

RYDER'S FUND

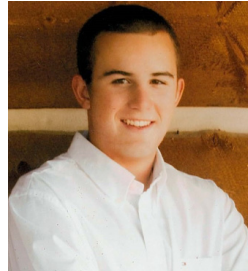
ONE BY ONE



Winter 2021 Newsletter | RydersFund.org | Ryder's Fund is Administered by the YMCA of Northern Colorado Endowment Committee

ORIGIN OF RYDER'S FUND

On January 17, 2016, our 20 year old son, Ryder, went missing. It was a parent's worst nightmare. In the following days, weeks and months, hundreds of people searched thousands of acres in the vast and rugged Walker Ranch area west of Boulder. Mercifully, after 1 ½ years, on July 29, 2017, Ryder's remains were found and we were able to bring him home, say goodbye and have some sense of closure. In this tragic shared experience, we witnessed the goodness in people and greatness in our community. Ryder was a warm, caring and empathetic person so it seemed that Ryder's Fund was a fitting way to honor those qualities and begin to give back for a greater purpose. It is from this place that Ryder's Fund was created to enhance the healthy development of young people in our community and assist them in meeting life's challenges. —Rick and Cindy Johnson



There are several elements of our vision for Ryder's Fund, including schools/education, law enforcement, specialized service providers, faith community and youth programs.

CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP WITH RISE AGAINST SUICIDE

In recognition of a growing problem in Colorado, Ryder's Fund has teamed up with Rise Against Suicide to attempt to decrease the incidence of suicide by removing financial and social barriers to treatment for at-risk youth. According to a recent report by the United Health Foundation, Colorado's teen suicide rate increased 58% from 2016 to 2019 (the national rate increased 25% over the same period), with male teenagers more than twice as likely to complete suicide than female teens. Suicide is the leading cause of death in the 10-24 year-old age group in Colorado. The Rise Against Suicide program takes referrals of uninsured or underinsured youth suffering from depression or suicidal ideation and helps match those young people and their families with licensed therapists within 24 hours.



"...We know suicidal youth do not have the luxury of waiting to see a therapist."

Boulder Community Health Foundation has funded grants to Rise to provide at-risk youth with up to 8 free therapy sessions. Ryder's Fund has stepped in to cover those situations where extended sessions (beyond 8) are necessary for continued counseling and treatment. During the pandemic, the demand for mental health care increased significantly for our youth. Children's Hospital in Denver declared a state of emergency due to significant increases in mental health emergency room visits. In the last year, Rise funded 1,111 mental health therapy sessions, which is the most Rise has ever funded in a year. Last year many of the youth served needed to expand beyond 8 sessions. Rise funded 175 additional sessions totaling \$14,540 and the grant from Ryder's Fund covered 79 of these additional sessions. Jenna Clinchard, Executive Director of Rise, stated: "Many young people and their families could not find mental health therapists with immediate availability, and we know suicidal youth do not have the luxury of waiting to see a therapist. We cannot thank Ryder's Fund enough for its continued partnership and belief in our program."

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS DONATED TO THE YMCA

Everyone deserves an opportunity to have teammates, to score a goal and to learn a new skill. Youth sports teach so many life lessons and nurture character traits that are vital long into adulthood. That is why Ryder's Fund has donated the first \$10,000 in scholarships to the YMCA of Northern Colorado's youth sports programs. From basketball to hockey to soccer, thousands of children each year enjoy YMCA Sports in Boulder County and beyond, giving children in need opportunities to learn about teamwork and hard work, sportsmanship and sports-specific skills. "Each and every day, local children are impacted by YMCA Sports," said YMCA of Northern Colorado CEO Chris Coker. "It is because of champions like Ryder's Fund that our programs continue to be accessible to all families. This donation will bring a tremendous amount of joy to children in our communities."



BOLDER BUFFS CONTINUE WORK ON MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS FOR CU STUDENT-ATHLETES

CU Athletics and, in particular, Psychological Health and Performance (PHP), with support from Ryder's Fund, continue to provide mental health services and support to CU student-athletes. The Bolder Buffs, a peer-support group of student-athletes, began meeting in-person again this semester. For the first time, the Bolder Buffs were able to host Mental Health Awareness soccer and volleyball games where they passed out information on mental health issues and "swag." The events were a big success. Other upcoming initiatives for the Bolder Buffs are healthy body image for student-athletes, partnering with SAAC for stress relief around finals and dealing with social media as people in the public.

