



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: El Pomar Foundation

Grantee or Initiative: Hurricane Disaster Relief

Amount: \$625,000

Period of Grant Award: September, 2005 – March, 2006

El Pomar Foundation granted \$500,000 to the Colorado Chapters of the American Red Cross and established the El Pomar Trustee and Employee Disaster Relief Fund for \$125,000 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The purpose of the Red Cross was to provide direct support, through the American Red Cross, to individuals and families who came to Colorado seeking shelter and assistance as a result of this catastrophic storm. It also provided financial assistance to the seven Colorado Chapters of the American Red Cross that incurred significant administrative expense due to the intense, ongoing assistance required to address a natural disaster of this magnitude. These chapters were operating at full capacity to staff emergency call centers, raise funds, and recruit and train front-line volunteers. The purpose of the El Pomar Trustee and Employee Disaster Relief Fund was to provide support to Colorado nonprofits to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees who came to the Pikes Peak Region seeking assistance. The relief fund continues to be administered by Pikes Peak United Way.

Grants made by El Pomar Foundation to the seven Colorado chapters of the American Red Cross allowed each local organization to recoup major, direct and indirect costs, sometimes difficult to recover, of providing for evacuees' needs of refuge and transition assistance upon their moving to Colorado. These Red Cross chapters provided millions of dollars in support to thousands of evacuees in Colorado alone. The second grant of \$125,000 contributed directly by El Pomar Trustees and Employees, initially provided direct and immediate support to evacuees who came to the Pikes Peak Region. Funds for supermarket items, fuel, and clothing were provided at a rapid response rate. Soon thereafter, the fund moved from direct evacuee support, to reimbursement of local nonprofits for the excellent support they provided in the long term recovery efforts. The fund continues to support the ongoing interagency effort in the Pikes Peak Region to help evacuees move to self sufficiency.

The Hurricane Relief grants made by El Pomar Foundation, supporting local area nonprofits, have helped enable the communities of Colorado to serve our neighbors in need from the Gulf Coast. There are many stories of community collaboration, but one specific example where El Pomar's grant has helped play a role is in its financial backing of the Pikes Peak Support Center. This Center, housed by Urban League, is a continuation of the Pikes Peak Disaster Recovery Center, now focused on residents' long term stability. At the Center, nonprofit and government organizations are working side by side, as never before, to ensure that new residents of Colorado Springs have the support they need to start and maintain a stable life in Colorado.