

# chinook Fund

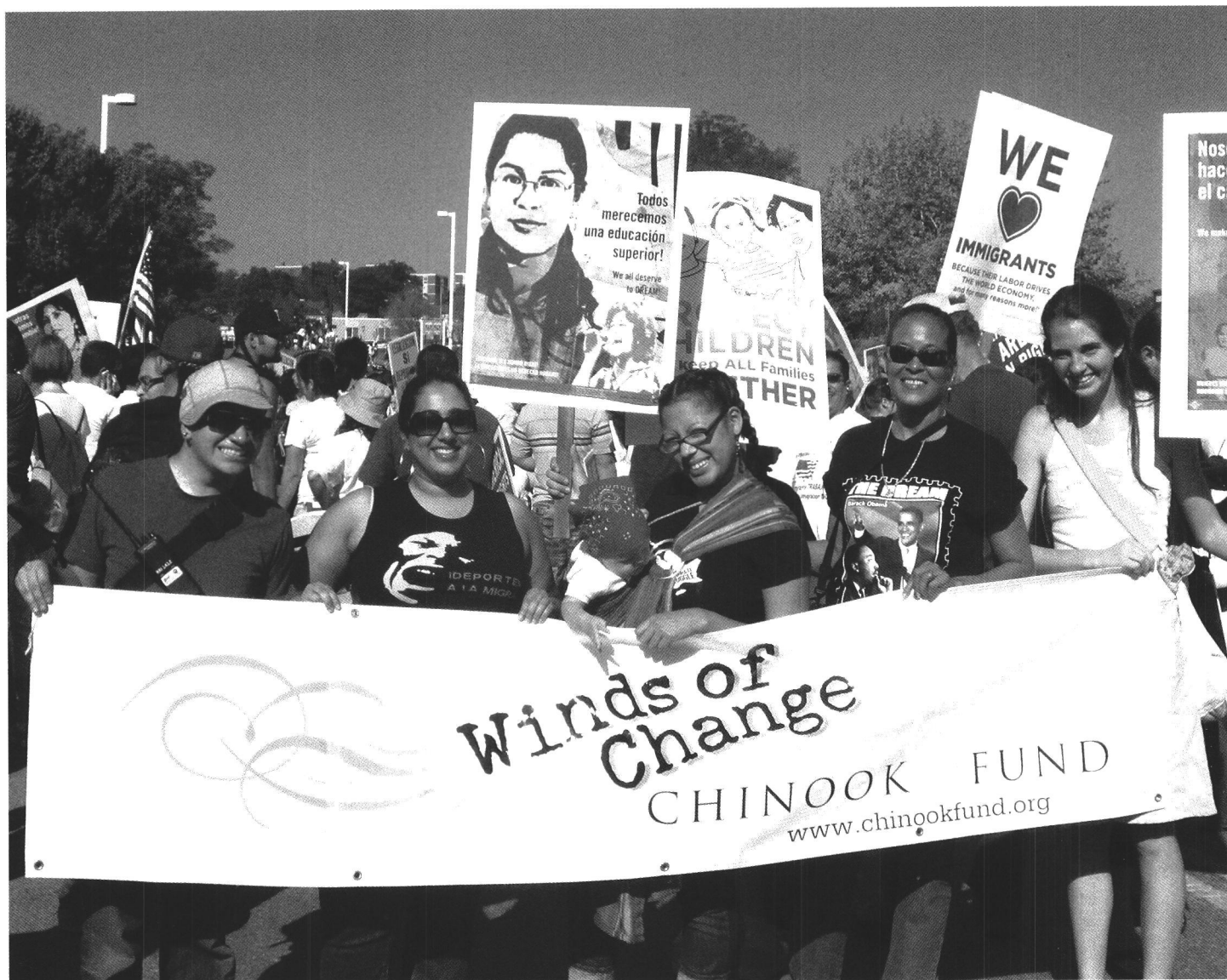
**"If we have the capacity to endure, if we have the  
patience, things will change... Together, all things  
are possible."**

*César Chávez*

**CHINOOK FUND**

2008 Annual Report

**20** years of change,  
not charity



## mission

The Chinook Fund is committed to the transformation of society into one that promotes social justice and freedom from oppression, including but not limited to: racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, and ableism.

