

BOULDER DAILY CAMERA: NOVEMBER 30, 2003

Deans: Check out the opportunities for holiday giving this year

Boulder Day Nursery was there for me 30 years ago when I needed help.

I was a graduate student at the University of Colorado's journalism school, recently divorced, mother of a 3-year-old son, living in CU Family Housing, working at two part-time jobs while a full-time student, short on funds.

A friend told me about Boulder Day Nursery. My son loved it there, and based on my financial resources I paid considerably less than the going rates for child care at the time.

My son is in his thirties now but Boulder Day is still going strong at 15th and Spruce streets, giving an affordable child care option to financially challenged parents of small children.

The Nursery is one of 11 agencies featured in this year's Catalog For Giving.

A little boy named Aidyn, who's 2, is pictured on Page 8 of the booklet. He likes his teachers, the kids and books and trains.

The 7x11-inch pamphlet tells how to help Boulder Day Nursery, or the 10 other organizations featured. All of them work with children and youth.

The second edition of the Catalog, is just one of many good works done by the Community Foundation serving Boulder County. Founded in 1991, it's headed by Josie Heath, long a Boulder icon in politics and now philanthropy.

When we talked recently on a get-reacquainted visit in her office, Heath said the thriving social scene surrounding nonprofit fund-raising in Boulder County contrasts with the fact that Boulder's charitable giving is on the low side, especially compared with income levels here.

A May 1 report in The Chronicle of Philanthropy, a national publication for nonprofits, looked at the charitable giving of people who make \$50,000 or more and itemized on their 1997 tax returns. According to that survey, Heath said, those Boulder residents averaged \$2,964 in charitable gifts, just half as much as those in Denver, whose giving averaged \$6,094.

As a part of its Culture of Giving campaign, the Foundation surveyed a sample of Boulder residents in 2002 and 2003 about their charitable giving. Gretchen Minekime of the Foundation believes the results reveal definite trends:

- 48.5% say they can't afford to give more money, up from 39% in 2002
- 25% say they already support too many charities, up from 12% in 2002
- 45.5% say they volunteer their time, up from 19% the previous year
- 53% say they believe some charities have high administrative costs, up from 33% the previous year

Whatever your feelings, a plethora of organizations in Boulder County do wonderful things for our community. One of them might support a cause close to your heart that deserves your backing, financially or through a gift of your time.

Take a look at the beautiful young faces in the Catalog for Giving for some clues about how you can help them. Or check the list of holiday giving opportunities at web.dailycamera.com/giving, contact the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County at 303-442-0436.

Sue Deans is a senior editor at the Daily Camera. She can be reached at deanss@dailycamera.com or (303) 473-1330. Sue Deans: 11/30/2003 00:00:00 AM MDT