

A young girl is shown from the back, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored crocheted hat with a white pom-pom on top. The hat features horizontal bands of blue, orange, yellow, and red. She is wearing a bright pink jacket with a white ruffled collar and a large pink bow at the back of the neck. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**FIRC**

**strong families.  
strong community.**

2015 annual report

# board of directors

October 2014-September 2015

Don Dankner, President

Felice Huntley, Vice President

Tyler Stonum, Secretary

Genia Gallagher, Treasurer

Thomas Davidson, Member at Large

Peter Bakken

Erin Beckerman, DO

Nick Doran

Paul Finkel

Kate Hudnut

Clare Lehman

J Kent McHose

Joel Rivera

## **advisory committee**

Linda Bateman

## **parent advisory committee**

Erin Beckerman, DO

Kate Hudnut

J Kent McHose

Joel Rivera

## **development committee**

Linda Bateman

Don Dankner

Nick Doran

Marge Gavenda

Genia Gallagher

Felice Huntley

Paul Finkel

## **finance committee**

Paul Finkel

Genia Gallagher

Matt Hanson

Clare Lehman

# our programs

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Through education and support, FIRC helps families make healthy choices and provide an environment for children to thrive. By strengthening families, we are strengthening the community.

## Families United

- supports parents of young children through home visits, resource connections and facilitating friendships
- prepares children to enter kindergarten
- empowers parents to become the first and best teachers for their children

## Healthy Families

- classes and programs promote healthy behaviors through parent engagement during the school-years and provides education connections between the School District and parents
- cooking and nutrition classes help families develop healthy lifestyles and improve overall health and wellness

## Community Support

- helps families build on their strengths to achieve and maintain stability, through financial aid and counseling, long-term planning and connection to resources, like healthcare access and budgeting classes.
- provides concrete support to ensure families' basic needs of housing, health and food are met, while also addressing the larger issues that prevent long-term stability.

## Summit Thrift & Treasure

- FIRC owns and operates two thrift stores to supplement 36% of program and operations funding
- stores offer affordable shopping options and emergency clothing vouchers for the community.

# path to sustainability

When parents are able to overcome hard times, they can focus on caring for their children. When children feel supported, they are more successful. When families are strong and sustainable, they can contribute to the success of our community.

