



MILE HIGH  
YOUTH CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## FROM OUR CEO



Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) celebrated 30 years of service to the community in 2022. That is an incredibly long history of providing impact to youth, community and the environment across 23 Colorado counties! This anniversary year also marks my arrival as MHYC's newest CEO, a role I am grateful for and excited to help lead MHYC into the next 30 years of impact.

During my first months in the CEO role, I hosted a listening tour with staff, board, members of the Founders Circle, alumni, partners and Corpsmembers. I understand that with any transition there can be fear of change and the unknown, and I wanted to make sure stakeholders had a chance to establish a relationship with me rooted in honest and candid feedback. I learned so much during these conversations:

- Mission achievability was viewed as a strength.
- Innovation was a consistent strength across all stakeholder groups.
- People felt very aligned with our mission in their personal values.

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## FROM OUR CEO

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The conversations also left me with some lingering questions based on stakeholder feedback

- How do we make our programs more accessible to BIPOC individuals?
- How do we make sure all Corpsmembers feel like they belong?
- How do we elevate MHYC to ensure that young adults are able to access this experience?

By addressing our opportunities and challenges alike we will continue to advance the mission of MHYC.

MHYC is in the business of youth and workforce development, and we strive to provide our youth with a pathway that leads to the next step. I am looking forward to continuing to build on the work over the last 30 years alongside staff, board of directors, alumni and the community to keep the great work of MHYC moving forward.

I recognize that in order to advance this mission we will need the help of the entire MHYC community as well. I am here to listen, to learn and to understand so that we can innovate and advance the mission alongside each of you.

Only working together can we ensure that our youth are empowered to serve, steward and succeed.

In Partnership,

**KIA ABDOOL**  
CEO



**ONLY WORKING TOGETHER  
CAN WE ENSURE THAT OUR  
YOUTH ARE EMPOWERED  
TO SERVE, STEWARD  
AND SUCCEED.**





**“YOU KNOW  
YOU’LL LEARN  
THINGS THAT  
YOU NEVER  
THOUGHT YOU’D  
BE DOING.”**

## **MHYC HOSTS SPECIAL GUESTS**

On August 1, Colorado Day, MHYC’s Land Conservation crew had the opportunity to host Governor Jared Polis and Lt. Governor Dianna Primavera at an El Paso County service site. The visit was an opportunity to highlight the impact of the Colorado Climate Corps, in which MHYC has a number of enrolled Corpsmembers. The Colorado Climate Corps is an AmeriCorps program through which young adults provide critical capacity and support to local governments to develop and execute climate action plans and projects, implement wildfire and flood mitigation projects and conduct water and energy efficiency projects.

The Colorado Day visit provided MHYC Corpsmember Philip P. with the chance to highlight the work of the Corps as a stepping stone toward a career in forestry or botany. “You know you’ll learn things that you never thought you’d be doing. You’ll grow in so many ways personally, professionally and interpersonally, and you’ll get to have a lot of fun doing unique things out here that no one else gets to do.”



Phillip began his journey at MHYC-Southern Front Range as a Land Conservation Leader in 2021, leading both trail and saw crews. He returned in 2022 as a Senior Crew Leader, furthering his technical skills and seizing the opportunity to help train this year's cohort of crew leaders. Peers have noted that Phillip excels at inclusivity, empowerment and mentorship. He fundamentally understands MHYC's goals and is passionate about youth development.

Much of the program's success in 2022 can be attributed to Phillip's versatility and willingness to support every crew. He volunteered to join crews in the field when they were short-staffed, assisted in trail trainings, and was an evaluator for the S-212 Wildland Fire Chainsaws training. Over time, he built skills to manage conflict within and between crews while applying a growth mindset to each challenge. Phillip is invested in the work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and created thoughtful Land Acknowledgements with associated discussion questions for every unique project location. He continues to find ways to improve the functionality of the MHYC warehouse, improve trainings, and involve the greater Pikes Peak community in the Southern Front Range Land Conservation program.