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# from the board chair

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Chinook Fund,

The past year has presented the Chinook community with the occasion for celebration, the growth that comes from change, and the excitement of new opportunities.

This year the Chinook Fund celebrated 20 years of strengthening movements, promoting social justice, and activist-led grant making in Colorado. Thanks to the wonderful efforts of staff, volunteers, and community members, the Seeds of Justice: 20th Anniversary Conference & Celebration was a great success. The event provided opportunities for collaboration, education, and reflection to a wide and critical audience. The Chinook Fund was truly honored by the number of founding donors, early grantees, and past staff members who took part in this wonderful celebration.

This year brought growth and learning with the departure of the Fund's Executive Director, Sherelle Hessell. Though headed our separate ways, we value and appreciate the time, energy and effort that Sherelle gave as a leader to the Chinook Fund, and to the community at large. We hope you will join us in wishing Sherelle the absolute best in her future endeavors.

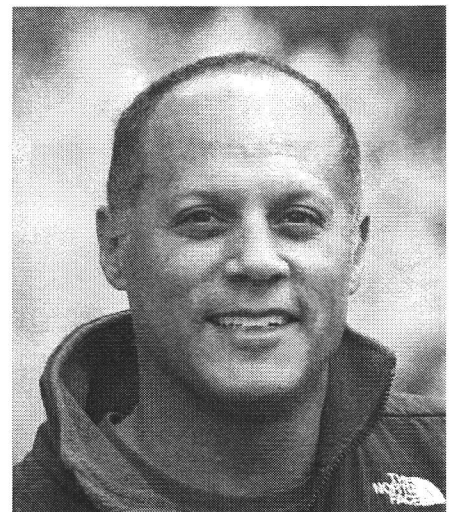
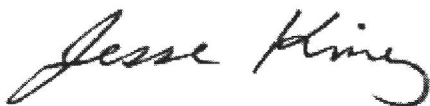
Change brought the opportunity to take a closer look at the Fund's management structure and internal process. With leadership provided by Victoria Gómez, Neha Mahajan, and Katie Thiede, and support from community members, the Chinook Fund has decided to embrace a collective leadership model. Rather than a single executive director, Chinook will be led by a leadership team consisting of three positions: a Director of Business and Finance, a Director of Programs and Education, and a Director of Resource Development. This is a very exciting opportunity for Chinook and we ask that you join us in supporting Victoria, Neha, and Katie as they provide new and enthusiastic leadership for our community.

Volunteering with Chinook continues to be an exceptional privilege that I deeply cherish. As much as the Chinook Fund is dedicated to promoting social justice and freedom from oppression through its programs and grant making, it also provides collateral gifts. Perhaps the most significant of these gifts is the growth and development of volunteers, donors and staff. Like other volunteers, being a part of Chinook has given me the opportunity to advance my understanding of privilege and oppression, as well as what it really takes to engage in social justice work that impacts communities. I am continually humbled by the patience, support, and caring that Chinook activists, advocates, and community leaders provide to me and other volunteers.

To all you past, present, and prospective supporters of Chinook, I urge you to get involved, volunteer, donate, and encourage others. The Colorado community needs organizations like Chinook that fearlessly fight for social justice.

Peace,

Jesse King



# 20 years at a glance...

## 1987

Chinook Fund is founded by a group of progressive philanthropists seeking to channel resources into social justice groups and movements in Colorado.

