

## **Notes from the Non-Profit Organization Network Meeting**

February 9, 2010, 4p – 6p, Ross Aragon Community Center

*The Non-Profit Organization Network Meeting is hosted by the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce. It is with hope and vision that these meetings continue under the guise of a networking program of the Chamber of Commerce to strengthen the vital social infrastructure of our community – the non-profit organization.*

Introductions of all in attendance were made.

Deanna Devereaux is the Southwest Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) event coordinator. She revamped Rural Philanthropy Days: RPD is a program of the Colorado Resource Center and is made possible with continued support from the Anschutz Foundation. **RPD is an event that will bring millions of dollars to our communities** through non-profit and local government interaction with funders in the Colorado Front Range. RPD is held once every four years in different parts of the state – 54 of Colorado's 64 counties are rural in nature and an RPD event is held twice a year in rural communities around the state. Southwest RPD includes five counties – Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

In FY05-08, the thirteen core RPD funders invested nearly \$9 million dollars in the five counties of Southwest Colorado: \$8,798,384 through 434 grants made to nonprofits in the region.

More information available here: <http://southwestrpd.org/aboutrpd.htm> and here: <http://southwestrpd.org/whobenefits.htm>

Deanna outlined the most effective way for 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and local governments to participate are to be fully invested in the event. This means attending the **pre-event training scheduled to be held in Pagosa Springs (location TBD) on May 18, 2010 from 1p – 4p.**

The RPD event will be held for the first time outside of La Plata County in Mancos, Colorado on June 9-11, 2010. For more information, there is a website: [www.southwestrpd.org](http://www.southwestrpd.org).

Only 2 people per 501(c)3 organization will be able to attend. Early bird registration for the event will begin sometime in March 2010. Go to the website and sign up for the e-mail notification to know exactly when registration opens. A list of funders will be made to those who register!

More detail was given about the event including the capacity building day on Thursday, dine-around Thursday night and Round Table on Friday.

**IF YOU RECEIVED FUNDING THAT YOU CAN ATTRIBUTE TO PARTICIPATION IN PREVIOUS RPD EVENTS – PLEASE SEND YOUR STORY TO ME. YOU WILL RECEIVE FREE PR!**

*From Michael Whiting – please involve yourself in our local governments' creation of the new Community Development Corporation (CDC). This organization has the ability to create capacity and funding resources in our county if it is done correctly.*

### **Committee Updates**

Community Profile Committee:

In addition to each individual non-profit's preparation for the event, intensive time goes into creation of a community profile. This brief snapshot of Archuleta County describes our communities most pressing needs and how each non-profit is rallying around those needs. This may include collaborative partnerships and innovative ideas from the non-profit communities. **Funders also want to see how local governments are supporting non-profits in addressing these identified issues.**

Some ideas for fact checking were provided to the committee that included:

- Checking Mark Udall's and Mike Bennett's websites for needs analysis
- Review Archuleta County's 2008 Housing Needs Assessment

Networking and Outreach Committee:

This committee is busy compiling a complete list of contact information for Pagosa area non-profits and will start to formulate a strategic outreach plan to get both nonprofits and elected officials to represent at RPD.

Need to get list to update new Pagosa area nonprofit website:  
[www.pagosanonprofit.com](http://www.pagosanonprofit.com)

### **The actions that were the take-away for this meeting include:**

1. Community Profile Committee Chair - Robbie Schwartz  
([hsdirector@centurytel.net](mailto:hsdirector@centurytel.net))
  - a. deadline to finish Community Profile is February 18, 2010. Contact Robbie for next meeting date.
2. Networking and Outreach Committee Chair – Julie Simmons  
([chijulie@centurytel.net](mailto:chijulie@centurytel.net))
  - a. next meeting is February 16, 2010, discussion will be on outreach and the [www.pagosanonprofit.com](http://www.pagosanonprofit.com) website
3. The next Non-Profit Organization Network Meeting will be a brown bag lunch taking place on March 10, 2010 from 12p – 1p at the Ross Aragon Community Center.