INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Institute for Environmental Solutions

The Institute for Environmental Solutions delivers scientific solutions to improve our health and environment

www.i4es.org

OUR WORK

WE REDUCE CHEMICAL FOOTPRINTS FOR IMPROVED WATER QUALITY AND HEALTH.

WE APPLY STRATEGIC TREE PLANTING FOR EROSION CONTROL, AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT, AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION.

WE CAPITALIZE ON COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM WITH KIDS AND ADULTS TO IMPROVE THEIR COMMUNITIES WITH A FOCUS ON STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP TRAINING.

The Institute for Environmnetal Solutions (IES) is a Denver-based independent nonprofit organization founded in 2004 that engages a broad spectrum of stakeholders and develops sound, cost-effective solutions to environmental challenges. IES solves environmental problems and protects Colorado's water and air with pollution prevention and reduction programs.

IES focuses on improving the environment and reducing water and air pollution by partnering with individuals, businesses, and communities in Colorado.

THE IMPORTANCE OF IES

An urgent need exists to find, test, and implement sound scientific, cost-effective solutions to complex environmental problems that are not adequately addressed.

Too often, well-intended environmental improvement strategies fail or result in unintended negative consequences because the problem and proposed solutions were not fully and objectively measured and analyzed.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The year 2020 was a huge and unique challenge that affected IES in as many unforeseen ways as it affected everyone. I am proud of the energy, dedication, and creativity that all IES team members, volunteers, Board members, Committee members and partners brought to our programs to make them successful. IES was committed to respecting government and health mandates to support the health and well being of our project team members and the communities we work with. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, IES modified projects to keep community volunteers and IES team members safe and healthy. IES team members eagerly met the challenges and reimagined what different aspects of the projects could look like under a variety of circumstances. Project teams moved to virtual meetings; classroom activities were converted to remote workshops; and planting was retooled to comply with social distancing in collaboration with our wonderful stakeholders, partners and volunteers. The Chemical Footprint Project team created and hosted its first virtual workshop for the Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods Program to reduce chemical footprints and prevent pollution.

We adapted to our circumstances and found creative ways to keep stakeholders and students engaged. When the state executed a lockdown mandate in March 2020, we transitioned meetings to Zoom to reduce in-person contact. We used Zoom to hold virtual workshops with students at Fort Logan Northgate (FLN) and Kullerstrand Elementary. IES worked with the Kullerstrand staff members to develop remote-learning activities. Using technology like this to simulate real-life scenarios has become a useful approach and demonstrates how IES continues to be an educational resource for our community.

IES adhered to strict safety measures when hosting in-person events, including face masks, social distancing, and no sharing of tools and equipment. Working outside decreased the risk of spreading COVID-19 while allowing students and volunteers to safely enjoy the outdoors.

The CFP team organized our first virtual workshop ever with the Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhoods program in August. I enjoyed seeing how engaged participants were as they learned about contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) and how to avoid them using label reading, apps with product ingredient information, and do-it-yourself (DIY) homemade products. It was rewarding to see our endeavors end in success. Our workshops, virtual or otherwise, always provide easy DIY activities and demonstrations that teach children and adults ways to avoid CECs in household and personal care products. Participants can easily incorporate these practices into their lives to protect their health and the environment. It is through workshops like these that the Chemical Footprint Project encourages and inspires people to become environmental stewards.

Thank you for sharing our mission to protect our health and environment.

IES HIGHLIGHTS

ALEX MODRZECKI

Tree Project Graduate Intern

"The Tree Project has provided me a place to put my studies into action by making a meaningful impact in my community's environment and health."

JULIA HRYCYK

Tree Project Graduate Intern

"I am so proud to be a part of the IES Tree Project team and work with like-minded people that want to give back to the community through environmental projects. 2020 was a tough year and IES did a great job in adjusting to the changes caused by the pandemic and with hard work we accomplished both projects in Wheat Ridge and Sheridan."

KATHRYN STEINMANN

Chemical Footprint Graduate Intern

"During my time at IES, I have learned a great deal about fostering sustainable behavior in our community. I enjoyed developing workshops that focus on reducing chemical footprints and improving human and environmental health. I'm excited to continue IES's work in the coming year."

SARA HANEY

Chemical Footprint Graduate Intern

"I found IES as an organization that aligns with my passions. We truly value environmental and social health. I am grateful to be a part of a dedicated, brilliant team, and look forward to what we accomplish next."