## 1995

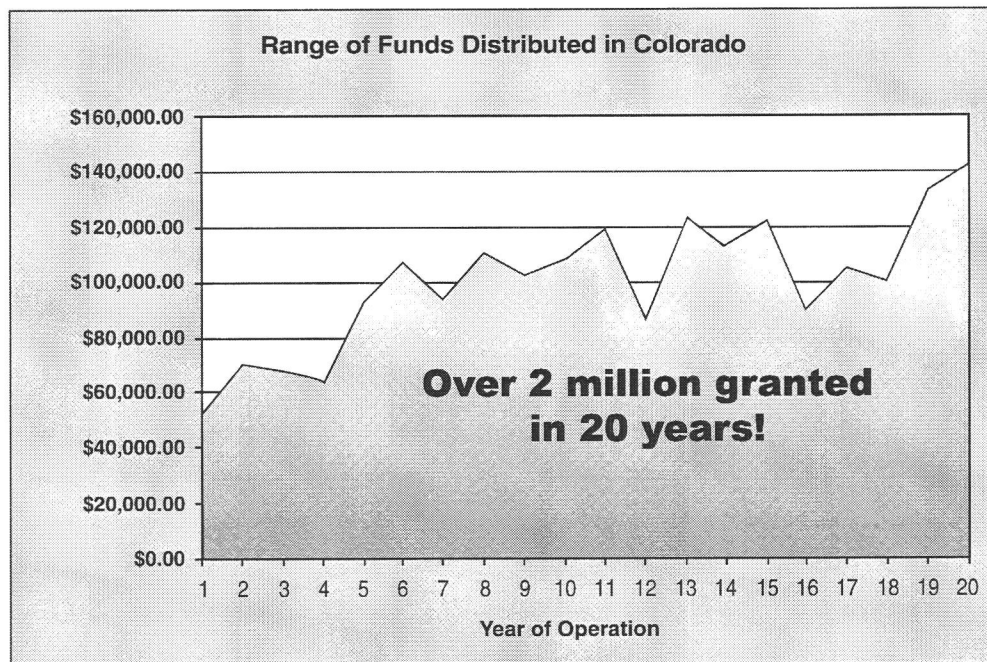
Chinook purchases the building it had been leasing, establishing its presence in the northwest neighborhoods of Denver and acquiring a vital asset.

## 1988

The first activist-controlled grantmaking takes place, pioneering an effort to transfer funding decisions to grassroots community leaders and organizers. Fifty thousand dollars in Chinook grants are distributed for the first time this year.

## 1998

The "Building a Foundation for Justice" skills training and gathering marks the 10th year anniversary of the Fund. Many progressive organizations who once received seed funding from the Chinook Fund begin to show proof of their deepening impact on Colorado's social justice landscape.



Figures include technical assistance, critical response, regular and special grant awards





Chinook Fund Social Justice  
Institute Participants

## 2000

Chinook supporters and friends gather for the “Roast of John Hickenlooper,” honoring the leadership of one of Chinook’s most prominent founders. The Fund also reaches the one million mark in grants awarded.

## 2002

The People’s Fund guides the first internal anti-oppression effort for Chinook through the “Undoing Racism Retreat.” This step institutionalizes Chinook’s commitment to looking at race, gender, sexual orientation, class, ableism and other oppressions within the organization in subsequent years.

## 2003

For the first time, Chinook offers political education training to residents of low-income Denver neighborhoods through its Social Justice Institute.

## 2005

The Board of Directors adopts a new mission statement, which currently guides Chinook’s unique role as funder in Colorado.

Furthermore, this year Chinook begins to formally offer anti-oppression consulting to local nonprofits through the Social Justice Awareness module.

