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Author and Journalist Helen Thorpe To Be Keynote Speaker For The Women's Foundation of Colorado – Vail Valley Annual Luncheon in August

VAIL, Colo. (June 9, 2014) – The Women's Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) Vail Valley Regional Committee announces it will host Author and Journalist Helen Thorpe as the keynote speaker for its Annual Luncheon to be held **August 8, 2014** at the Vail Marriott Mountain Resort. This year's luncheon theme is "A Place At The Table: Challenges & Opportunities of Women in the Military and at Home."

Helen Thorpe of Denver, Colorado has written magazine stories for *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Texas Monthly*, *Westword*, and *5280*. She is an advocate for women and girls, and her work often takes on the themes of telling powerful stories that bring attention to women's real-life issues and the need for social change.



Thorpe's newest book, *Soldier Girls: The Battles of Three Women at Home and at War*, scheduled for release in August 2014, explores the story of three women's experiences at home and in the National Guard. These three women are also scheduled to appear with Thorpe at the event.

Challenges and opportunities facing women in the military closely reflect issues explored in The Women's Foundation of Colorado's *2013 Research Report on the Status of Women and Girls in Colorado*. The report analyzed how women and girls in Colorado fared in five key areas that profoundly shape their lives: economic security and poverty; employment and earnings; educational opportunity; personal safety; and community leadership.

Her first book, *Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America*, was published by Scribner in 2009 and named one of the best books of the year by *The Washington Post*.

"Helen Thorpe's powerful storytelling ability makes her a wonderful choice to be our Vail Luncheon's keynote speaker," said Louise Atkinson, President and CEO of The Women's Foundation of Colorado. "Women are navigating the evolving role of working in traditionally male-dominated careers, including the military, science, technology, engineering and math. We're making progress, yet there is still so much we can all do together to enhance the lives of all Coloradans."

This year's Honorary Chairs are General (Ret.) Jack Chain, USAF and Judie Chain. The 2014 WFCO Vail Valley WOW! Award (Women and Girls Outstanding Work), given annually to an individual, will be presented during the event to Cheryl Jensen, Executive Director and Founder of the Vail Veterans Program. Since 2004 her organization has provided injured veterans and their families much-needed time away from the hospital through rehabilitative sports and recreation activities in the Vail Valley during the summer and winter months.

Who: The Women's Foundation of Colorado – Vail Valley Regional Committee

What: Annual Vail Valley Luncheon and Silent Auction with Keynote Speaker Helen Thorpe

When: Friday, August 8, 2014 / 10:30 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Where: Vail Marriott Mountain Resort – Vail, CO **Expected Attendance:** 500 guests

Tickets, tables and sponsorship opportunities are available at wfco.org/vailluncheon. For sponsorship information, please contact Pamela Smith at pamelars@gmail.com or 970-471-9326. Many thanks to our sponsors: The Vail Daily and The Club at Cordillera.

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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