Ability to provide basic needs and obtain financial independence

Access to healthcare and mental health services

Social networks and friends

Strong parenting skills and the ability to spend quality time with family

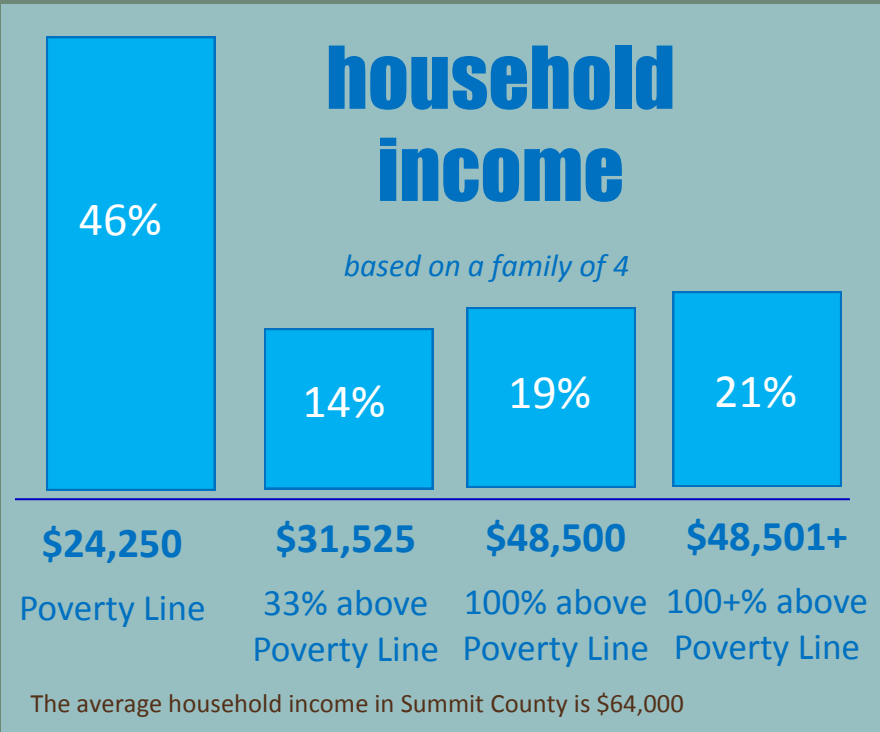
Ability to set and achieve goals

Feel safe and part of the community

# who we serve

# 3,202

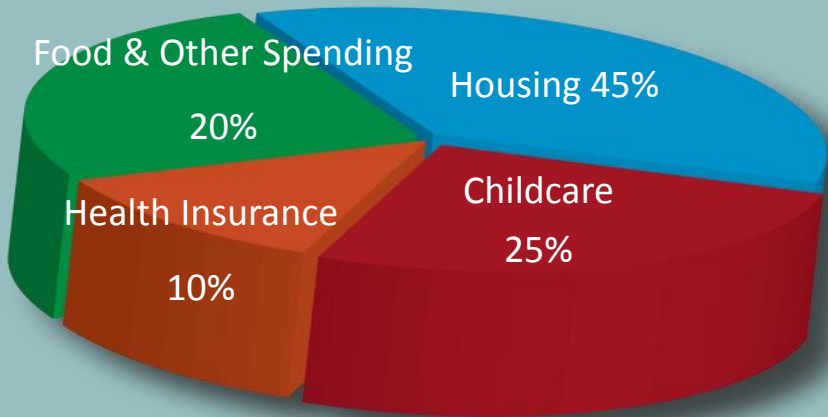
people served last year



## Spending for a Summit County Family

The high cost of living makes it very difficult to save for emergencies.

Many families only have 20% of their income to cover food, transportation, clothing and emergencies.



# program stats

October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015

## Healthy Families

People attending parenting classes & meetings: **1,360**

Cooking Matters Class participants: **105**

Children attending preschool Exploring Food

# Community Support

Emergency Financial Assistance: **261**

Health Insurance Enrollment

Assistance: **315**

# Families United

Children served through free monthly home visitation: **180**

Home visits completed: **1,625**

GOLD Assessment Categories	# of Children Meeting and Exceeding Standards	# of Children Below Standards
Social-Emotional	65	7
Physical	63	9
Language	36	22
Cognitive	62	10
Literacy	41	17
Mathematics	55	17

# strengthening families

FIRC uses the Strengthening Families approach to optimize child development and help families gain stability.

By recognizing and appreciating families' strengths, we are able to give the support they need to thrive.

## FIRC programs

### focus on:

- parental resilience
- social connections
- knowledge of parenting and child development
  - concrete support in times of need
- social and emotional competence of children



# letter from our director

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Dear Friends of FIRC,

Families are the foundation of every community. They are the teachers, the police officers, the business owners and more. The children compose the energy and hope for the community's future. Unfortunately in Summit County, it is becoming very difficult to raise a family in this community. The increasing housing costs in Summit County have added to family's financial stress and many families are choosing to leave. When 40 percent or more of their income goes towards housing, it makes it very difficult to afford the other basic needs. We know the working class is feeling the effects of financial stress and FIRC is working to provide parents with education and solutions to keep a healthy balance at home.

When parents have support during a crisis, access to healthcare, help with parenting issues, friends and a feeling of community they are more successful, resilient and sustainable. The families FIRC is helping often work multiple jobs and are unable to spend time with their kids, are new to the American school system and need strategies to help their children succeed, struggle to understand health insurance plans or are new parents who are overwhelmed. When these issues are combined with financial stress, it can lead to poor parenting and poor job performance, but when parents are given the proper support and education, they can be stronger parents, employees and leaders in our community.

Summit County will always be an expensive place to live, but if families feel supported in other ways, they have a better chance of remaining in our community.

Our work would not be possible without the support of the community and funders. Together we can work to keep families sustainable and thriving in Summit County.

Sincerely,



Tamara Drangstveit

FIRC Executive Director

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# parenting struggles

## in Summit County

- 80% of families have both parents in the workforce
- Many parents work multiple jobs or commute long hours on the bus leaving less quality time with children
- The cost of childcare takes 25% of most families' income
- Many parents struggle with substance abuse supported by the party culture of Summit County
- Summit County can be isolating for parents and many do not have extended family nearby
- Immigrant families struggle to understand the culture of the American school system

## program spotlight



The Padres de Summit Group provides monthly activities for fathers to bond with their children.