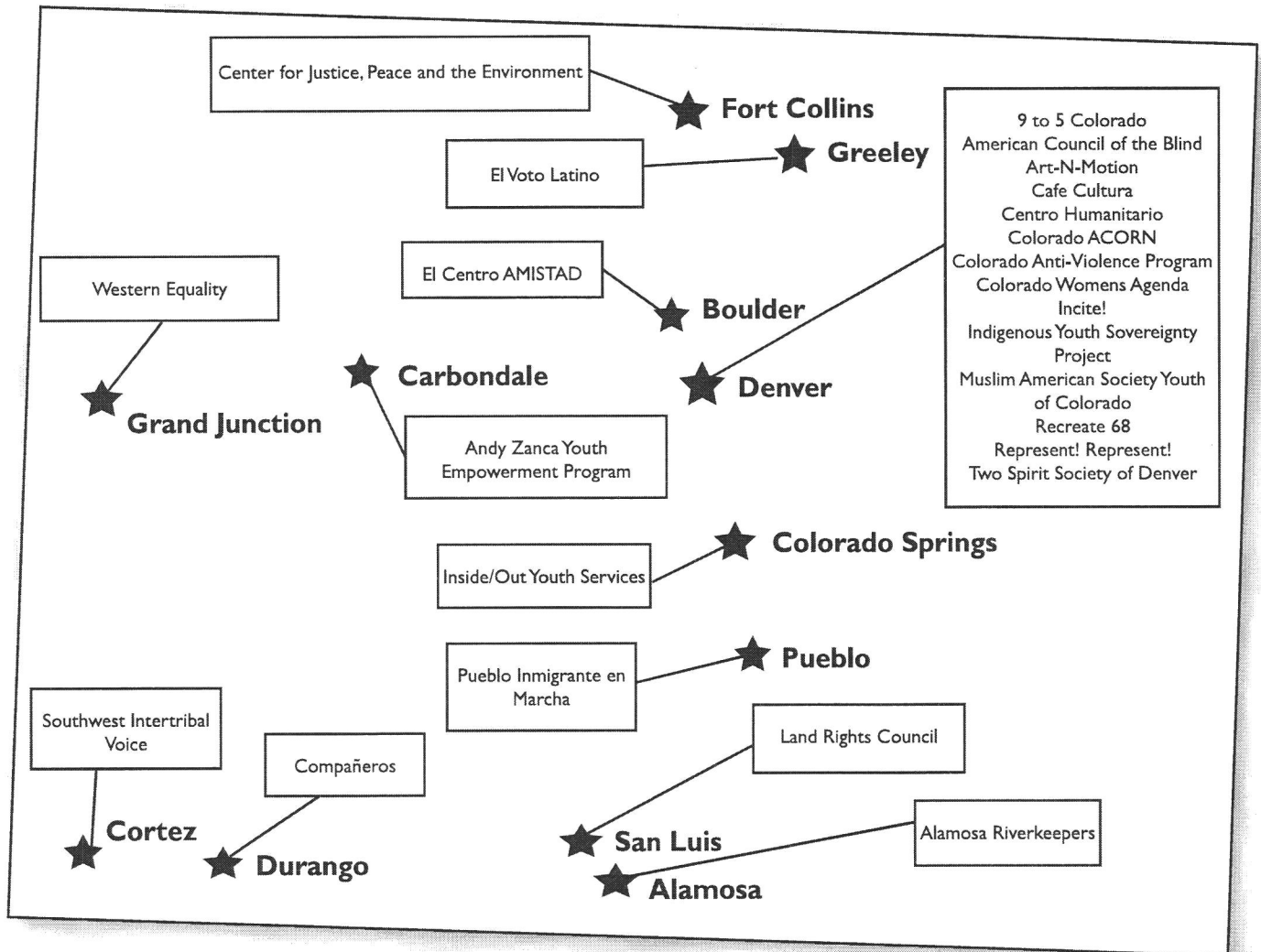
## 2008

The “Seeds of Justice” conference and celebration marks the 20th year anniversary of the Chinook Fund, further establishing the longevity of the organization and its impact on movement building.

This year Chinook surpasses the 2 million mark in grants awarded to groups working for social justice across the state.

Additionally, the investment of trustees and staff delivers the Fund’s first collective leadership model to align its operations more closely with its values.

# fall 2007 & spring 2008 grantmaking



## start up grantees

Art-N-Motion

**\$4,000**

Café Cultura

**\$4,000**

El Voto Latino

**\$4,000**

Indigenous Youth Sovereignty Project

**\$4,000**

Muslim American Society Youth Colorado

**\$4,000**

Pueblo Inmigrante en Marcha

**\$4,000**

Recreate 68

**\$1,000**

Represent! Represent!