**PHILIP, LAND  
CONSERVATION**



## MADDIE, ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION

**“I HAVE NEVER WORKED SOMEWHERE THAT I WANTED TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH MY COLLEAGUES. AT MHYC, I HAVE HAD LOTS OF INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS WITH MY CO-WORKERS WHO COME FROM DIFFERENT PLACES AND HAVE HAD DIFFERENT LIFE EXPERIENCES. I HAVE BEEN MOST SURPRISED BY THE ATMOSPHERE AND CLOSENESS WITH MY CREW DURING MY TIME AT MHYC.”**

Maddie joined Mile High Youth Corps’ Energy and Water Conservation program in May 2022. She recently moved to Denver after completing a degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Vermont. Before MHYC, Maddie had worked with middle school aged students around environmental education and knew she wanted to apply education to her next role. She saw the Climate Action Corpsmember role and knew this would align with her interests, so she applied for the position.

At the end of 2022, Maddie had received industry-recognized certifications in Roots of Success and Building Science Principles, both of which will help give her an edge in future hiring prospects. The MHYC Supportive Services team helped her develop a resume and ensured her food security as she settled into her new home in Denver. Maddie decided to return for another term of service in 2023, and as a returning Corpsmember she will use her experience and leadership to help train other Corpsmembers on the crew.

As a Climate Action Corpsmember, Maddie helped support energy and water-saving measures in income-qualifying homes across the Denver metro area. On average, households save \$192 by taking simple measures in their homes, including the installation of sink and shower aerators, ultra-high-efficiency toilets, and LED lightbulbs. Maddie was able to apply her experience as an educator towards clients in their homes. “Some households were encouraged to adopt simple conservation measures when they understood the financial benefits to their annual utility bills.”



# YOUTHBUILD

75%

OF PARTICIPANTS  
COMPLETED AND  
GRADUATED FROM  
THE PROGRAM

73%

OF GRADUATES EARNED  
BOTH THEIR GED AND AN  
INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED  
CERTIFICATION

67%

OF GRADUATES HAVE  
ALREADY BEEN PLACED  
IN EMPLOYMENT OR POST-  
SECONDARY EDUCATION

**“THE GRADUATION CLASS OF 2022  
WE CELEBRATE TODAY IS TRULY AN  
EXTRAORDINARY GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS  
WITH SO MUCH TO BE PROUD OF AND FOR  
WHOM THE SKY IS TRULY THE LIMIT!”**

**XAVIER JENNINGS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF  
YOUTHBUILD**





# 30 YEARS OF IMPACT

Our impact in the last 30 years on Corpsmembers and our community is staggering. Mile High Youth Corps has created over 4,900 positions for young people, providing \$4.9 million in AmeriCorps scholarships to those Corpsmembers. Our community has felt the results of 1.8 million hours of service over the last 30 years in tangible ways. MHYC Corpsmembers have built or maintained more than 420 miles of trail, helped build over 1,200 affordable housing units, and retrofitted over 45,000 low-income homes for energy and water savings totaling over 5 million gallons of water saved!

**4,900**

TOTAL  
CORPSMEMBERS  
SERVED

**470+**

MILES OF TRAIL  
CREATED

**4,958**

JOBS CREATED  
\*DUPLICATED #S (TERMS  
OF SERVICE/POSITIONS)

