

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Celebrating 85 years*

### **El Pomar Foundation recognizes 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Surpasses \$700 Million in charitable grants and community programming for the people of Colorado

**Colorado Springs, CO - December 19, 2022** – As El Pomar Foundation recognizes its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary from the date of its formation by Spencer and Julie Penrose on December 16, 1937, the Foundation announces it has surpassed **\$700 million in charitable grants and community programming in service to the people of Colorado.**

The Penroses created El Pomar with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado. Since 1937, the Foundation has awarded **24,000 grants to more than 4,000 organizations in Colorado's 64 counties**, honoring the Penrose legacy. Totalling more than \$580 million, these grants have assisted nonprofits in arts and culture, civic and community initiatives, education, health and human services.

In addition to traditional grant making, El Pomar has contributed \$132 million in community stewardship and leadership development programming which enables the Foundation to come alongside nonprofits and support communities through fostering dialogue and building human capital. These programs include: Elevating Leadership Development (ELD); Nonprofit Executive Leadership Development Program (NELP); the Fellowship; Forum for Civic Advancement and Pikes Peak Heritage Series.

El Pomar's flagship grant making program is Regional Partnerships, which establishes deep-rooted connections and increases impact in communities across Colorado. The program convenes local community leaders into 11 regional councils that advise El Pomar's Trustees and recommend grants to address the greatest needs within their regions. Since 2003, Regional Partnerships' councils have recommended grants totaling more than \$25 million to all 64 Colorado counties.

El Pomar Foundation was established in 1937 with an initial contribution of \$21 million that has grown to a current corpus of nearly \$700 million. Combined with the more than \$700 million in charitable support to date, the Foundation's total impact exceeds \$1.4 billion for the well-being of the people of Colorado and represents 85 impactful years for which Spencer and Julie Penrose would be proud.

"Spencer and Julie were champions of entrepreneurship and regional pride, and they shared a spirit of generosity and adventure," said El Pomar President & CEO Kyle H. Hybl. "They'd be pleased that the bold philanthropic mission they set in motion has flourished and built such momentum over 85 years of honoring their vision."

The Penroses started El Pomar to ensure the philanthropic legacy they began together would continue beyond their lifetimes. Their generosity to causes around the state during their marriage, which was carried on by Julie after Spencer's death in 1939 until her own death in 1956, supported numerous organizations and projects in pursuit of positively impacting the well-being of the state they loved. Broadmoor Art Academy (now Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College), Central City Opera, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado College, Colorado Springs Day Nursery (now Early Childhood Learning Centers), Fountain Valley School, Penrose Hospital and Pikes Peak United Way are examples of

organizations Spencer and Julie Penrose supported personally, and in some cases founded or to which they made catalytic, transformational gifts.

"Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and El Pomar Foundation have been connected since the very beginning," said Cheyenne Mountain Zoo President & CEO, Bob Chastain. "When Spencer Penrose moved his collection of animals to Cheyenne Mountain, I wonder if he envisioned a day when we would become recognized as one of the top zoos in the country. His vision and the continued support of El Pomar Foundation have helped make us who we are today. Through their support the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo saves animals in the wild and is an important place for our community to gather together as family and friends. Spencer Penrose's vision made this all possible."

Cindy Aubrey, President & CEO of Pikes Peak United Way, added, "Thousands of families in our community have been helped as a result of El Pomar's funding for Pikes Peak United Way. Countless nonprofits have benefitted from our El Pomar Emergency Fund, established with a generous grant. We are tremendously grateful to El Pomar for their ongoing support of our community through Pikes Peak United Way."

The couple's home, and subsequently their Foundation, was named El Pomar -- "the orchard" in Spanish -- in honor of the Dixon Apple Orchard that was previously located on the home site. This symbol of an orchard is still prominent today in El Pomar's philanthropic philosophy of cultivating deep roots throughout Colorado. Their home is now known as Penrose House Conference Center, a nonprofit conference venue, welcoming nearly 30,000 visitors a year.

El Pomar's historic properties include Penrose House Conference Center, Penrose Heritage Museum and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun, all of which are open to the public. Penrose Heritage Museum showcases the history of the Penroses and Pikes Peak region as well as The Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb founded by Spencer Penrose in 1916. Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun, the Penroses' burial place, is a 114-foot-high architectural marvel and cultural attraction, fashioned out of granite, and located on the side of Cheyenne Mountain. <https://www.elpomar.org/About-Us/museum-and-legacy-properties/>

### **About El Pomar Foundation**

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado, contributing approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of health, human services, education, arts and humanities and civic and community initiatives, as well as community stewardship and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.*

### **About Spencer and Julie Penrose**

*Spencer Penrose, from Philadelphia, and Julie Villiers Lewis McMillan, from Detroit, met in Colorado Springs and married in 1906. A mining industry entrepreneur with childhood friend and business partner, Charles L. Tutt, Spencer is known for creating many lasting attractions in the Pikes Peak region: The Broadmoor, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Pikes Peak Highway, The Broadmoor Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun and original Broadmoor World Arena. Together, the couple also founded or made transformational gifts to many nonprofits focused on arts, education, health and human services, established El Pomar Foundation to carry on their philanthropic endeavors, and were active in promoting the natural assets of the region to visitors and for the economic benefit of its residents. After Spencer's death, Julie served as president of El Pomar and vice president of The Broadmoor and created El Pomar Carriage Museum (now Penrose Heritage Museum) for the benefit of the community.*

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