# parenting support & education

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## **programs** to address struggles

### **Home Visits for children birth-kindergarten**

- FIRC provides free monthly home visits to over 180 children ages 0-5 in Summit County. The program works one-on-one with parents to help them:
  - understand developmental milestones
  - identify delays
  - connect with community services and resources
  - improve children's motor and language skills
  - improve the parent-child bond
  - teach the skills needed to enter kindergarten ready to learn
  - connect with other families in the community
  - use positive discipline techniques

### **Classes for Parents with School-Aged Children**

- FIRC provides a variety of classes to help parents with issues facing older children
  - Topics include improving communication, teaching responsibility, positive discipline, talking about drugs and alcohol and self-harm.
- The Conexiones program works to connect the school principals with the parents of English-Language Learners as their children enter kindergarten and middle school. Through home visits with school administration and monthly parenting classes, the program:
  - helps parents be more engaged in their child's education
  - improves student performance and behavior
  - builds a sense of partnership between families and teachers
  - educates parents on the systems and culture of Summit School District

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# health & wellness struggles

## in Summit County

- According to a community survey, child obesity and access to mental health services are the top concerns
  - 50% of people rely on low-cost food support
  - 35% of students receive free or reduced lunches
- Summit County has some of the highest insurance rates in the nation
  - Medical bills are the number one reason for financial crisis
- 12% of children are uninsured, one of the highest rates in the state
- Seasonal jobs and a high rate of transience makes it difficult for people to remain on health insurance plans

## program spotlight



The Cooking Matters class teaches kids, teens and parents cooking skills and how to shop for healthy foods.

# health and wellness

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## **programs** to address struggles

### **Cooking & Nutrition Classes**

- Cooking and nutrition classes help families develop healthy lifestyles and improve overall health and wellness. These skills have a lifelong effect on children, adults and families that can be passed on to future generations.
- Students learn how to read nutrition labels and shop for low-cost healthy options
- Nutrition programs in the preschools teach children the importance of fruits and vegetables at young age

### **Health Insurance Enrollment**

- FIRC's Health Navigators helped assist over 300 people last year enroll into the Marketplace, Medicaid or CHP+ health insurance plans.
- Seasonal jobs force many people to switch between multiple insurance plans during the year. Health Navigators help people determine their income and keep insurance year-round.
- When people have health insurance they are more likely to receive the preventative care and treatment needed for them and their children

### **Medical & Mental Health Support**

- People who have urgent medical, dental or vision needs can receive financial or resource support from FIRC.
- FIRC connects people to mental health and play therapy providers

### **Food Bank**

- Thanks to a partnerships with Whole Foods, High Country Conservation and WIC, FIRC's Food Bank now offers more fresh produce and healthier options than ever before

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# financial struggles in Summit County

- The average wage reported by the US Census for Summit County residents was \$2,881 -- \$1,711 less than what is needed to afford the cost of living.
  - Many people work seasonal jobs, which leaves them unemployed for up to 4 months of the year
- Due to the housing crisis, rents are at a premium and most spend 40-60% of income on housing. For many, rents have doubled and in order to afford housing, many families are living in overcrowded homes or studios
- There are typically underlying issues that lead to a crisis including mental health, substance abuse, underemployment, language barriers, domestic violence, lack of parenting support or medical expenses.

## program spotlight



FIRC provides a “one-stop” service approach so families can receive help with a variety of issues.

# crisis support & goal setting

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## programs to address struggles

### Emergency Assistance

- FIRC's Community Support program helps families build on their strengths to achieve and maintain stability, through financial aid and counseling, long-term planning and connection to resources
- Provide a wide variety of resources to address issues that contribute to financial struggles.
- Help people set short and long-term goals so they can avoid future crisis
- Offer one-on-one budgeting support to help people realize their spending habits
- Provide vouchers to FIRC's thrift stores so families can afford essential clothing for winter, work or school
- Offer a food bank and food assistance programs to lessen financial burdens

### Goal Setting

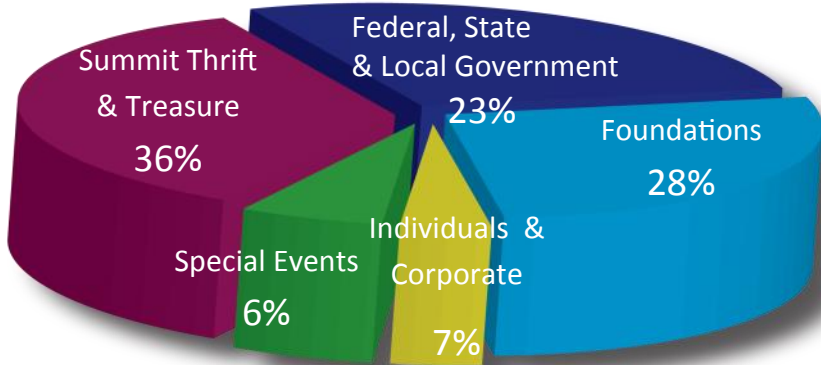
- Work with families to help them move from seasonal to year-round work
- Help families determine the steps they need to take in order to achieve sustainability
- Connect families to resources to help them achieve goals of being stronger parents, insured, healthier and more financially stable

