup River Ranch announced that a \$1 million pledge from Denver architect

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John Gates and his sister, Diane Gates Wallach, brings to \$16.2 million the \$20 million that needs to be raised before ground is broken on an 85-acre camp near Dotsero that will provide free, week-long wilderness experiences for the estimated 35,000 children in the Rocky Mountain region that have a serious or life-threatening medical condition or illness. Gates and Wallach made the gift through the Gates Frontier Fund that was started by their late parents, Charles C. and June Swaner Gates of the former Gates Rubber empire. Roundup River Ranch is part of the Hole in the Wall network of camps established by the late actor Paul Newman. Earlier, South Dakota billionaire Denny Sanford offered to match every contribution up to \$7 million, and \$750,000 was received from Pete and Pat Frechette of Beaver Creek and Minneapolis.

- At its annual Celebration of Philanthropy held last month in Fort Collins, the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado revealed that the late Doyle and Luvesta Jones had bequeathed \$2 million to their hometown of Berthoud. The money, which Mayor Tom Patterson calls "an absolute godsend," is to be distributed, at an approximate rate of \$100,000 a year, to several nonprofit agencies and to build a community recreation center. The Community Foundation itself celebrated the fact its revenues had a significant uptick: \$6.3 million in 2008, up from the previous year's \$5.5 million.

- Contributions to the Denver Foundation, says president David Miller, totaled \$61 million in 2008, enabling the foundation to distribute

approximately \$1 million a week to area nonprofits.



David Miller. (David Zalubowski, Special to The Denver Post)

- Philanthropists John and Carrie Morgridge, through their family foundation, just gave \$500,000 to Mile High United Way to fund Reading Plus, a child literacy program offered in public libraries and private, charter and public schools throughout the state.

- David Lazaroff, an Internet technology expert and founder of Holistic Community Living, has given \$400,000 of his own money to help build the first of a planned network of assisted-living homes. Lazaroff expects the homes, the first of which is to be built in Denver's University Hills

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neighborhood, will become a model for care that is humanitarian, spiritual, social and holistic in nature for the elderly and frail. To raise additional money for the project, he is hosting an Eat Dessert First on June 13 at the Mercury Cafe.

- The Latino Community Foundation of Colorado, in conjunction with the national Hispanics in Philanthropy, has awarded grants totaling \$227,500 to strengthen 14 organizations across the state that are led by and serve Latinos.

- Rose Community Foundation recently made \$1.1 million in one-time, unsolicited grants to 65 area nonprofits. Recipients include the Colorado chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Clinica Tepeyac, Denver Academy of Torah, Jefferson Center for Mental Health and Project Angel Heart.

- And, for its annual Celebration of Achievement, an awards dinner at which former Miss America Marilyn Van Derbur Atler was the keynote speaker, Family Tree sold 50 more tickets than it did for the 2008 edition, boosting overall revenue by 44 percent. The Wheat Ridge-based agency serves those struggling to overcome child abuse, domestic violence and homelessness.

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