

Winter 2017

Preparing Colorado's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together.

Relying on Community Feature by Christine Dickey, Development Manager

I came to Colorado in 2013, steeped in idealism and with the notion that my work as an AmeriCorps VISTA would leave a lasting impact. Now more than three years later, as I prepare to leave Reach Out and Read Colorado in pursuit of professional opportunities in my hometown of Pittsburgh, I am happy to say that I have retained my idealism and I have gained the understanding that it isn't one single person who facilitates meaningful change, but a community.

The utility of communal bonds lies in their power—they can come together to change the very fabric of society. In my time here, I have witnessed the unifying power of community and a collective movement to create opportunity for Colorado children. There are countless acts that stand out as prime examples of what it means to rely on community. I will always remember how each and every act reflected the true spirit of giving, connecting donors, volunteers, providers, and families with a single thread.



Christine Dickey with Jackie Geist, Chairman of the Whole Earth Committee at First Plymouth Church.

When I think of community I think of sitting in a pew at the First
Plymouth Congregational Church, watching a provider being moved to tears in speaking to
members about why he so strongly believes in the power of our program model. In return, First
Plymouth congregants answered that passion by donating thousands of books and thousands of
dollars over several years, in service to Denver Metro children. I think back to Ali and Emery, two
motivated fourth graders who designed their own campaign to go door to door to collect books
on behalf of Reach Out and Read Colorado and generate community awareness, all of their own
volition. The idea of community takes me back to a warm home in Trinidad, Colorado where I
had the privilege of guiding a couple's generous gift toward fully-underwriting Las Animas and
Huerfano County Health Department programming, spanning eight total sites that were previously
unable to provide program access due to lack of funds.

As my tenure concludes, I leave with an enriched understanding of the power of community and its collective impact. I am grateful for every member of the Reach Out and Read Colorado family—too many to mention here—and for the inspiring memories that will always endure. This organization is making a real difference, preparing young children for school and life success, providing a pathway out of poverty that might not otherwise exist. I'm humbled to have been a part of something so meaningful, and I thank you for embracing our mission and sharing our ideals through countless and continued donations of time, money, and books.

Statewide Impact | Management |



Programs in 61 of Colorado's 64 Counties



300 Clinics across Colorado



Prescribing more than 500 books to families each day



In over 60 languages

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Reach Out and Read Colorado 1660 S. Albion Street, Suite 905 Denver, CO 80222

P 303.623.3800 **F** 303.300.3801

reachoutandreadco.org info@reachoutandreadco.org

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From the Desk of Meredith Hintze



Recently, my family and I took a weekend trip up to the mountains. As we were driving, I was struck, as I always am on road trips around the state, by the fact that I could point out along our drive a Reach Out and Read Colorado partner site, or sites, in almost every town along the way. Our work is becoming a standard part of pediatric care, not by coincidence, but because of an active and empowering community.

It's remarkable and heartwarming to think about all of the volunteers, community partners, health care providers and parents across the state. In 61 of Colorado's 64 counties, community members are working together to prescribe books, help children and encourage all families to read together. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support of the hundreds of donors, listed within this newsletter, who invested in our cause last year to make this possible. We are a community dedicated to opportunity, and to creating the next generation of learners and leaders who will impact our schools, our health, and our quality of life in the coming decades.

We are all in this together, supporting parents as their child's first and most important teacher. Every day this year, in communities big and small across Colorado, we will prescribe more than 500 books. Together with a highly dedicated staff, board, donors and more than 1,500 health care care providers across the state, Reach Out and Read Colorado expects to expand our reach and serve more than 125,000 children statewide in 2017. The story of early literacy promotion in Colorado is one that we all write together. I look forward to partnering with you again this year to support the children of our community.







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