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WHO'S GOT GRANTS? SPAN'S GOT GRANTS!

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It takes a village, as the saying goes, and SPAN relies on a variety of funding streams to raise the more than \$2.3 million a year it takes to keep the lights on. One of the most important of these revenue sources, particularly



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JANUARY IS STALKING AWARENESS MONTH: ONE SURVIVOR'S STORY

"Lily" began dating her ex-boyfriend when they were both juniors in high school. The young man was popular and handsome, and at first Lily was flattered by his attention. A few months into the relationship, Lily realized her boyfriend had serious anger management issues and his behavior towards her began to change. He was verbally and emotionally abusive, calling her names and preventing her from seeing any of her friends unless he was included. He punched holes in walls, kicked in doors, threw things at her and broke her cell phone twice. When Lily first tried to end the relationship he became physically abusive, hitting and choking her. At the start of her

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PHASE TWO OF SHELTER REMODEL IS COMPLETE

SPAN's Emergency Shelter has completed a much-needed remodel and rehab project. The facility opened in 2008 and increased SPAN's sheltering capacity by 60%. Over the course of more than ten years SPAN's Shelter – or as staff and residents call it, the House –

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from the director's desk



Friends,

The attack on the United States Capitol by a mob fueled with incendiary rhetoric and lies about election fraud has shaken the country. This was an act of terror intended to undermine

an election, upend democracy, and sow further division in an already fractured country. Let us be clear; this act of terror should not have been a surprise. A horror, yes. But not a surprise.

For all the flaws and foibles of our nation, we are anchored in a tradition that allows for vehement disagreement and debate. When that disagreement is stoked by fires of resentment, racism, and disregard for basic humanity, then anything goes. We saw this in the attack on the Capitol. We have also seen it throughout our history as a country (images of Bloody Sunday and the Edmund Pettus Bridge come to mind).

This is not about political parties or allegiance. Many of us have meaningful, loving relationships with family and friends who believe and vote differently than us. No; the attack on the U.S. Capitol this week was

the predictable outcome of weaponizing difference and disagreement. If we see "the other" as our enemy, then it is increasingly easy to justify horrific behavior. This is how domestic violence festers. Abusers feel entitled to punish, control, victimize, and destroy those who challenge their perception of "reality" or their sense of self/identity.

Why does what happened at the US Capitol matter for our work at SPAN? In the past year, we have responded to 11,219 crisis line callers, more than ever in the organization's 41-year history. When abuse and intimidation are legitimized and provoked at a national level, those same behaviors are legitimized in our communities and families.

Where do we go moving forward? Take a breath. Reflect on what we can do to reduce divisiveness and injury. Consider the possibility of repair and healing. Notice and call out those who fuel or benefit from the fires of divisiveness. Be accountable. Stay present.

Peace.

Anne Tapp, Executive Director

span's got grants

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during the COVID crisis, is foundation grants. SPAN leveraged every available resource in 2020 to meet the unprecedented needs of survivors and their children. SPAN applied for 60 grants in 2020, including 22 that were for COVID-related relief funds. In all we brought nearly \$200,000 in COVID relief funding into Boulder and Broomfield counties, including grants from the Blueprint to End Hunger, the Help CO Now COVID Emergency Fund, Mile High United Way, Violence Free Colorado, the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County, Broomfield Community Foundation and the Rose Community Foundation.

SPAN also was successful in the highly competitive 2020 grant-making cycle for funding from The Denver Foundation and from Caring

Caring for Colorado FOUNDATION

Promoting Health

for Colorado, a foundation dedicated to building a healthier future for Colorado's children and families. In 2020 Caring for Colorado received requests totaling more than \$2.4 million and awarded \$880,000, with SPAN receiving \$25,000 to support services to children and families in 2021.

hot spot mapping: coming to a high school near you

The State of Colorado has invested in youth violence prevention for more than a decade, and SPAN has been a key partner in this work since the start. In 2019 the State launched the Creating Protective Environments Program (CPE), that focuses on identifying ways to make our community safer, stronger and more supportive of young people.



SPAN's CPE project is to deploy Hot Spot Mapping as a tool for building safer spaces for youth, particularly girls, LGBTQ youth and kids of color, who all experience higher rates of bullying, sex assault and violence. Hot Spot Mapping is driven by youth participants, who identify spaces where they feel safe or unsafe, and then articulate practical recommendations that can improve safety. SPAN's Hot Spot Mapping Project is being organized by paid Youth Advisors, high-school students who receive a stipend for their work thanks to CPE grant funds. This helps keep Hot Spot Mapping activities relevant and real to the teens who participate and provides two local youth with paid work experience and support from SPAN staff.

SPAN's Youth Advisors are rolling out their Hot Spot Mapping activities in Lafayette, working with the Lafayette Youth Advisory Board, the I Have A Dream Foundation at Centaurus High School, Peak to Peak High School and the Thorne Nature Experience, to build data around safe and unsafe spaces in Lafayette. Eventually SPAN's Hot Spot Mapping will be used in all BVSD high school, with SPAN staff and Youth Advisors training teachers and students how to use this powerful tool.

