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### **El Pomar Foundation Honors Colorado Nonprofits and Community Leaders with Awards for Excellence**

**Colorado Springs, CO – November 3, 2022** – Three nonprofit organizations and five individuals were selected by El Pomar Foundation as the recipients of the 2022 Awards for Excellence and recognized in a ceremony at The Broadmoor on Friday, October 28. The organizations honored were **Downtown Ventures, Kids At Their Best and A Precious Child**. Each organization received a \$30,000 grant for their excellent work in supporting the people of Colorado. In addition, the individuals honored for their lifetime achievements and outstanding contributions to the nonprofit sector were **Cleo Parker Robinson, Jeannine Truswell, Dorothea “Dot” E. Lischick, and Pete and Marilyn Coors**, each award included a \$10,000 grant to a nonprofit of the awardees’ choice.

“We are honored each year to recognize outstanding organizations and individuals who work tirelessly on behalf of the people of Colorado and stand out as supreme examples of what it means to serve our communities,” said El Pomar President and CEO, Kyle H. Hybl. “On behalf of El Pomar’s Trustees and staff, we applaud them for their work in support of the well-being of the people of Colorado.”

**Downtown Ventures** received the **Civic and Community Spotlight Award**. As the nonprofit arm of Downtown Partnerships, Downtown Ventures aims to enliven Downtown Colorado Springs through arts, historic preservation, special events and other public benefit programs. Its programs, including First Friday Art Walks and Skate in the Park, aim to boost the cultural sector, activate parks and public spaces, and inform residents and visitors through educational tours and lectures. Downtown Ventures also serves as an incubator for initiatives such as PikeRide, the city’s first and only nonprofit bike share program, and Artspace, an affordable housing unit for artists.

**A Precious Child**, which received the **Metro Award**, assists children and families facing difficult life challenges such as abuse, neglect, crisis situations and poverty. Through ten programs, A Precious Child provides children and families resource navigation and case management services, essentials including clothing and toiletries, and educational opportunities. The organization works with more than 500 agency partners throughout eight Denver Metro counties, including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson and Weld to identify children and families in need of services.

[Kids At Their Best \(KATB\)](#), which received the **Rural Award**, aims to inspire, educate and empower rural young people from low-income families to change their life trajectory and become successful, productive adults. Founded in 2006, KATB arose from the need to feed hungry children from June through August when school meals are no longer available. From a summer food and enrichment program, it has grown into a year-round, self-sustaining leadership program that opens a path out of poverty into college and career.

**Cleo Parker Robinson** received the **Excellence in Arts and Culture Trustee Award**. Cleo Parker Robinson is founder and artistic director of 52-year-old Denver-based Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, encompassing the renowned Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble (CPRDE), the Cleo II dance company, a youth ensemble, an academy of dance, an International Summer Dance Institute, a 240-seat theatre and multiple community engagement programs nationally and internationally. A master teacher/choreographer and cultural ambassador, she and CPRDE have performed nationwide, throughout Europe, the Caribbean, Asia and the African continent. In April 1999, she was appointed by then-President Bill Clinton to serve for four years on the National Council on the Arts. Cleo Parker Robinson directed her \$10,000 award grant to Cleo Parker Robinson Dance's Tom Robinson Scholarship.

**Jeannine Truswell** received the Russell T. Tutt Leadership and Service Award. Jeannine is the retiring President and CEO of United Way of Weld County, a successful \$5 million nonprofit organization employing over 38 people, and will retire in December 2022. Under her leadership several programs, services and projects were developed and implemented at United Way of Weld County and in the Weld County community including: A Kid's Place (now a program of Lifestories), 211, Weld Project Connect, Weld's Way Home, the Housing Navigation Center, Coordinated Assessment and Placement System Program, Bright Beginnings/Bright by 3, Colorado Reading Corps and United Way's Northern Colorado AmeriCorps program. Jeannine Truswell directed her \$10,000 award grant to United Way of Weld County.

**Dorothea "Dot" E. Lischick** received the Lifetime Achievement in Sport Trustee Award. Dot has managed the renowned Broadmoor World Arena since her arrival in Colorado Springs in January of 1998 and the similarly esteemed Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts since 2004. As General Manager for 24 years, she not only maintained profitability and successful programming for this major venue but championed and supported partnerships in sport that have had impact far beyond Colorado Springs and the state. She oversaw world class space and built enduring support for (among others): Colorado College Tiger Hockey, the Broadmoor Skating Club, ISU Figure Skating Championships, USA Short Track Speed Skating, USA Hockey, USA Wrestling, the U.S. Olympic Women's Ice Hockey Team, USA Taekwondo, USA Gymnastics, USA Volleyball, numerous Colorado State High School Sports Championships and the Presidents Day Hockey Tournament, one of the largest youth hockey tournaments in the nation. Dot Lischick directed her \$10,000 award grant to the Broadmoor World Arena in support of the Internship program.

**Pete & Marilyn Coors** received the Ben S. Wendelken Trustee Award. Pete H. Coors is a native of Colorado and the great-grandson of Adolph Coors, who founded the Golden brewery in 1873. He currently serves as chairman of Molson Coors Beverage Company. Pete is also a manager of Keystone Holdings LLC and a director of Adolph Coors Company LLC, the trust company serving as trustee of various Coors family trusts. Pete's civic responsibilities include serving as Director of the American

Enterprise Institute, Denver Art Museum and Western Stock Show Association, among others. Marilyn E. Coors, PhD is a retired Associate Professor Emerita of Bioethics at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities and Department of Psychiatry at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. Ethical issues in clinical genomics and genomic research were the focuses of her research, teaching and professional service. Dr. Coors has served on numerous boards of directors related to health, education and religion including the Gates Institute for Regenerative medicine, the National Catholic Bioethics Center and the Augustine Institute. Pete and Marilyn Coors directed their \$10,000 award grant to Educating on the Nature and Dignity of Women (ENDOW).

### **About the Awards for Excellence Program**

In 1989, El Pomar Foundation's Board of Trustees developed the Awards for Excellence program to honor Spencer and Julie Penrose's commitment to the nonprofit sector. For more than 30 years, the program has recognized organizations and nonprofit leaders from across Colorado who serve their communities with distinction, and now includes lifetime achievement awards honoring individuals' outstanding contributions to the nonprofit sector. Accompanying the awards each year are grants totaling \$130,000 in recognition of their excellent work to support the people of Colorado. Since its inception, Awards for Excellence has provided more than \$6.5 million in grant support to more than 500 nonprofit organizations throughout Colorado. Awards for Excellence honorees do not apply for the awards but are nominated and selected by community leaders throughout Colorado.

### **About El Pomar Foundation**

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes 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.*

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