

Taking care of business with our friends and neighbors

Live United

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From the Estes Park Trail-Gazette

ESTES PARK, Colo. — “Students involved in service learning initiatives,” “Quota ladies donating \$47,500 to help Estes Park Medical Center buy a much-needed ambulance,” and “Devoted local, Connie Drumheller, volunteers as a “Gofer.” These are the types of headlines that grace the pages of your local paper each week in Estes Park. These headlines are a far cry from the front pages of other papers across the country right now.

My co-workers took a recent trip to Detroit for a United Way conference. They returned with stories of headlines there: “School District to Close 29 More Schools,” “School Drop-Out Rate climbs to 70 percent for Detroit,” and “900,000 Michigan Jobs Lost Since 2000.” They told me when they arrived in downtown Detroit it resembled a ghost town. Empty, boarded up buildings lined the streets and there were very few signs of life to be found.

We are truly privileged to live in Larimer County. I've often heard people say that living here is like living in a bubble. But I think everyone in Estes Park would agree that we don't want that bubble to burst. That's why it's so important to take care of each other and work together to sustain the quality of life in Estes Park.

United Way of Larimer County works to help people when they need it now and we deliver long-term solutions for people by empowering them to thrive in our community for years to come. How do we accomplish these actions? We work with more than 8,000 individual donors, 500 Larimer County businesses, 200 nonprofit organizations and numerous community resources. Together we can help the people now so that they need less help in the future. This is an investment in our neighbors, co-workers, friends, families, and community – an investment that pays off for everyone.

As we're seeing in other cities, like Detroit, economic hard times affect everyone in a community. Nobody is immune to hard times, not even Larimer County. Now more than ever, people need us. They need United Way of Larimer County and they need you.

Reflecting on the people I've met in Estes Park and the amazing work you continue to do, I realize after many conversations that our goals are the same. The fabric that makes up your community is the very same fabric that makes up United Way of Larimer County.

Bringing people together for the same cause and same mission is powerful. It can do more than each of us working individually. They say “it takes a village” and the members of this community continually show how that is much more than just a saying. I truly believe the strength of Estes Park is how it remains one of the best places to live and work because of the way this community supports one another.

This month, give an hour or give a Saturday to someone who needs it in your community. And if you need help finding a place that needs you in Estes Park, United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center is here to help. Give us a call at 970.407.7066. Let's work together to keep the Estes Park headlines happy ones.