**194**

TOTAL GED/HSE  
EARNED

**\$4.9 MILLION**

TOTAL EDUCATION  
AWARDS

**1,296**

TOTAL AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING UNITS BUILT

**1.8 MILLION**

TOTAL SERVICE  
HOURS

**45,000+**

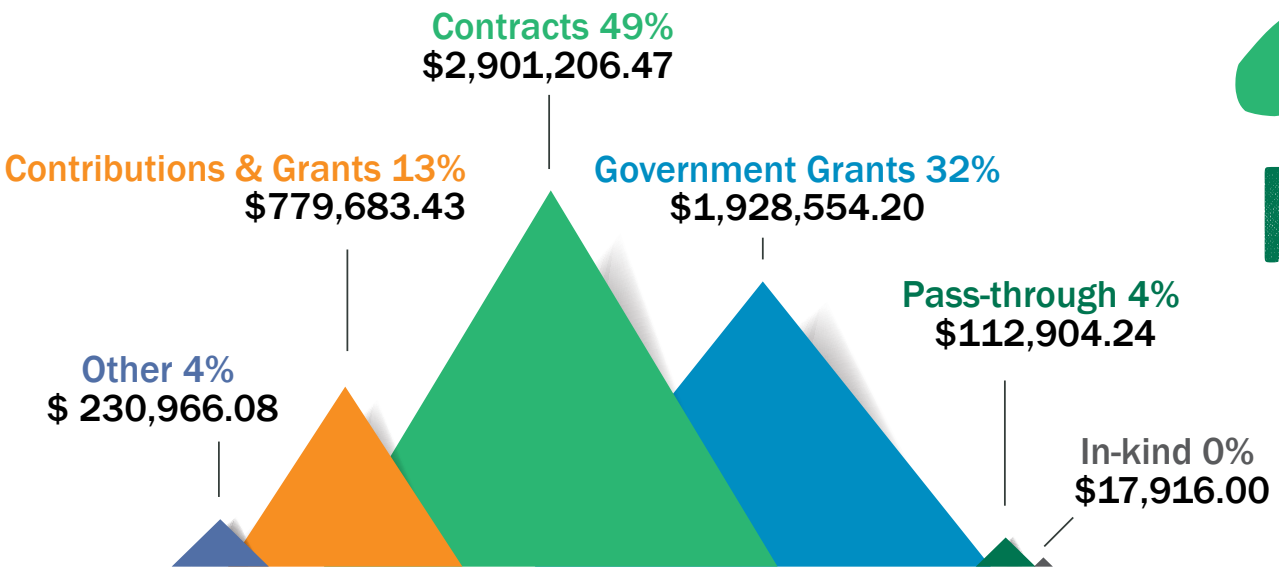
TOTAL HOMES  
RETROFITTED FOR  
ENERGY & WATER  
EFFICIENCY



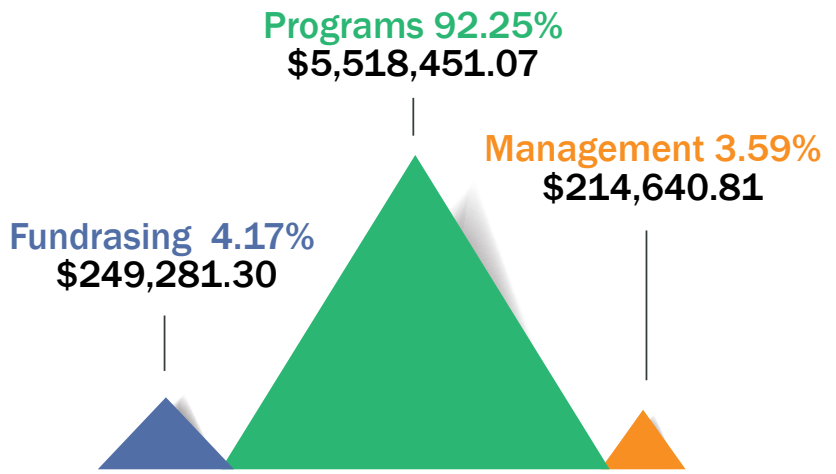


# 2022 FINANCIALS

\*UNAUDITED FINANCIALS



**TOTAL REVENUE**  
**\$5,971,230.42**



**TOTAL EXPENSES**  
**\$5,982,373.18**  
*(before depreciation)*

## PARTNERS

A Precious Child  
 Ability Connection Colorado  
 Adams County Parks, Open Space,  
 & Cultural Arts Department  
 AmeriCorps  
 Arapahoe County Open Spaces  
 Arkansas River Watershed  
 Collaborative  
 Association of General Contractors  
 Atrevida Brewery  
 Aurora Water  
 Battle Mountain Brewery  
 Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area  
 Bevara  
 Bluff Lake Nature Center  
 Bobcat of the Rockies  
 Boulder Ranger District  
 (US Forest Service)  
 Bureau of Land Management:  
 Royal Gorge Field Office  
 Café 180  
 Cañon City Area Metropolitan  
 Recreation and Park District  
 Castlewood Canyon State Park  
 Catamount Institute  
 Central Colorado Mountain Riders  
 Cheyenne Mountain State Park  
 CHIC  
 City and County of Denver Parks  
 and Recreation  
 City of Aurora Parks, Recreation &  
 Open Space Department  
 City of Boulder Open Space and  
 Mountain Parks  
 City of Colorado Springs  
 Downtown Partnership  
 City of Colorado Springs Parks,  
 Recreation and Cultural Services  
 City of Lakewood