**\$3,000**

## established grantees

9 to 5 Colorado

**\$4,500**

Alamosa Riverkeepers

**\$7,000**

American Council of the Blind of Colorado

**\$9,000**

Andy Zanca Youth Empowerment Program

**\$2,500**

Center for Justice, Peace and the Environment

**\$7,000**

Colorado ACORN

**\$7,000**

Colorado Anti-Violence Program

**\$7,000**

Colorado Women's Agenda

**\$7,000**

Compañeros

**\$7,000**

El Centro AMISTAD

**\$9,000**

El Centro Humanitario Para Los Trabajadores

**\$4,500**

Incite!

**\$2,500**

Inside/Out Youth Services

**\$7,000**

Land Rights Council

**\$7,000**

Southwest Intertribal Voice

**\$1,500**

Two Spirit Society of Denver

**\$7,000**

Western Equality

**\$7,000**

## types of grants

**Established Grants** support groups with a demonstrated ability to do social change work that 1) is led by the constituents most affected by the issue, 2) reflects the diversity of their community and 3) creates lasting systemic change. Grants up to \$10,000 are awarded.

**Start-up Grants** support new groups, less than four years old, with the potential to create effective social change. Grants up to \$4,000 are awarded.

**Critical Response Grants** of up to \$1,000 enable groups to respond to unforeseen or developing public events. These funds are not meant to alleviate financial difficulties.

**Technical Assistance Grants** of up to \$1,000 supports organizational development and growth for grantees.

## our grantmaking

As a foundation, the Chinook Fund stands out in the types of organizations it funds. We often work with groups that are too new, too risky or too radical to receive funding from more mainstream sources. Our grantees fight to alter social/economic relationships and institutions which are unjust, inequitable and undemocratic.

Our grantmaking process is also unique. Rather than have staff and donors exclusively determine how money is given out, the Chinook Fund gives decision-making power to community activists who have worked on the ground for social change. Our grantmaking committee reflects the diversity of the communities we fund and uses consensus to give weight to every voice in the process.

With these practices, the Chinook Fund strives to be increasingly accountable to progressive movements and the communities our grantees work in.

**Please visit our website for more information on our grantees!**

# our leadership

## board of directors

Jesse King, Board Chair  
 Ken Stern, Board Vice Chair  
 Helen Giron-Mushfiq, Board Treasurer  
 Karen Collier, Board Secretary  
 David Burgess  
 Yvette Freeman  
 Jordan T. Garcia  
 DeQuan Mack  
 Malaika Pettigrew  
 Sam Sharp  
 Carlos Valverde



Colorado ADAPT speaking at Chinook Grantee Awards Ceremony

Christine Allison  
 Ellen Anderman  
 Janet Landis Barrett  
 Nora Bashir  
 Carol Berry  
 Dara Burwell  
 Robert Chanate  
 Mano Cockrum  
 Adrienna Corrales  
 Rev. Tom Debree  
 Seth Donovan  
 Christopher Ellinger  
 Talia Ellis  
 Martin Espino

Tom Ferguson  
 Davian Gagne  
 David Ocelotl Garcia  
 Lorena Garcia  
 Sherry Gobaleza  
 Shirley Gray  
 Rev. Larry Grimm  
 Dr. Vincent Harding  
 Harold Lasso  
 Kathy Leonard  
 Mackenzie Liman  
 Lucy Loomis  
 Crystal Middlestadt  
 Leslie Moody

Tanya Mote  
 Sarah Nichols  
 Tonia Pinheiro  
 Candace Redshirt  
 Kory Sampson  
 Lynne Sprague  
 Stephen Stewart  
 Deborah Surat  
 Jeff Thiede  
 Shelly Travis  
 Sue Tripathi  
 Brian Undershill  
 Jesse Walker  
 Helen Wolcott

## 2007-08 volunteers

**our sincere thanks** to all Chinook volunteers for the **generous** gifts of time, expertise and resources you shared with us during the 2007-2008 years!

