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Published: October 25, 2015

Comments: **1**

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The Women's Foundation of Colorado ([wfco.org](http://wfco.org)) was created to help the women and girls in this state achieve their full potential.

It is, said co-founder, author and former ambassador to Austria Swanee Hunt, women coming together to solve key issues.

At the local fundraising luncheon in September, Hunt and foundation Executive Director Lauren Casteel described the focus of advancing economic opportunities for all women, building philanthropy supporting and advocating for the state's women and girls, promoting inclusiveness and diversity and leading systemic change. "Every girl has the right to thrive," Casteel told the enthusiastic gathering. "It is not about empowering women. We have the power."

Representing one portion of the foundation's commitments was Lindsay Gassman, chosen at the start of her Cheyenne Mountain High School junior year as one of 21 young women in the Girls'

Leadership Council. For a week the GLC members were mentored toward their journey as their communities' young leaders, advocates and philanthropists. Their challenge, Gassman said, was to "take it off the Denver University campus and put it into place in the real world." It was learning about "the STEM gap," focusing on voter registration, learning about fighting injustice and sparking change. "I got a new me," said the inspired Gassman, called one of "the future faces of Colorado."

Honorary chairs of the luncheon were Janine "JJ" Frazier, Anna Marie Ortiz and Pam Shockley-Zalabak. Special recognition went to educator and foundation member Queen Brown, who has been an active part of innumerable boards and groups throughout the area and serves as a mentor and advocate. She will move to North Carolina, where she has a home, in the spring.