### Life Skills Classes

- Partner with a local bank to offer budgeting classes throughout the year
- FIRC works to address the changing needs of the community by providing a variety of classes to educate and inform

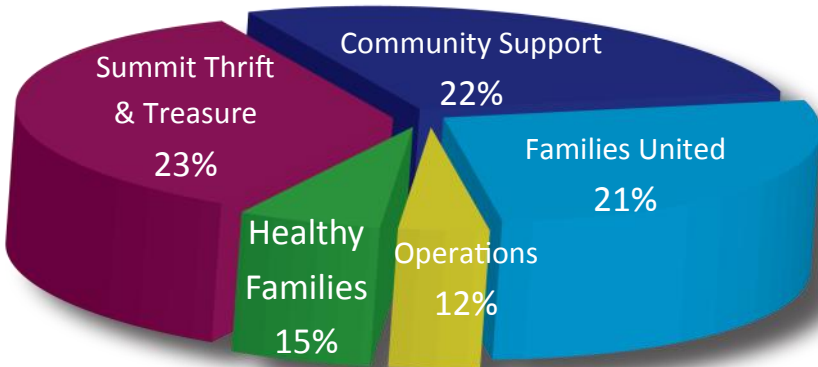
# organization's financials

organization's income \$2,663,826\*



\*Reported 990 income of \$3,432,771 includes in-kind donations.

organization's expenses 2,591,422\*



\*Reported 990 expenses of \$3,571,353 includes in-kind donations.

Total end of year net assets: \$838,487



# program expenses

## Community Support Expenses

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Family Support Case Management: \$204,349

Emergency Assistance; \$163,545

Operations: \$4,828

Food Bank: \$7,988

Insurance Enrollment:\$177,604

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**Total: \$558,314**

## Families United Expenses

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Home Visits: \$476,446

Operations: \$2,328

Family Activities: \$13,268

Childcare & Therapeutic Assistance: \$22,726

Fatherhood: \$21,980

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**Total: \$536,748**

## Healthy Families Expenses

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Program Delivery: \$179,710

CATCH Afterschool Program: \$153,606

Parenting Classes: \$7,500

Operations: \$3,380

Conexiones: \$10,000

Dialogue Over Dinner: \$2,500

Cooking Matters: \$15,000

Exploring Food Together: \$6,000

Backpack Program: \$8,000

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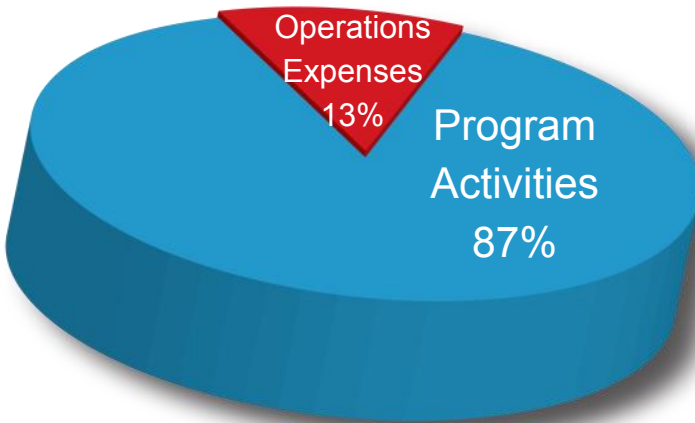
**Total: \$378,196**

# U.S. Better Business Bureau Standards

The Wise Giving Alliance has set forth the following standards for an organization that seeks to ensure it spends funds honestly, prudently and in accordance with statements made in fundraising appeals:

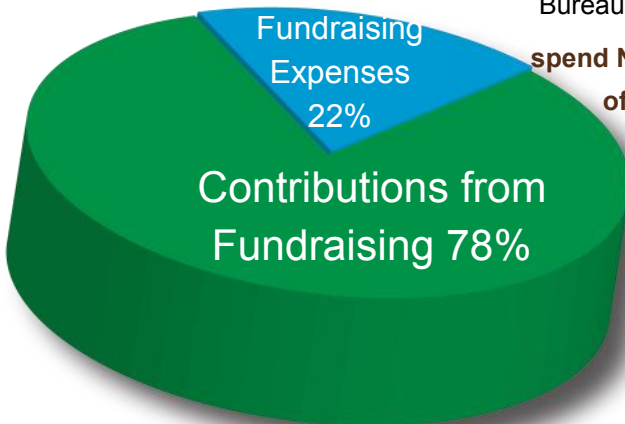
## Expense Ratio:

According to the Better Business Bureau an organization should spend **AT LEAST 65%** of its total expenses on program activities. FIRC is proud to spend 87% of its expenses on program activities.



