



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

"It's been a year" seems to be a common refrain these days. Amidst a plethora of cancelled trips, the George Fund saw its share. Last winter started off with skiing, snowshoeing, ice climbing, and other activities, but it all came to a screeching halt in March. Among the casualties was the Senior Cataract Canyon Rafting Trip, a mainstay of the George Fund's program support.

We found ourselves examining our mission—*Helping Ouray County youth explore the outdoors to foster personal growth and a compassionate world view*—and wondering how to be most useful in our "new normal." As a result, we expanded beyond our traditional program support to fund projects like Ouray Library activity kits to get kids outside during the spring shutdown. We also helped fund outdoor learning spaces at the Ridgway School to create safer environments for teachers and students.

Asking the question "*What would George do?*" helped us broaden our perspective as well, and we decided to contribute to the Ouray County Response Fund that serves as a safety net for local families severely impacted by the pandemic.

We were unable to hold our primary fundraiser this year (the Annual Ski Swap) which makes our 2020 request for donations that much more necessary. Although nobody can predict what 2021 will bring, we believe outdoor exploration will become even more critical for our Zoom-addled youth.

Our financial snapshot (page 2) shows that we are in a solid financial solid position, but that our available funds are growing due to cancelled/postponed events and the lack of scholarship applications from individuals.

Our **goals for 2021** include the following:

- Generate more interest and involvement within the Ouray School.
- Increase the number of scholarship applications from individuals.
- Continue to fund our traditional school programs.
- Fund a continuing education scholarship for a graduating senior for both Ouray and Ridgway Schools.



Pre-COVID, the George Fund sponsored our traditional winter activities such as downhill and backcountry skiing, ice climbing, and other winter adventures.

Since COVID, projects such as "Boredom Buster" bags and outdoor learning spaces have been our focus.



Inspiring Confidence, Courage, & Compassion

Board of Directors—Deb Willits, Jane Pulliam, Colleen Gardner, Ralph Tingey, Tyler Van Arsdell, Lindsay Hepp, Lois Ziemann (Administrative Assistant)
Advisory Board—Former US Senator Mark Udall, Dr. Peter Hackett, Eric Fagrelus, Peg Regan, Jerry Roberts, Jim Nowak, Mike Friedman, Matt Wade, Susan Lacy

George Gardner Scholarship Fund Financial Snapshot - 2020

Income				
	Ski Swap)		\$12	Cancelled (COVID)
	Dine Out & Do Good		\$400	
	Ouray County Giving Girls		\$2,700	
	Donations		\$15,900	Includes \$10,000 from a single donor
	Grants/Other			
		Alpine Bank	\$1,500	
		Ouray County Community Fund	\$1,000	
		Town of Ridgway	\$1,000	
	Total Income		\$22,512	
Expenses				
	Scholarships			
		Learn to Ski	\$3,895	
		Winter Adventure Days	\$1,100	
		9th Grade Learn to Ice Climb	\$1,275	
		8th Grade Rites of Passage		Cancelled (COVID)
		Senior Outward Bound Trip		Cancelled (COVID)
	Donations			
		Ouray Library Boredom Buster Bags	\$2,300	
		Ridgway Secondary School Outdoor Learning Spaces	\$2,700	
		Ouray County Response Fund	\$3,000	
	Total Scholarships & Donations		\$14,270	
	Operating Expenses			
		Administrative Assistant	\$1,625	
		Postage, Advertising	\$726	
		Accounting and Bank Fees	\$165	
		Business Registration and Bank Fees	\$40	
	Total Operating Expenses		\$2,556	
	Profit/Loss		\$5,686	
	Cash balance (12/31/2020)		\$40,923	