

Nonprofit WomenGive celebrates eighth year in NoCo

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Hadley Iacovelli is reminded daily of the new future she was given.

Iacovelli is one of nearly 150 helped by WomenGive, a Northern Colorado philanthropic effort to provide child-care scholarships to single mothers pursuing education. She shared her story with nearly 600 women and a handful of men at the eighth annual WomenGive Luncheon, held Thursday in Loveland.

WomenGive's more than 300 members have invested more than \$1.2 million in Larimer County, 70 percent of which has gone to scholarships for single mothers. The remainder has supported policy change through the Women's Foundation of Colorado.

So far, 64 women have graduated from the program; 36 are pursuing education this semester.

Shortly after her daughter with special needs was born, Iacovelli became a single mother. The professional horse trainer dreamed of becoming a neonatal nurse and helping other families like hers.

WomenGive granted her a scholarship for child care, allowing her to join an accelerated nursing program. She graduated in 11 months with honors, gained a new career and said she now has the skills to better care for her daughter, who has seizures.

"Whenever I look in my daughter's eyes, I'm reminded of the gift I was given that forever changed my life and hers," Iacovelli said. "WomenGive gives you the chance to gain independence and strength."