Opportunities for involvement are available! Please visit our website to learn more:

**Board of Directors:** stewardship of mission and success of the organization

**Development Committee:** fundraising planning and implementation

**Finance / Investment Committee:** advancement of the institution's financial health

**Grantmaking Committee:** activist-led funding decisions

**Nominating Committee:** recruitment, training and cultivation of volunteers

**Program Committee:** evaluation of funding guidelines and priorities

# our donors and supporters

The continued generosity and extraordinary leadership from our donors and supporters allow the Chinook Fund to increase its reach and deepen its impact in Colorado. We are exceptionally indebted to countless individuals and organizations who have invested in Chinook during the 2007-08 years! In particular, we would like to extend our gratitude to the following donors and supporters whose belief in our unrivaled mission delivered outstanding results at the close of Chinook's twentieth year. Thank you!

Kris Abrams	Blue Eagle	Trish Kennedy	Manny & Joanne Salzman
John Aleinikoff	Dr. Jean East	Bernie C. Kern	Jim & Prudence Scarritt
Debra Aleinkoff	Michael & Tracy Ehlers	Jesse & Jodi King	Steve & Linda Schuldt
Chris Allan & Alison Picher	Nancy Elkind & Skip Hibbard	James & Becky Kinsinger	Jim Schwartzkopff
Christine Allison	Wendy Emrich	Kate Krebs	Brad & Ruth Segal
Carol & Robert Allison	Hillary Estner	Christa & Laurie Kriesel-Roth	Ray & Mary Sell
Nancy Alterman	Garold & Joyce Faber	Mike Kromrey	Lewis & Susan Sharp
Ellen Anderman & James Donaldson	The Funding Exchange	Elizabeth Lazarus	Sam Sharp
Evan & Elizabeth Anderman	Barb Ferrill-Van Hoy	Jeff Livesay	Terry & Mary Kay Sharp
Anonymous	Lee Fisher-Rosenberg &	Peg Logan	Betty & Seymour Simmons
Brad Armstrong & Julie Dolin	Barry Rosenberg	Lucy Loomis	Chris Simon & Jessica Forsyth
Karen & Mark Arnold	Andy & Audrey Franklin	Lorman Education Services	Louise Singleton
Sarah Asher	Yvette Freeman	Indra Lusero & Allison Hoffman	Avy Skolnik
Elleni Assefa	Judy Frintner	Craig & Pamela Mackey	Dennis Skovgaard & Cheryl Jenni
Alice & Thomas Atkins	Sonya Garcia Ulibarri	Mag Foundation	Janine Solano
Timothy Bakken	Lucy Garrity	Mairead Maheigan	Lynn Sonfield
Jill & Andy Barwig	The Gay & Lesbian Fund for	Adrienne Mansanares & Dan Weiss	Donna Mae Spring
Nora Bashir	Colorado	Morgan Matter	Sprung Construction
David Beeman & Corinne Morse	Ken & Kanre Gerdes	Kevin May	Tom Sprung
Terry Benjamin	Laura Goldin	K.J. McCorry	Charlie Stein
Gail S. Bernstein	Margery Goldman	Mariagnes & Nelder Medrud	Ken Stern & Linda Stein
Carol Berry	Julie & Richard Goldstein	Linda Meric	Stern Elkind & Curray LLP
Tom & Trinda Bishop	Bob Golten & Joan Brett	Gaia Mika & Hank Brusselback	Stern, Elkin, Curray & Alterman LLP
Bolder Giving	Jean Gore	David Miller & Lisa Farber Miller	Mark & Roslyn Stockwell
Chris Bosch	Grassroots Institute for	Robert H. & Sarah S. Moench	Strear Family Foundation
Billie & Dave Bramhall	Fundraising Training	Jacy Montoya	Ruth Rebekka Struik
Linda & Wes Brown	Shirley Gray	Brian Moore & Karen Adkins	Eleanor Swanson & Robert Fogerty
David Burgess	William Griffith	Jeff Moser	Nicole Tembrock & Ethan Hemming
Don & Nita Burkhardt	Roslyn and Harold Grueskin	Tract Mott	Mary Trembour
Lynn & Don Burnes	Kristin Gunkel	Jill Nelson & Tom Bidell	Three Tomatoes Catering
Anne Byrne	Roland & Marilyn Halpern	Virginia & Rick Newton	Timothy Baaken Law Firm
Tracey Campbell	Felicity Hannay & James Wood	Alan O'Hashi	Robert & Joan Tweit
Juliet Carpenter	Mary Hansen	Jerrilyn Page	Twin Landfill Corporation
David Caulkins	Nich & Suzanne Helburn	Pajwell Foundation	Susan Unger
The Caulkins Family	Nancy Hernandez	Charlie & Sandra Papazian	Carlos Valverde, Jr & Yessica Holguin
Jane Cauvel	Faye & Richard Hershey	Susan Poradish	Veterans of Hope
John & Ann Chafee	Janet & Gary Jacobs	Dean Prina	Sarah & Gareth Walter
Tom Christensen	Nora Jacquez	Molly Prince	Jane & Ed Wasson
Karen E. Collier	Joseph & Patricia Jensen	Joan Prusse	Al & Judith Weinberg
Hope Curfman	Minsun Ji & Tony Robinson	Joseph & Lynne Ptacek	Sue Weintein
Ira Dauber	Vicki Johnson	Dan Recht & Elaine Salsberg	Marla Williams
Duane Davidson	Earline Jones	Recht & Kornfeld Law Firm	Helen & Oliver Wolcott
Bruce Deboskey	Joseph Law Firm	Beatrice Romer	Ed Wolff
The Denver Foundation	Roger & Diane Kahn	Mike Roque	Noel & Jeffrey Yegian
Fredrick Doss	Edwin S. Kahn	Richard Roth	Abrehe Zerezhgi
Lee & Katey Driscoll	Judy Kaufman & Tom Pike	David Ruchman	Aron Zerezhgi
Jaren & Bruce Ducker	Jim Kelley & Amie Knox	Maurine Ruddy	Carle Zimmerman & Rita Derjue