City of Manitou Springs  
 City of Trinidad  
 City of Westminster  
 City of Wheat Ridge Parks,  
 Forestry and Open Space  
 Clear Creek Ranger District  
 (US Forest Service)  
 Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning  
 Center  
 Colorado Alliance for  
 Environmental Education  
 Colorado Attorney General's Office  
 Colorado Department of  
 Natural Resources  
 Colorado Department of  
 Public Health and Environment  
 Colorado Finishing Trades Institute  
 Colorado Health Corps  
 Colorado Low Income Energy  
 Assistance Program  
 Colorado Open Lands  
 Colorado Springs Health  
 Foundation  
 Colorado State University  
 Expanded Food & Nutrition  
 Education Program  
 Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action  
 Program  
 Colorado Water Conservation  
 Board  
 Colorado Workforce Development  
 Council State Youth Council  
 Colorado Youth Corps Association  
 Colorado Youth for a Change  
 Community College of Denver  
 CORE Partners/WORKNOW  
 Council of Neighbors and  
 Organizations  
 Craig Hospital  
 Craig's Power Equipment  
 Denver Economic Development &  
 Opportunity

Denver Health  
 Denver Housing Authority  
 Denver Office of Climate Action,  
 Sustainability, Resiliency  
 Denver Office of Nonprofit  
 Engagement  
 Denver Parks and Recreation  
 Denver Pipefitters Local 208  
 Denver Santa Claus Shop  
 Denver Water  
 Denver Workforce Development  
 Board & Youth Committee  
 Denver Workforce Integration  
 Network  
 Denver Workforce Services  
 Department of Reclamation,  
 Mining and Safety  
 Diva Cup  
 Douglas County Conservation  
 District  
 Douglas County Fairgrounds  
 Douglas County Open Space &  
 Natural Resources  
 EarthLinks  
 Educational Opportunity Center at  
 the Community College of Denver  
 Eldorado Canyon State Park  
 Emerson St. a Program of  
 WellPower  
 Energy Outreach Colorado  
 Family Tree  
 Fiskars  
 FleetPool  
 Food Bank of the Rockies  
 Food to Power  
 Forge Evolution  
 Fountain Creek Watershed District  
 Friends of Ute Pass Trails  
 Front Range CPR  
 Generation Wild - Pikes Peak  
 Region  
 Global Machinery



## OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT



Goodwill of Denver  
Great Outdoors Colorado  
Grow Local  
Guardians of Palmer Park  
Habitat for Humanity  
Hickman Trailer  
High Line Canal Conservancy  
Historic Green Mountain Falls  
Foundation  
HistoriCorps  
Hugo State Wildlife Area  
I-kota  
Inside Out Youth Services  
International Union of Painters and  
Allied Trades District Council 81  
Janus Henderson  
JeffCo Eats  
Jefferson Conservation District  
John Martin Reservoir State Park  
Kenny Electric  
KeyBank  
Kinship Landing  
Kirkpatrick Family Fund  
KPMG Data Citizens with Purpose  
Lake Pueblo State Park  
Lakewood Probation  
Las Animas County Fairgrounds  
Lathrop State Park  
Leave No Trace  
MEDIC SOLO  
Metric Brewing  
Metro Caring  
Mi Casa Resource Center  
Mile High 360  
Mount Evans Outdoor Lab  
MTech Mechanical  
Mueller State Park  
Namaste Solar  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Forest Foundation  
National Park Foundation  
National Park Service: Florissant  
Fossil Beds National Monument