Look for updates on Hot Spot Mapping data in future newsletters!

did you know?



With the onset of COVID and mandatory stay at home orders, many of SPAN's clients lost their livelihood, literally overnight, putting their hard-earned self-sufficiency and stability at risk. In 2020 SPAN provided more than \$160,000 in financial assistance to help more than 150 families stay in stable housing. We couldn't do it without you -- thank you for your support!

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stalking

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senior year of high school Lily finally broke up with him, but quickly realized he was stalking her and spreading lies about her online. He sent her hundreds of threatening, disturbing texts and emails. When she blocked him, he borrowed friends' phones and opened multiple fake social media accounts to continue his campaign of harassment.

Lily was accepted into CU Boulder and made plans to move to Boulder for college. Her stalker made sure she knew that he was aware of her plans and that he would follow her to Colorado. Sure enough, soon after classes started this fall Lily got text messages from her ex telling her he had moved to Boulder, threatening her with violence and warning that she would never be safe. She realized she had to take steps to protect herself.

Lily called SPAN's Crisis & Information Hotline and quickly connected with a Legal Advocate. SPAN's Legal Advocate helped Lily navigate the process of applying for a protection order and referred her to SPAN's Counseling Program for emotional support. SPAN's Lawyers for Victims Program connected Lily with an attorney at no cost. With support from SPAN Lily found the strength to take control back from her stalker and stay safe.

shelter remodel

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has been a safe haven for more than 4,200 adults and children fleeing violence, providing 110,000 nights of shelter and more than 330,000 meals!

With support from the City of Boulder's Community Development Block Grant Program, Boulder County Worthy Cause Funds, the Gates Family Foundation and individual donors SPAN worked with Blue Spruce Construction of Boulder to make some major improvements. The \$500,000 project remodeled the kitchen and dining areas, creating two kitchens – a commercially certified kitchen and an area for residents to store and prepare their own food, an important piece of empowerment for many survivors. The kitchen remodel also included increasing refrigerator and freezer space, creating greater opportunities for accepting and storing donated high-quality proteins, dairy products and fresh produce.

Other improvements completed in November 2020 were a complete remodel of the facility's five bathrooms and improvements to the HVAC system to improve efficiency and air circulation in the building, an important upgrade that reduces the potential for transmitting COVID and other air-borne viruses.

The House is a temporary home to hundreds of survivors of violence and their children each year. It is the place they start their journey towards safety and stability. The SPAN Shelter Rehab Project helps to ensure that this critical community resource continues to be a place of healing, hope and opportunity for years to come.

stronger kids, stronger community

Isolation. Increases in anxiety, depression and fear. The negative impacts of the pandemic on the emotional well-being of children and youth are well documented, as is the fact that these negative impacts are exacerbated for kids who are also experiencing poverty, instability, economic inequity and racism. SPAN is working to provide the support these vulnerable children need while also working with parents to build stronger, more resilient families.

SPAN has created a slew of great new opportunities for children and families, including a homework/mentoring club that connects children and youth with volunteers from CU Boulder's Student Volunteer Program and an art project for middle school aged children in collaboration with the Boulder Art Museum. SPAN also runs a children's group for Engaged Latino Parents Advancing Student Outcomes (ELPASO), an organization in Boulder County which seeks to create a movement of informed Latinx parents who can help their children be prepared to learn. SPAN's children's group supports parents with childcare while they participate in ELPASO's programming, while at the same time giving kids a chance to build emotional intelligence, mindfulness and creativity through art, exploration and play.

Early intervention, family support and building stronger communities are all critical to helping our children live their best lives. SPAN's work with families and children checks all these boxes, supporting kids as they develop resilience and emotional well-being.



Residents can store and prepare food for themselves and their children



A separate, commercially certified kitchen is home to SPAN's Kitchen Manager, a position supported by the City of Boulder's Health Equity Fund. Shelter's Kitchen Manager prepares meals for residents, and has been instrumental in organizing emergency food supply deliveries to homebound survivors and their families during COVID.



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spring chocolate lovers' fling: june 4, 2021



It feels safe to say that by June 2021 we are all going to be ready for a party, and lucky us, it will be time for the 40th Annual Chocolate Lovers' Fling! COVID makes an event like the Fling impossible to hold in February, the traditional timeframe for the Fling, so SPAN made the call early in the pandemic to reschedule the event for June.

June 4, 2021 we will be serving up fine chocolates, scrumptious snacks and beverages designed for toasting. And once we are all together, after so very long apart, there will certainly be reasons to toast, as we celebrate SPAN, the survivors we support, and you, the community that makes it all possible!

Look for details about the Chocolate Lovers' Spring Fling in future newsletters and on SPAN's website. The event will be held Friday, June 4, and will feature all of the fine Fling things we have come to know and love. We will convene outdoors at the Omni Interlocken Hotel. We will raise some money for SPAN. There will be chocolate! There will be dancing! Hope to see you there.

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