GET INVOLVED. VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT OUR VISION AND MISSION!

We welcome volunteers with a variety of backgrounds to join our teams or committees, and support IES.

IES projects and leadership boards provide opportunities to do rewarding and fulfilling community improvement. IES volunteer opportunities include:

- Chemical Footprint Project Team or Tree Project Team
- Project Steering Committee (Chemical Footprint Project and Tree Project)
- Board of Directors
- Tree Stewards

Contact us for more information at **Solutions@i4es.org**

COLLABORATIVE TEAMS

In 2020, IES began three IES-wide collaborative initiatives designed to include team members from both projects to discuss work on improving IES as an environmental resource in the community.

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATION TEAM

The Social Media Coordination Team was created to increase IES's social media presence and enhance its networking abilities. The goal of this team is to engage more with current IES followers and to attract new followers. The team develops new content so that IES can disseminate information about the organization and the environment in meaningful ways.

CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES TEAM

The Climate Change Initiatives Team was established to incorporate current climate change research and initiatives into IES curriculum, workshops, and operations. This team plans to create informative sustainability videos, incorporate this theme into workshops through both project teams, and determine standardized metrics related to IES's impact on climate change and sustainability, which will then be regularly reported.

GRANT COORDINATION TEAM

The Grant Coordination Team was developed to streamline IES's grant application process and to improve information on potential grant opportunities. We hope to simplify grant tracking, improve grant application content to increase funding success rate, and expand IES's grant opportunities and capacity building.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

TO IES FOUNDER AND FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAROL LYONS!

IES thanks IES founder and Executive Director Carol Lyons for creating a successful and inspirational organization! After dedicating 17 years to IES, Carol retired at the end of 2020. Carol's commitment to IES has helped to improve the environment of the Denver-metro area, providing environmental education and opportunities to local students and adults, and helping countless graduate interns and project associates with their professional development in preparation for successful careers in the environmental realm.

THE TREE PROJECT

We improve Colorado cities through multi-disciplinary partnerships and urban forestry programs.

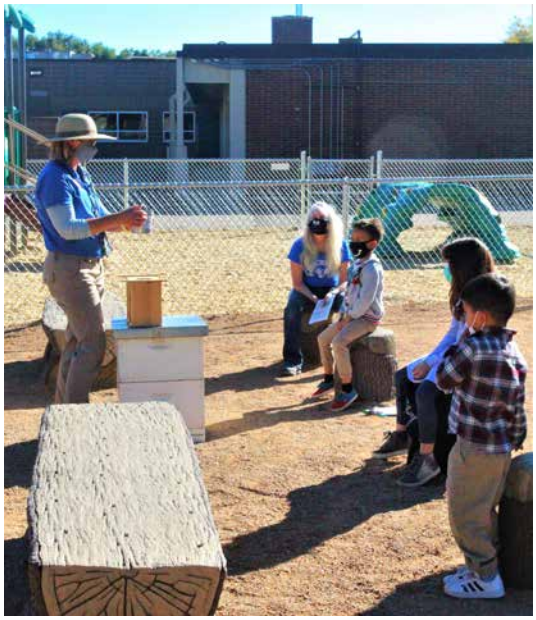
WE:

- **IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY HEALTH**
- **EDUCATE CHILDREN AND ADULTS TO BECOME ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS**
- **ENGAGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO REHABILITATE, IMPROVE, AND MAINTAIN URBAN NATURAL RESOURCES**

A FLN Leadership Class student plants a native plant at the western entrance of Sheridan Quincy Trail.

SHERIDAN TRAIL ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECT

The 2020 Sheridan Trail Enhancement and Restoration Project (TERP) was IES's seventh year of community improvement in Sheridan, Colorado. The Tree Project continued its partnership with the City of Sheridan, Sheridan School District No. 2, Fort Logan Northgate School (FLN), and South Suburban Parks and Recreation District to provide sustainable environmental improvements along the Sheridan Quincy Trail. The 2020 Sheridan TERP focused on increasing native vegetation, improving soil stability, and increasing xeriscape native plants. The Tree Project held two planting days and one virtual workshop with the FLN Leadership Class students. The IES Chemical Footprint Project implemented an additional workshop with the students in collaboration with the Tree Project to teach students about contaminants of emerging concern. Prior to work days with FLN students, IES team members and Xcel Energy employees provided critical site maintenance along the trail, including planting 12 plants and re-mulching a pathway inside the community space. During the Tree Project's outdoor planting days with FLN, students planted 70 native plants along the trail and filled several trash bags of invasive weeds. Students then mulched, watered, and caged the new native plants. FLN and community Tree Stewards provided maintenance during the school year to ensure survival of the newly planted vegetation. In total, IES planted 82 native plants in Sheridan this year. We thank our amazing partners and sponsors for another successful project at the Sheridan Quincy Trail.



