

# Memo

**To:** Town Council  
**From:** Tom Baker/ Debbie Nichols  
**Date:** January 21, 2014  
**Re:** Grants funding to area non-profits

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In studying the grant applications received we tried to look at the needs being met in the community directly. Undoubtedly all of the applicants provide much needed services and so the task is to take what funds we have and disperse them in a way that will support our community the best.

Please take a look at the brief descriptions and the highlighted portions as well as the staff recommendations. The town typically reserves a portion of the funds for any emergency needs that arise.

**Advocate Safehouse – asking for \$600** Advocate Safehouse is the only program in Garfield County offering comprehensive and confidential services to survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence, and their children, the Advocate Safehouse Project is the only program of its kind serving residents of New Castle.

Even with ASP providing a service to New Castle that we cannot match, it is critical that they receive funding from local support to able to qualify for foundation funding.

Already in the first nine months of 2013, 37 residents of New Castle have received services from the Advocate Safehouse Project. This request only represents approximately .1% of the projected revenues needed for 2014. This is a small portion of the funds necessary to serve New Castle residents.

*(\*staff recommendation – \$300 – the Town is not able to provide this service in any of its programs)*

**High Country RSVP – asking for \$500**

High Country RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) is a national Senior Corps program, partially funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. High Country RSVP has been serving Garfield County residents since 1973 and has been a sponsored program of Colorado Mountain College since 1978.

RSVP helped 20 New Castle residents with their Medicare options, 26 residents with their taxes, 10 residents took their AARP driver safety class and 5 residents had help with their home repairs. Also in 2013, RSVP held a Medicare 101 class at the River Center and 12 New Castle residents attended. *(\*staff recommendation – \$250 – They also work with River Center)*

### **YouthZone – asking for \$2,000**

YouthZone provides prevention and intervention programs to kids and their families in order to divert and prevent them from entering the juvenile justice system. YouthZone is the only youth organization in three counties that intervenes with the juvenile court system. YouthZone provides services to youth ages 6 to 18 years from Aspen to Parachute/Battlement Mesa. For fiscal year 2012-2013, YouthZone served a total of 1,169 clients. 141 clients resided in New Castle.

*(\*staff recommendation – \$1500 - A great program, but due to limited Town funds available this seems to be an amount that would be equitable.)*

### **Lift Up – asking for \$1,000**

Lift Up's mission is to provide essential humanitarian assistance in the community. Its purpose is to provide emergency food and basic assistance to the homeless and disadvantaged residents in New Castle. With support from the town it will help individuals and families with food, prescription assistance, and local bus passes for doctors' appointments and job interviews. In 2012 Lift Up served 2,534 New Castle clients. Through September 2013 Lift Up has served 1,241 clients in New Castle which is 7% of their client base. *(\*staff recommendation – \$750 – The data shows that Lift Up is without a doubt doing its part to feed and assist the disadvantaged in New Castle)*

### **River Bridge – asking for \$2,000**

At the request of law enforcement and human services agencies in Garfield County, RBRC provides prevention and intervention services in a child-friendly environment for children (ages 2-18) who have allegedly been abused or who have been witnesses to violence. From January 2013 – November 2013, 10% (14) victims and non offending caregivers from New Castle were referred to River Bridge. RBRC the amount of cases in New Castle have remained the same as in 2012 and 2013. *(\*staff recommendation – \$1,000 – Even though their funding sources seem to be very plentiful. They are a vital piece for law enforcement.*

### **New Castle Community Market – asking for \$2,500**

It is the hope to not only continue the community market next year, but to expand it as well. Next year a greater diversity of vendors and participants would be the goal of the organizers. Also the need to increase their insurance policy so they can increase their services. Town businesses said they noticed an increase in foot traffic and business immediately following the market. Adding demonstrations each week by local clubs and organizations as well as continuing the live music is another goal for next year. 10 full time vendors, 4 part-time vendors 2013

*(\*staff recommendation – \$2000 – The increase in community support is providing beneficial for this event. Not only does it increase the community's awareness of what New Castle has to offer, but also the community coming together. A small group of people orchestrate this entire market and financial support would inspire them to keep this an ongoing event.)*

### **Literacy Outreach – asking for \$1,260**

Literacy Outreach's mission is to teach essential literacy skills. The goal is to give all adults in Garfield County a chance to become functionally literate. The objective is to raise every student's literacy level by one-half grade level for every 50 hours of instruction.

Literacy Outreach will specifically use the \$1,260 to purchase core text books for our New Castle students. In 2013 there were 10 students in New Castle and the average cost of books per

student/tutor pair was \$95, with 14 on a waiting list for tutors. (*\*staff recommendation – \$750 – A very worthy program but again trying to divide the pie to the amount of people served.*)

### **River Center – asking for \$9,000**

River Center's mission is to identify and address unmet community needs through compassionate volunteerism. Purpose of funding in 2014:

2013 either sponsored or co-sponsored 3 events within the community, partnering with Lions Club

\$500 for Latino Outreach Teach – to assist in organizing fund raisers which build relational bridges in the community.

\$500 for Senior Outreach to purchase food, utensils and supplies for senior outreach programs 2013 average 15- 25 seniors per week luncheon

\$2500 for emergency assistance (hotel rooms for homeless, utility assistance, gas vouchers, RFTA vouchers, emergency repairs, prescription assistance, etc. 2013 assisted 175 families

\$750 for Volunteer New Castle team for appreciation dinner and website

\$4,000 for part time staffing at the River Center

\$750 for School Outreach Team (summer food outreach and Totes of Hope for children) Totes for Hope provided 240 children each weekend with food (Apple Tree summer program) School supplies

for children and teens in 5 area schools. Coat distribution for 350 people

Angel Tree project provided gifts for over 800 children in Garfield County

Facilitated over 400 volunteers across the region

*(\*staff recommendation – \$8,500 – River Center has grown into a community outreach hub that has taken on a great number of programs that provide immeasurable services to our community. It continues to grow as the needs arise and there is a very loyal following of volunteers and service organizations that work collaboratively to address the needs of the community)*

### **Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers – asking for \$1,000**

RFOV's mission is to promote stewardship of our public lands by engaging the community in volunteer opportunities trail and conservation projects. In 2013, RFOV started a new program Young Stewards Initiative, involving youth volunteering for special projects. For New Castle, RFOV anticipates organizing two or three small projects in town in 2014 to do trail maintenance work on the Colorow and Mt. Medaris trails as well as some other locations. In 2014 there were no RFOV projects

*(\*staff recommendation – \$250- With no new trails planned in 2014, this amount seems adequate)*

### **Destination Imagination (CRHS) – asking for \$2,000**

With their Global Finals in May 2014, the team was been fundraising in preparations of returning to this event. This year they will be competing with two teams, they will not know if they can attend the Global Finals until after the State tournament in April. (*\*staff recommendation - \$1,000 – the students do help with different Town events in return)*

*All of these organizations each one is unique and serves the New Castle community in their own way. The following organizations sent the 7/31 updated information for the 2013 grants:*

*New Castle Community Market*

*River Bridge*

*Literacy Outreach*

*The River Center*

*The book with all of the applications is located in the Clerk's office. Please do not remove this from Town Hall.*