Native Governance Center  
Nurse Family Partnership  
Old Town Bike Shop  
Open Door  
Palace Construction  
Palmer Land Conservancy  
Pikes Peak BOCES - School to  
Work Alliance Program  
Pikes Peak Business and  
Education Alliance  
Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation  
Alliance  
Pikes Peak Ranger District  
(US Forest Service)  
Pikes Peak United Way  
Pikes Peak Workforce Center  
Polsinelli  
Precious Child  
Preservation Tree Care  
project Foster Power  
Project FosterPower  
Pueblo State Fish Hatchery  
Purgatoire Watershed Partnership  
Ramah State Wildlife Area  
Realizing Aptitudes  
REI  
RK Mechanical  
Rocky Mountain Field Institute  
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps  
Roundup Riders of the Rockies  
Salida Ranger District  
(U.S. Forest Service)  
San Carlos Ranger District  
(US Forest Service)  
Serve Colorado  
Service Year Alliance  
Shrewsbury Construction  
South Platte Ranger District  
(US Forest Service)  
Spirit of the Sun  
Sprout City Farms  
St. Joseph Hospital  
Struggle of Love  
Sun Valley Youth Center

The Action Center  
The Corps Network  
The Davey Tree Expert Company  
The Ember Alliance  
The Opus Group  
The Place Colorado Springs  
The Urban Farm  
The Village Institute  
Tire World  
Tony Grampas Youth Services  
Town of Green Mountain Falls  
Trails and Open Space Coalition  
Trinidad Lake State Park  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Unite Colorado  
VF Foundation  
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado  
Walls Counseling  
We Don't Waste  
Welsh Electric  
Western Colorado Conservation  
Corps  
Wildland Restorations Volunteers  
Young Invincibles  
YouthBuild USA

## FOUNDATION, GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE

**\$50,000+**

Anonymous  
 City of Lakewood  
 Colorado Attorney General/  
 UNitedHealthcare  
 Colorado Climate Corps  
 Colorado Department of Education  
 Colorado Department of Labor  
 and Employment  
 Colorado Water Conservation  
 Board  
 Colorado Workforce Development  
 Council  
 Corporation for National and  
 Community Service - AmeriCorps  
 Denver Economic Development  
 & Opportunity  
 Denver Housing Authority  
 Denver Office of Climate, Action,  
 Sustainability, and Resiliency  
 Great Outdoors Colorado  
 I-kota  
 National Forest Foundation  
 The Opus Foundation  
 Tony Grampsas Youth Services  
 US Department of Labor  
 YouthBuild USA

**\$49,999-\$15,000**

Climate Equity Fund of The  
 Denver Foundation  
 Colorado Springs Health  
 Foundation  
 Colorado Watershed Assembly  
 Kenneth King Foundation  
 Kirkpatrick Family Fund  
 GLP Capital Partners  
 National Park Foundation  
 The Denver Foundation  
 United Airlines  
 Workforce Innovation and  
 Opportunity Act  
 Xcel Energy Foundation

**\$14,999  
 AND BELOW**

Aloha Foundation  
 BNSF Foundation  
 Cross H Foundation  
 Energize Colorado  
 Franciscan Friars of Holy Name  
 Province May Bonfils Stanton  
 Memorial Fund  
 Gay Farris & Dave Farmer Fund  
 Giving Generations Foundation  
 Fund  
 John G. Duncan Charitable Trust  
 Keltner Family Foundation  
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 Mortenson  
 Phyllis M. Coors Foundation  
 Prologis  
 RK Foundation  
 Suncor Energy

## INDIVIDUALS

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 Andrea Schweikert  
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 Andrew Orr  
 Andrew Osborn  
 Andrew Tighe  
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 Christopher Wagner  
 Christy Gallese  
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 Jean Scandlyn  
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 Jordan Guimont  
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 Karyn Browne &  
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 Kathy Eans  
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 Steven Cartwright  
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 Susan Richardson  
 Susan Wallace  
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 Thomas McKeen  
 Thomas Shallow  
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 Tom Ratty\*  
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 Troy Stalter  
 Valerie Webster  
 William Browning  
 Zach Scott

