

Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation



Fueled by a desire to meaningfully help a few nonprofits to “move the needle,” the Foundation shifted from an annual granting cycle to, instead, inviting a small number of organizations to apply for multi-year grants. Among its earliest recipients of a three-year grant was CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Colorado Springs, for a volunteer engagement model called “Peer Coordinator.”

The Peer Coordinator concept was to develop a higher level of volunteer opportunity within the organization, where experienced volunteers would mentor and support the new volunteers recruited to serve at CASA. *Through this model, CASA was able to exponentially expand its volunteer recruitment and its ability to support and supervise new volunteers. Ultimately, CASA staff and volunteers were able to serve many more abused and neglected children through this capacity building.* The model nurtured a deeper relationship building between the Peer Coordinators and the volunteers, thereby increasing retention, engagement and growth. It was a win-win for everyone especially CASA’s clients. Thanks to 28 Peer Coordinators, more abused or neglected children were served without having to exponentially increase CASA’s staff or budget.

Additionally, the Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation Board of Directors and members are more engaged in the nonprofits they have funded and those they are considering funding in the future. In addition to vetting and selecting the recipients of the grants, they are volunteering for short term projects at various nonprofit organizations.

Doris Ralston
MPA, Executive Director & CEO