

RYDER'S FUND

ONE BY ONE



Winter 2022 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.

RYDER'S LOVE GRANT PROGRAM CONTINUES TO HELP NICU FAMILIES

In partnership with Love for Lily, and inspired by the story of little Carter James Allen, Ryder's Fund established the Ryder's Love Grant Program in 2021. This program, administered by Love for Lily, provides expanded reach to NICU families outside Colorado (with a regional emphasis). In 2022, Ryder's Love helped four families with five separate grants. The grants from the inception of Ryder's Love total \$7,500. The mom of baby Oliver wrote as follows: "For a baby who has been through so much in his 6 months here he is the strongest, most resilient baby I have ever met. He makes me proud every single day! He is our rainbow baby, our little miracle and nothing is better than looking in his big brown eyes! The grant from Ryder's Love has helped us get the equipment we need to bring Oliver home finally after a months long NICU stay."



Ryder's Love seeks to offer NICU families a hand up at a time when their lives are in turmoil. 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. Follow-up funding is focused on families who stay involved with Love for Lily programming.

CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP WITH RISE AGAINST SUICIDE

Ryder's Fund has continued to team 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. 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.

Ryder's Fund stepped in with \$10,000 in grants in 2022 to cover those situations where extended sessions (beyond 8) are necessary for continued counseling and treatment. Many of our youth are still struggling with the effects of isolation that came with COVID-19 lockdowns, remote schooling and seeing their world change. The pandemic only escalated a youth mental health crisis that was already reaching unacceptable proportions. Rise reports through the pandemic they saw not only an increase in referrals but also an increase in sessions needed to move the kids out of their suicidal ideation and into a more stable mental health condition.

Since November 1, 2021, Rise has served 340 youth. Of those youth, 172 went beyond 8 sessions. Rise provided a total of 2,703 sessions for youth in our community. Rise Executive Director, Jenna Clinchard, stated, "The generous contribution from Ryder's Fund helped us provide 111 additional therapy sessions for youth. This gift had a tremendous impact on the youth in our community and we are deeply grateful for the continued support of Ryder's Fund. Our partnership with Ryder's Fund is one of great value not only to the youth we serve but to the entire community."



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 FUND LENDS A HELPING HAND TO VICTIMS OF THE MARSHALL FIRE

The final days of December, 2021 brought with them the most destructive wildfire in Colorado history. The grassland wildfire fueled by over 100 mph winds burned 6,000 acres and killed two people, destroyed more than 1,000 homes and businesses, and cost upwards of \$2 billion in damages. So many families throughout our community were profoundly affected by the Marshall Fire. Ryder's Fund wanted to try and help a cross-section of our community thereby touching several foundational elements of the Fund. In the end, Ryder's Fund provided a total of \$15,000 in grants focused on individuals impacted who serve in law enforcement, youth sports programs and those impacted within the faith community.

The first wildfire grant recipient served in the Boulder County Sheriff's Office. He was working with emergency workers and helping to coordinate the County's response from the Emergency Operations Center. But while helping others, the fire jumped over Highway 36 and engulfed his own home in Louisville. When discussing the family's immediate needs, he pointed out the sad fact that "there are things you want to replace that can never be replaced." Ryder's Fund is proud to continue its relationship with the Boulder County Sheriff's Department and those who put others' needs first in the name of public service.



The second recipient of a wildfire grant was a long-time coach, instructor and Ice Director at the YMCA in Lafayette, Colorado. Coach Roy was key in developing hockey and ice programs at the Lafayette YMCA. Over the last 24 years, he taught countless children and adults how to skate and play hockey. He's run clinics for all ages, coached at all levels, run camps, coached with Planet Hockey and was instrumental with Colorado Ice Wizards/Rocky Mountain Special Hockey. The Ice Wizards are a Special Hockey Program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities ages

5 through adult. Coach Roy has always been a quiet, steady presence at the Lafayette YMCA and someone the kids could count on. At some point, nearly everyone will find themselves in a moment of need. While the countless kids Roy has helped owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid, Ryder's Fund was honored to help Coach Roy with a grant and to begin to meet his family's immediate needs and begin the rebuilding process.

Finally, a grant was given to Boulder Valley Christian Church to lend assistance to 10 church families who lost homes in the fire. BVCC coordinated donations of meals, furniture, cars, clothes and clean up days at the victims' homes. They also hosted Samaritan's Purse to provide disaster relief support and sift through the rubble of 350 of the homes lost. BVCC provided \$10,000 in gift cards to the 10 families and even gave a family with 3 boys a second Christmas by creating an Amazon wish list. BVCC also paid for some kids impacted by the fire to attend summer camp and provided grief resources to families. Ryder's Fund appreciates the opportunity to touch many families through its continuing commitment to the faith community.



SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS DONATED TO THE YMCA

The YMCA continues its long-standing commitment for kids of all backgrounds to learn, grow and have fun through youth sports. The Y creates community through its youth sports programs, giving everyone the opportunity for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Youth sports also teach hard work, sportsmanship and teamwork – life lessons that are vital long into adulthood. The Y offers baseball,

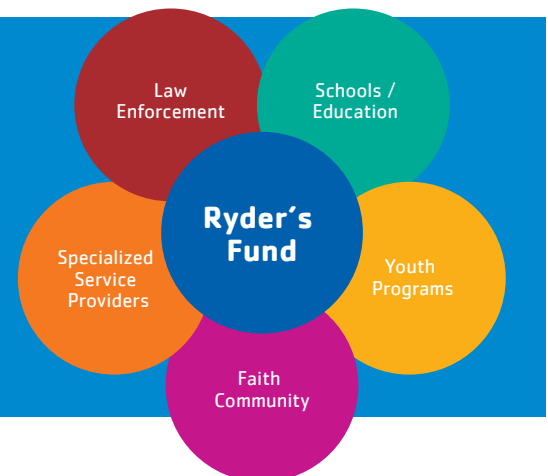
"The Y is beyond grateful for partners like Ryder's Fund."

basketball, flag football, soccer, volleyball, hockey and more. The Y now offers youth sports programs in Boulder, Lafayette, Longmont, Superior, Louisville, Johnstown, Loveland and beyond. Ryder's Fund has again donated the first \$10,000 in scholarships for the coming year to the YMCA of Northern Colorado's youth sports programs. Over one-third of YMCA youth sports participants receive some form of financial aid and no one is turned away because of an inability to pay. Chris Coker, YMCA CEO, stated "The Y is beyond grateful for partners like Ryder's Fund. With their support, children enjoy victories on and off the court."

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\$521,134.71*
Total Gifts/Grants..... \$211,673.21*
0% spent on Administrative Costs.

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

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