## Fundraising Ratio:

According to the Better Business Bureau an organization should spend **NO MORE than 35%** of related contributions on fundraising.



FIRC has worked diligently to lower fundraising costs to 22%.

# friends of FIRC

Thank you to our donors who played a major role in helping us serve Summit County. We sincerely thank the individuals, businesses and organizations who made contributions this past fiscal year October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015. We have highlighted those who gave \$1,000 an up, but want to thank all donors who contributed to our programs.

## **Heroes**

### **\$10,000 and Above**

Anschutz Family Foundation

Breckenridge Grand Vacations

Andrew Burns

Colorado Division of Behavioral Health

The Colorado Health Foundation

Colorado Office of Early Childhood

Colorado Parent & Child Foundation

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

Connect for Health Colorado

Daniel's Foundation

Mike & Anna Dudick

El Pomar Foundation

Energy Outreach Colorado

Nancy & Bob Follett

F Cubed Foundation

Freeport McMoran

Hearthstone Restaurant

High Country Healthcare

Tom & Nancy Keltner

James & Mary Lintzenich

Michael & Mary Jo Millisor

Protecting Safe and Stable Families

Rossetter Foundation

The Summit Foundation

Temple Hoyne Buell

Vail Resorts Echo

## **Champions**

### **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Colorado Grand

Marge & Jerry Gavenda

Don Dankner & Susan Proper

Nick & Barbara Payne

Matthew & Elizabeth Schroeder

Summit County Government

Summit County Senior Citizens

Town of Breckenridge

## **Leaders**

### **\$1,000-\$4,999**

Peter Bakken

Dick & Linda Bateman

Jeff Campeau

Gilbert & Karen Cook

Copper Mountain

Credit Union of the Rockies

Thomas Davidson

M. A. Deen

Dave Helmer

Nick & Linda Doran

Jerry & Laura Dziedzic

Emergency Food & Shelter Program

Emergency Solutions Grant

FirstBank

Gary & Genia Gallagher

John & Judy Goebel

Phil & Barbara Gibbs

Annie Harris

JKK Real Estate, Inc.

J. R. Albert Foundation

Annette Kelly

Clare Lehman

Meredith Manning

J Kent & Mary Nan McHose

Robert & Jen McIntosh

David & Mona Murray

Peak One Surgery Center

Barry & Laurie Skolnick

Slifer Smith & Frampton

Snead Foundation

Barbara Strauss

David Stroeve

Mark Sunderhuse

Pat & Jack Thomas

Town of Dillon

Town of Frisco

Town of Silverthorne

Jim & Marty Trisler

Jeremy Voge

John & Carre Warner

Joseph & Joyce Yob

*We strive to recognize our donors accurately and in accordance with individual preferences. Please inform us of any errors and accept our apologies for any oversight.*

# the year ahead

## Top goals

- find solutions to ease the housing crisis
- increase insurance enrollment
- increase Conexiones home visits for incoming kindergarteners
- increase floor space at thrift stores to increase sales
- empower and train clients to become leaders in the community
- strengthen fatherhood programs

## New Office in Breckenridge

Last year over 700 people from Breckenridge used FIRC's services. Starting March 2016, FIRC will open a second office in Breckenridge to provide easier access to residents on the South side of the County.





## **Strong Families. Strong Community.**

### **FIRC mission**

FIRC promotes stable families.

### **FIRC values**

- We believe that with the proper tools, people can succeed as individuals, parents, and community members
- We believe that strong families are the framework for strong communities
- We believe diversity makes for a richer community
- We believe parents are the first and most important teachers to their children

### **FIRC's impact**

- Provide the most effective tools for families and individuals to succeed
- Self-sustainability for families living and working in Summit County
- Strengthen the bond between parents and children
- Culturally integrated community that is welcoming to all backgrounds

251 W. 4th Street | P.O. Box 1636 | Silverthorne, Colorado 80498  
970-262-3888 | [SummitFIRC.org](http://SummitFIRC.org)