A special thank you to PostNet in Lafayette for donating the printing of the Ryder's Fund Newsletter. Please repay this kindness by considering this business for your next mailing or printing project. You can find PostNet at: 2770 Arapahoe Rd Ste 132, Lafayette, CO 80026. 303-665-8068 • co111@postnet.com



RYDER'S LOVE GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOVE FOR LILY

Over the past year, longtime supporters of Ryder's Fund found their own family in crisis. Carter James Allen was born on March 2, 2021 at 37 weeks. After laboring for 12 hours, mother Jillian was taken in for an emergency C-Section and complicated delivery. The umbilical cord was wrapped around Carter's neck twice. After a difficult extraction, Carter was not conscious or breathing when he was born. Once resuscitated and stabilized, he had to be immediately air-lifted to the nearest neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) before Jillian or father David could even hold him. While at the NICU, Carter was placed on a cooling pad after doctors determined he had experienced severe brain damage during labor and delivery. He was then transferred to a different NICU for more intensive neurological care and possible neurological intervention. Mother Jillian was eventually discharged from the first hospital so she and David could visit their son in the NICU. The parents could not hold Carter for 4 days and had to limit touching him, so as to minimize stimulation while he was being cooled. After he was warmed, he received an MRI and EEG and the results showed severe damage to the right side of his brain. He is now finally home with his parents but the impact of the brain trauma on his long-term development is yet to be known. He has weekly physical therapy appointments and monthly checkups with neurological doctors to track his progress. At last report, Carter can finally roll over and is sitting up on his own, is eating real food and is wearing a helmet to correct the shape of his head from the effects of a cyst. By looking at him it is hard to believe he had brain surgery 4 months ago.

When Ryder's Fund first learned of this story, it reached out to friends at Love for Lily, a local charity dedicated to giving families support they need to ease their journey through the NICU and after. During the pandemic, Love for Lily expanded its virtual support programming to better serve families in Colorado and across 14 states. In order to immediately help little Carter, Ryder's Fund partnered with Love for Lily with each organization providing a \$5,000 grant to the Allen family. From this story of Carter's struggles in his earliest days and Jillian and David's grace and determination to overcome these difficulties, the seeds of an even greater good were sown. Love for Lily established a new grant program, called "Ryder's Love" to provide expanded reach to NICU families outside of Colorado (with a regional emphasis). Ryder's Love seeks to offer NICU families a hand-up. Funds are available to families who spend 4 consecutive weeks in the NICU, in order to provide support such as therapies, services or modalities after discharge that contribute to the health and well-being of their children. Subsequent funding is focused on families who stay involved with the Love for Lily programming.



SUPPORTING OUR FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNITY

Ryder's Fund renewed its commitment to Rocky Mountain Rescue Group (RMRG), an all-volunteer organization trained and equipped for search and rescue on mountainous terrain and in all weather conditions. Hardly a week goes by in Boulder County where RMRG's expertise is not called upon for rescue or recovery and reported upon in The Daily Camera. Founded in 1947, RMRG is one of the oldest and most experienced mountain rescue teams in the country. RMRG is a 501(c)(3) and does not charge for its services. This dedicated group of volunteers responded in the early days of the search for Ryder which was one of the largest searches in its history. Ryder's Fund is proud to give back to this organization and spread the word of its valuable contributions to our community.

Front Range Rescue Dogs (FRRD) was formed in 1984 and is an experienced non-profit volunteer group committed to providing canine search and rescue teams in emergency situations. FRRD is dispatched by the Boulder County Sheriff's Office. FRRD search teams face unique mental and emotional struggles, including body recoveries. Through grants in 2020 and 2021, Ryder's Fund assisted FRRD with implementing psychological wellness meetings designed to help provide team members with tools to manage stress levels and improve their emotional well-being.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ryder's Fund seeks to continue to enhance the healthy development of young people in our community and assist them in meeting and overcoming the challenges of our modern world. Ryder's Fund also proudly supports the educators, faith leaders and first responders that help our young people and our larger community. Rest assured, one by one, we are making an impact on our local community and its most precious resource, young people. Make a charitable contribution at RydersFund.org or send a check (Payable to YMCA of Northern Colorado-Ryder's Fund) to:

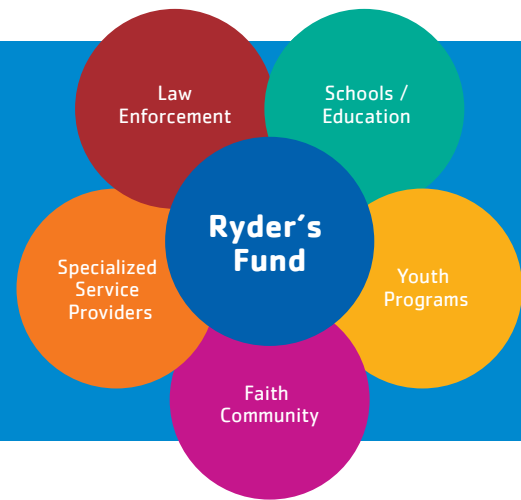
YMCA of Northern Colorado
Ryder's Fund
2800 Dagny Way, Lafayette, CO 80026

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total Contributions \$500,135.66 *
Total Gifts/Grants.....\$171,673.21 *
0% spent on Administrative Costs.

*includes \$20,635 contributed prior to establishment of YMCA endowment account

THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR HELPING US SURPASS THE \$500,000 MILESTONE!



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YMCA of Northern Colorado Endowment Committee