Environmental Interpreter Susan Bennett taught a pollinator themed workshop to the Kullerstrand students.

WHEAT RIDGE NATURE PLAY CONNECTIONS PROJECT

The 2020 Wheat Ridge Nature Play Connections Project (NPCP) was IES's eighth year of planting in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. IES has partnered with Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department (WRPRD) since 2012 and has partnered with Kullerstrand Elementary since 2015 to create meaningful projects for both members of the Wheat Ridge community and the students at Kullerstrand. Project goals in 2020 were to improve the ecological health of the Wheat Ridge green spaces by increasing tree canopy cover and native pollinators, developing environmental stewardship among local children, and providing routine maintenance for three years after planting. IES implemented a virtual workshop in the spring with students from Kullerstrand's Teaching Responsibility And Independence with Learning Supports (TRAILS) program after Jefferson County Public Schools transitioned to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused numerous significant and unavoidable project delays. IES held the second virtual workshop in September to prepare students for the two October planting days. TRAILS students planted 51 native shrubs, grasses, and flowers at their school along with four native trees. IES proved its adaptability in unprecedented challenging circumstances and its commitment to improving local ecology while providing environmental education to the community. Many thanks to our partners, Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department and Kullerstrand Elementary, for another successful year!

THANK YOU

TO OUR COMMUNTY MEMBERS AND TREE STEWARDS!

A Tree Steward helped a Kullerstrand student plant a native shrub during one of the Tree Project's modified planting days.

Volunteers assisted IES during planting days.

Kullerstrand students perform finishing touches by watering the tree they just planted.

IES's Chemical Footprint and Tree Project teams involved community members and dedicated volunteers throughout 2020 to assist project initiatives, maintain planting sites, and support 2020 objectives. Despite uncertainty throughout the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IES community continued to support projects and work hard to fulfill planting and workshop goals.

The Tree Project heavily depends on IES Tree Stewards to maintain newly planted plants and trees through regular watering and weeding efforts. As a group of dedicated community volunteers, the IES Tree Stewards also communicate routinely with the Tree Project on tree health and status, furthering the Tree Project's data collection on planted species and survival.

IES teams engage with the community while implementing projects, involving both students and adults in becoming environmental stewards in their communities. IES relies on community member support to effectively implement projects throughout the year. We thank all involved individuals for their tremendous support in 2020. In addition to community members' direct involvement and participation, IES uses social media, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter, to connect with hundreds of people online. Follow IES to stay up-to-date on current projects and to learn more about Colorado's local ecology and at-home environmental tips.

IES thanks the Tree Project and Chemical Footprint Project Steering Committees for their suggestions and dedication to both teams. The Steering Committees on both teams are composed of local professionals volunteering their time to provide IES with guidance. The Committees meet periodically and serve as advisory boards to guide IES throughout the year.

In 2020, IES again partnered with Xcel Energy in the annual Xcel Energy Day of Service (XEDOS). IES thanks Xcel Energy for hosting the event and for its continued partnership with IES.

CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT PROJECT

The mission of the IES Chemical Footprint Project (CFP) is to protect human and environmental health through preventing harmful chemicals in personal care and household products in our water. The IES CFP Project uses scientific research and community-based social marketing strategies to develop and implement workshops and other educational initiatives that engage local stakeholders to learn about these contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) and how to sustainably reduce their chemical footprints. We work to provide children and adults with techniques that can help them become strong environmental stewards and leaders in their communities. 2020 was another successful year for the CFP despite the disruptions that occurred from the COVID-19 pandemic.

