

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome!

Reflecting on this past year, we realized it has really been about people and their innovations, evolutions and successes. It only seemed fitting, then, that this year's annual report serve as a *storyteller* of these accomplishments by our clients and our staff.

Through those featured below, and all of the projects we were fortunate to be involved with this past year, we learned a lot both topically (mental health, environment, ecology, aging, infrastructure, etc.) and internally (new ways of sharing data, synthesizing information, facilitating conversations). We loved learning from our clients, expanding our own understanding, and connecting even more to the causes and communities that matter deeply to us. We're incredibly proud to have helped people increase access, strengthen communities and raise up more voices ... ultimately, **joining vision and action**.

The Stories of ... Increasing Access

Growing Forward: Reviving Denver's Urban Farm



In early 2018, this 2-acre urban farm in southeast Denver lost its entire staff, and for a moment, a vision of its future. **Ekar Farm and Community Gardens**, a communal farm inspired by Jewish values, offers access to produce for those in need. Fortunately, through the support of Rose Community Foundation and our staff's expertise in strategic planning and urban agriculture, we were able to bring some light (or photosynthesis, as it were) to the situation. Gathering more understanding from stakeholders and learning more about the national landscape of similar organizations, JVA helped **guide the board through its leadership transition, find new staff and move toward a new strategic vision**.

With clearer understanding of the community's needs and a path for how to address them, Ekar looks forward to a bountiful harvest of fruits, vegetables and community connection in 2019.

Turning Nothing into Something: Expansion of Mental Health Resources

Moving to a new city is challenging enough, let alone a new country. For **immigrants and refugees** in northern Colorado, that journey got a little easier thanks to a \$180,000 grant from the Colorado Health Access Fund to **provide mental health services in Greeley**. **Asian Pacific Development Center** and its collaborative partners had a vision for providing mental health services in Greeley and called on JVA to help zero in on the specifics and then paint that picture through the grant narrative. It's not the end of this story, but it's a great start.

More (But Not All) Efforts Toward Increasing Access...

- Securing a Delta Dental grant for Clínica Tepeyac to **provide oral health care and education to lower-income families**
- Winning over \$3 million in grant monies for Metropolitan State University of Denver's Health Institute to provide low-income, first-generation and underrepresented minority students **greater access to health-field-related professional development opportunities**
- Helping Denver Department of Public Health and Environment win a grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a proposal that **helps first responders work through the effects of secondary trauma**



The stories of... Strengthening Communities



Impact Now and Later: Supporting Burgeoning Nonprofit Leaders

Starting a nonprofit isn't a walk in the park. It takes knowledge, resources and commitment. For the **executive directors and founders of emerging youth-serving nonprofits** in the metro Denver area, 2018 brought to them the opportunity to participate in a customized training program to help develop their leadership skills. Rose Community Foundation and Wend Ventures helped to fund and organize this Early Stage Community Leaders Learning Network. JVA developed a **training curriculum and reference materials** that covered basic topics such as operations management and fund development, while also **setting the stage for relationship building among participants, furthering their support system and community impact.**



Improving Air Quality for Children via Monitoring and Behavior Change

There's only one of its kind in the nation, and you can find it in Denver, thanks to a \$1.1 million grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies. The **City of Denver** became a 2018 Champion City with its idea of installing **cutting-edge air-pollution sensors around area schools to help with monitoring and planning for air quality intervention**. JVA dove into the details to then develop a concise and compelling narrative that (successfully) synthesized the problems and proposed solutions. We're breathing a little deeper already.

More (But Not All) Efforts Toward Strengthening Communities...

- » Providing evaluation training for Attention Homes staff members to help them think critically about how to **increase their housing program's effectiveness and efficiencies**
- » Engaging donors to support the **expansion of substance-misuse recovery and employment programming** through renovation of Stout Street Foundation's on-site kitchen
- » Supporting staff and volunteers of Colorado Scenic Byways in **maintaining the beauty, safety, history and accessibility of roadways** through providing training on consistent planning and management practices



The Stories of... Raising Up Voices

Exploring the Added Value of an Intergenerational Approach

What happens when you intentionally mix older adults and youth into community-based service programs? That's what the Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, through its **Second Acts for Strong Communities Initiative**, sought to discover through a three-year demonstration project. Nine youth-serving organizations from across the country agreed to participate and infuse their staff and volunteer base with older adults. As the initiative's research partner, JVA conducted a series of focus groups, surveys, key informant interviews and secondary data analysis to measure the impact. After completing Year 2, we are beginning to see **positive changes in older adults, in the youth they work with, and in the individual organizations' capacity to deliver on their missions**. Sounds worthwhile to us.

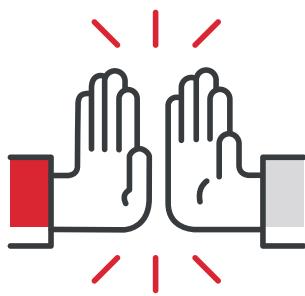
Giving Voice to the Impact of Early Childhood Resources

The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC) knew it was making a difference in the lives of young children and their families, yet it didn't have a coordinated way of communicating this impact. Through JVA's analysis of program data and leadership of focus groups and one-on-one interviews, the story started to unfold. **Parents and providers reflected on their experiences**, and we began to hear how they felt supported, educated and inspired; created valuable friendships and community connections; and developed their own leadership skills within their families and community. What happened next? The raw data was **compiled into a beautiful publication that shared the "Stories of Impact" across all of ECPAC's programming and provided a valuable tool for engaging community partners and donors**.



More (But Not All) Efforts Toward Raising Up Voices...

- Advocating for an **evolution of how we think and talk about aging** through development of communication and evaluation materials for the Changing the Narrative Colorado initiative
- Understanding the **impact on parents and caregivers** of their participation with the Denver Indian Center, Inc.'s culturally driven Honoring Fatherhood Program
- Elevating the voices of Westwood community families by working alongside the Road to Reading Initiative to **promote early childhood language and literacy**



From One to the Next

It's clear that a lot of positive community and social change has happened in Colorado and across the country. And, **we know there's more to do.** We look forward to continuing to create positive impact through supporting our clients and their focuses for the new year!

Be part of the story in 2019.



Who We Are

Joining Vision and Action (JVA) is a Colorado-based consulting firm and social enterprise that works with community organizations, businesses, government, educational institutions and others. Fueled by our own team of dedicated changemakers, JVA has combined talent and expertise for each project we tackle and each client we serve for more than 30 years.



EVALUATION AND ENGAGEMENT



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



PLANNING AND FACILITATION



MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



STAFF/TEAM DEVELOPMENT AND RECRUITMENT

Community engagement | Community needs assessment | Cross-site evaluation

Evaluation dashboards | Focus groups | Interviews with key informants | Literature reviews

Logic models, evaluation plans and evaluation systems | Market research and environmental scans

Original research | Policy research, analysis and advocacy | Surveys | Annual grantwriting contracts

Boilerplate proposal development | Case for support development

Earned income/social enterprise strategies | Fund development planning | Funding research

Grantwriting content reviews | Individual grantwriting (local, state, federal)

Business planning and modeling | Meeting facilitation | Strategic planning | Succession planning

Annual reports | Direct mail communications | Message development and testing

Strategic communications planning | Executive search services and staff training

Leadership and board development | Strengths-based leadership

*Helping and inspiring social changemakers
to succeed, sustain and scale.*