**\*Building Blocks Member**

**Donors from January 1 -  
December 31, 2022**

**We are grateful for all of  
our donors and regret any  
ommissions on this list.**

# STAFF

**KIA ABDOOL**  
CEO (June 2022 start)

**CATHERINE ARENSBERG**  
Manager: Supportive Services

**ANTONIO BARREIRO**  
Chief Operating Officer

**NAOMI BOLTS**  
Coordinator: HR Data

**NATE EDGE**  
Associate Director: Energy  
& Water Conservation

**CARLYE ELSTUN**  
Senior Field Coordinator:  
Health & Wellness

**LOUIS FIELEK**  
HR Specialist

**MELISSA FLORES**  
Manager: Operations

**MARLEE FRITKIN**  
Project Coordinator: Land  
Conservation

**PRASHAN GURUNG**  
HR Specialist

**TRISTON HARRISON**  
YouthBuild Alumni Associate

**EMMA HAY**  
Specialist: HR & Outreach

**EMILY HOLMES**  
Senior Program Coordinator:  
Land Conservation

**HEATHER HURD**  
Director: Corpsmember  
Advancement and  
Compliance

**LINDA JACOBS**  
Finance and Accounting  
Support

**XAVIER JENNINGS**  
Associate Director:  
YouthBuild

**THERESA KHONG**  
Senior Accountant

**JOHN KNUDSEN**  
Coordinator: Fire Crew

**SANDRA LITTLE**  
High School Equivalency  
Instructor

**LALITA MARTIN**  
Program Coordinator:  
Land Conservation

**GE'VON MARTIN-COLLINS**  
Program Coordinator: Land  
Conservation

**BRIGID MCRAITH**  
CEO (through June 2022)

**SAM MOONEY**  
Coordinator: Energy & Water  
Conservation Education and  
Outreach Coordinator

**CLAIRE MORRISSY**  
Regional Manager: Denver  
Land Conservation

**LENE NICHOLS**  
Associate Director: Finance

**AMBER PALMERI**  
Associate Director: Program  
Initiatives

**DEMETRIUS PARKER**  
Program Coordinator: Energy  
& Water Conservation

**JON PFNISTER**  
Accounting Specialist

**JESSICA RICHARDS**  
Coordinator: Development  
& Marketing

**JESSE ROEHM**  
Director: Land  
Conservation & Operations

**CJ RUNGE**  
Regional Manager:  
Southern Front Range  
Land Conservation

**JULIA SCHALLER**  
Manager: Youth &  
Community Engagement

**JESLIN SHAHREZAEI**  
Chief Development &  
Communications Officer

**LISA SMITH**  
Chief Financial Officer

**JASON VAUGHN**  
Supportive Services  
Associate Manager: Career  
Readiness, Employment  
and Corpsmember  
Transition

**COLLEEN WALLACE**  
Development Manager:  
Grants

**ALLI WODAR**  
Coordinator: Development  
& Marketing Coordinator

**OLYMPIA VIDA**  
Project Coordinator: Land  
Conservation

**DANIEL MARTINEZ**  
Field Coordinator:  
Construction

# BOARD

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Assistant General Counsel  
Xcel Energy

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**VICE CHAIR**  
Partner, Holland & Hart LLP

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Shareholder, Brownstein  
Hyatt Farber Schreck

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Portfolio Manager, DREAM  
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---

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Vista Academy

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Alum, Director of Public  
Affairs  
Denver Water

**TAMARA CLARK**  
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Work Alliance Program

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VP Workforce Programs  
and Community Relations,  
Prologis

**DAYLE JONES**  
Construction Executive,  
Turner Construction

**NICOLE JONES**  
Program Administrator,  
Youth & Family Services  
City and County of Denver

**JOJO LA**  
Policy Advisor, CO Dept. of  
Public Health & Environment

**ELOY MARTINEZ**  
Alum, Journeyman, Mtech

**BRENT MCDANIEL,**  
Alum, Senior Marketing  
Content Developer, SWCA  
Consultants

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and County of Denver, Parks  
and Recreation

**PAUL SCHARFENBERGER**  
Executive Director, Colorado  
Clean Energy Fund

**ALE SPRAY**  
Business Development  
Manager - Community  
Engagement, Mortenson

## SOUTHERN FRONT RANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**MELISSA ALBERT**  
RN, BSN, Common Roots

**MCKENZIE CARMACK**  
Program Coordinator, Pikes  
Peak Outdoor Recreation  
Alliance

**TAMARA CLARK**  
SWAP Specialist, School  
to Work Alliance Program

**MELISSA MARTS**  
Program Development  
Administrator, Pikes Peak  
Council of Governments

**GILLIAN ROSSI**  
Park Ranger Supervisor,  
City of Colorado Springs



MILE HIGH  
YOUTH CORPS

