El Pomar Foundation presents Awards for Excellence to nonprofits, community leaders

Black Hawk, Colo. – Wednesday, October 2, 2019 — Three nonprofit organizations and three community leaders were honored at El Pomar Foundation’s Awards for Excellence presentation ceremony in Black Hawk on Monday. The organizations recognized as 2019 Awards for Excellence winners are Early Milestones Colorado, High Valley Community Center, and Silverton School District. Each organization received a $25,000 contribution for their commitment to bettering the lives of Coloradans.

Early Milestones Colorado is a Denver-based nonprofit that works to improve childcare access throughout Colorado. According to Elsa Holguin, President and CEO of the Denver Preschool Program: “I think that [Early] Milestones will make Colorado the best place to raise a child.”

Based in Del Norte, High Valley Community Center provides afterschool programming for students of all ages in the San Luis Valley. Executive Director Adrienne Atencio, states: “Youth really are the solution; they are making a difference and those around them see that.”

Silverton School District provides both a unique, trauma-informed approach to education and myriad community services to the town of Silverton. School superintendent Kim White shares, “Our students leave Silverton with the idea that they are capable, that they have ways of dealing with whatever comes their direction, and that they are resilient.”

The ceremony also celebrated three individuals and their distinguished service to the nonprofit sector and the state of Colorado.

Dick Monfort, lifetime philanthropist and owner of the Colorado Rockies, received the Ben S. Wendelken Trustees Award in recognition of his extraordinary efforts in the nonprofit sector, as demonstrated by his work to promote philanthropic efforts across the state.

Sarah Hirshland was recognized as the recipient of El Pomar’s Lifetime Achievement in Sport Award for her commitment to the advancement of amateur sport in Colorado and throughout the world in many different roles including her current role as CEO of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

Ruth Seedorf received the 3rd annual Award for Leadership and Service for her work as Executive Director of Baby Bear Hugs. Located in Yuma, Colorado, the organization provides parenting education, support and connection to community resources to all expectant parents and families with children 0 to 3 years old.
In its 30th year, Awards for Excellence annually recognizes the state’s highest performing nonprofit organizations. Since 1989, the program has provided over $6.4 million in grants to more than 530 nonprofit organizations throughout Colorado. Organizations are selected by a committee of community leaders, council members from El Pomar’s Regional Partnerships program, and El Pomar Fellowship Alumni.

The Award for Leadership and Service is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates the highest level of leadership and service within his or her community.

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately $22 million annually through grants and Community Stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities, and civic and community initiatives. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937. To learn more about El Pomar Foundation please go to [www.elpomar.org](http://www.elpomar.org).*

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