

The Women's Foundation of Colorado Announces 21st Annual Denver Luncheon Raised \$925,000 and Hosted Nearly 2,000 Attendees

Emmy Award-Winning Actress & Humanitarian America Ferrera Delivered Keynote Speech

DENVER, Colo. (October 30, 2013) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado announces more than \$925,000 was raised to support its mission to help women and girls in Colorado achieve their full potential at its 21st Annual Denver Luncheon held October 24, 2013 at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. The Women's Foundation hosted Emmy-Award Winning Actress and Humanitarian America Ferrera as keynote speaker and had nearly 2,000 attendees at the event. The Western Union Foundation helped boost fundraising efforts by matching all donations (up to a total of \$30,000) made during the podium ask at the luncheon.

"We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of generosity from our supporters at this year's event," said Louise C. Atkinson, President and CEO of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "It's so inspiring to have the room packed with thousands of people who care so deeply about women and girls in Colorado and our organization's work to help them reach their full potential. The support and commitment we received will help change lives and bring dreams alive for women and girls across the state."



As one of the state's largest annual gatherings for women and philanthropists, The Women's Foundation of Colorado's Annual Luncheon carries a long-standing tradition of hosting well-known keynote speakers who bring a message of empowerment, collaboration and inspiration to support the organization's mission. This year's keynote speaker America Ferrera shared powerful personal stories that delighted and inspired the audience. Ferrera also talked about the importance of storytelling to create and display authentic meaning and purpose that others can believe, relate to and share to inspire cultural and social change.

"The truth of who I am gives me the power to connect with others," said America Ferrera. "I've been passionate about equal access to education for a very long time, and my humanitarian experiences have opened my eyes to the enormous benefits that communities gain when we invest in women and girls. Advocating for women and girls is not only the right thing to do it is the wise thing to do."

America Ferrera is best known for her fearless portrayal as 'Betty Suarez' on ABC's hit comedy *Ugly Betty*. This breakthrough role earned Ferrera an Emmy[®], Golden Globe[®] and Screen Actors Guild Award along with other awards. She may currently be seen in the film *It's a Disaster* and recently wrapped production on Diego Luna's film *Chavez* which releases in 2014 and centers on the life of civil rights activist and labor organizer Cesar Chavez. Ferrera is currently starring in and producing the independent film called *X/Y* opposite Amber Tamblyn. Past films include *End of Watch*, *Real Women Have Curves*, *The Dry Land*, *How to Train Your Dragon* and *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 1 and 2*. Ferrera also appeared in PBS's *Half the Sky* and is a humanitarian involved in many causes supporting women and girls.

Event participants were also entertained by Two-Time Emmy Award-Winning Composer Denise Gentilini's We Are Voices[®] project of Denver which is dedicated to using voices and original songs as instruments of peace to promote and affect positive change. Participants of The Women's Foundation's 2013 Girls' Leadership Council[™] also took the stage, with Andra Turner of Greeley West High School speaking on behalf of these 20 high school juniors from across the state. Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper also shared remarks about the importance of supporting women and girls in our state. CBS4 Anchor Karen Leigh served as the event's emcee.

WFCO Denver Luncheon/2

The Women's Foundation of Colorado is grateful to its many corporate sponsors: FirstBank, CBS4, Comcast, Western Union Foundation, Hunt Alternative Funds, Vladimir Jones, Barbara Bridges, Cherry Creek Mortgage, DaVita, MillerCoors, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Liberty Global, SquareTwo Financial, Rocky Mountain PBS, Women With A Cause and Susan Kiely, and The Denver Post Community. A full list of top sponsors is available at www.wfco.org/denverluncheon.

The 2013 Denver Luncheon Honorary Chairs were Rhondda & Peter Grant and Judi & Joe Wagner of Denver. The Luncheon Co-Chairs were Nayantara Ghosh of Denver, Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins of Highlands Ranch and Sandy Stein of Pueblo, and the Luncheon Corporate Committee Co-Chairs were Colleen Dougherty and Elaine Torres both of Denver.

About The Women's Foundation of Colorado

The mission of The Women's Foundation of Colorado is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential. We are committed to boldly leading systemic change to advance economic opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado; using research to build knowledge and guide action; building philanthropy that supports and champions women and girls in Colorado; demonstrating and promoting inclusiveness and commitment to a diversity of people, partners and ideas; and creating strategic partnerships throughout the state to service our mission. For more information, visit www.wfco.org or call 303-285-2960.

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PHOTO ATTACHED: Emmy-Award Winning Actress & Humanitarian America Ferrera provided the keynote presentation at the 2013 Annual Denver Luncheon of The Women's Foundation of Colorado.

Photo credit: Susan English Photography

To view VIP Dinner Reception and Luncheon Photos:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/womensfoundationcolo/sets/72157637062246753/>

Photo credit: Susan English Photography

To view the event fundraising video "Full Potential": <http://vimeo.com/77828179#>

Video produced by: Dewey-Obenchain Films of Denver