## the future we are creating

As the year 2008 draws to a close, the Chinook Fund stands at a crossroads between a twenty-year legacy of supporting social change and a new vision of organizational transformation. This direction is both rooted in Chinook's historical mission and fresh with creative energy. It is stepping back to leap further.

At this pivotal time, we are using wisdom gained during Chinook's tenure to help us move forward. The past year has presented the challenge of transition along with the opportunity for growth that comes with new staff leadership. Through these changes, Chinook has embarked on an introspective journey that has birthed a new model for collective leadership.

This model calls for a non-hierarchical structure in which co-directors share responsibilities and accountability to board members, volunteers, activists, donors and grantees who make up the Chinook community. In exploring this approach, we are re-engaging communities in organic and participatory processes. We are also offering one sustainable solution to complex shifts in the philanthropic sector.

At a time of financial scarcity, innovation leads the way. In response to the challenge, Chinook is investing in inter-dependence and collective intelligence to advance its work. The co-leadership model honors Chinook's progressive spirit by promoting the sharing of power. It pays tribute to collective ways of operating in the lineages, cultures and communities that sustain us, while responsibly employing the organization's resources.

Chinook is moving forward with a renewed commitment to movement building, internal anti-oppression work, social justice training, and activist-led grantmaking that continues to impact the political landscape of Colorado. Through it all, we remain inspired and humbled by the passion and commitment of our grantees who fight for change against all odds.

We continue to pursue the systemic change that makes a just, equitable and free society possible. Our communities, our voices, are needed for this effort. We invite you to take part in this transformation and help us shape the future.

In Solidarity,

Victoria Gómez  
Neha Mahajan  
Katie Thiede



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email: [office@chinookfund.org](mailto:office@chinookfund.org)

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Colorado Progressive Coalition, who received some of their first seed funding from the Chinook Fund, marches at the We Are America Immigrant Rights Rally in August 2008