LAKEWOOD SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS EIBER

In the Lakewood Sustainable Neighborhood (LSN) Program, residents engage in making their neighborhood more vibrant and sustainable. LSN-Eiber approached the CFP Project team about hosting a workshop with its neighborhood on reducing chemical footprints. The CFP team tailored the workshop to align with LSN-Eiber's interests in bee safety and sustainable gardening by incorporating information about neonicotinoids in the workshop. Once the pandemic lockdown started, IES team members tackled the challenge of creating a virtual on-line workshop. The coordination with LSN-Eiber to host a Reduce Your Chemical Footprint workshop was successful with 100% of the participants making commitments to reduce their chemical footprints.

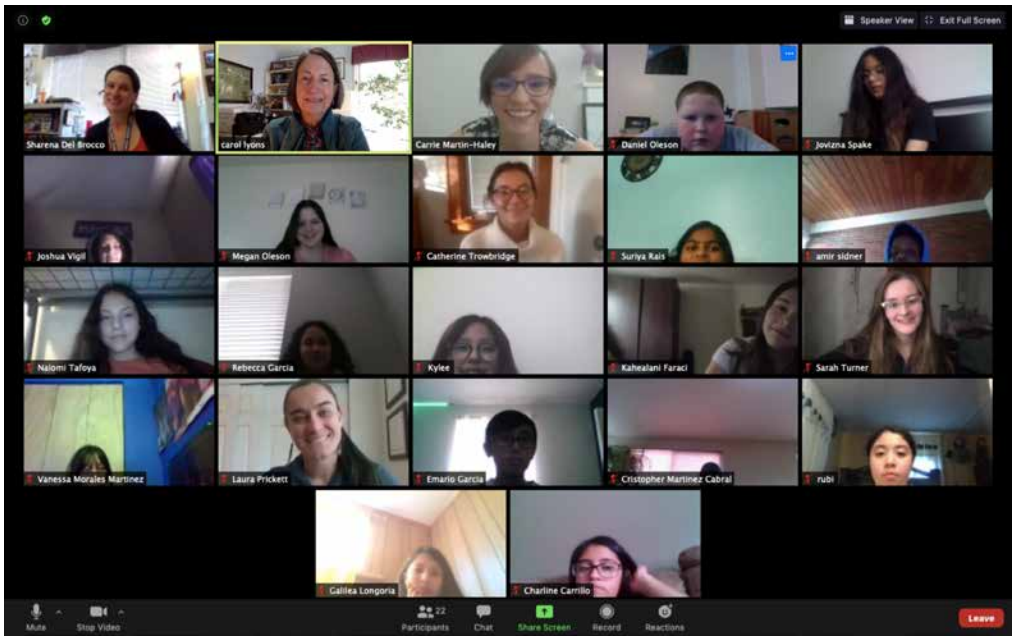
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO GRADUATE CAPSTONE PROJECTS

The IES CFP partnered with graduate students from the University of Colorado Denver on capstone projects that support the mission of the CFP.

- Mimi Mahan, "GIS Analysis of Sheridan Regional Water Transport: Where Does Your Water Come From?" Mimi's terrific presentation was used in our fall workshop, and will be included in future workshops.
- Christopher Mercer, "Reducing Chemical Footprints in the Front Range". Christopher's research on outreach will improve the effectiveness of IES outreach.

FLN VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

IES held a Reduce Your Chemical Footprint pilot virtual workshop for Fort Logan Northgate (FLN) School in the underserved community of Sheridan, Colorado in November of 2020 for 7th and 8th graders in the Leadership Class. The initiative used a variety of methods to engage students and educate them on water pollution, Sheridan's water cycle, what a chemical footprint is, CECs, and how to reduce their chemical footprints. The FLN Leadership Class students enjoyed the workshop and mastered new knowledge to help them become stronger environmental stewards. To read more about the workshop, its implementation, and impact, visit our website (i4es.org) for the full report.



The FLN Leadership Class after finishing their grant presentations during their virtual workshop.

IES CONTRIBUTORS/FINANCIAL REPORT

IES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristen Bertuglia, Director, Environmental Sustainability Department, Town of Vail

Floyd Boyard, Manager, Analytical Department, Marathon Oil Co. (retired)

Briana Gunn, *President*, Group Executive of Environment, Newmont Mining Corporation

Sean Mangus, *Vice President*, Manager, Iron Mountain Inc.

Allison Robinette, *Secretary*, Assistant Attorney General, Colorado Office of Attorney General

Luke Swaney, *Treasurer*, Director, Founders Lab

Lauren Rosenkranz, Environmental Scientist, ERM

Michael Verdone, Ph.D., Director, BBC Research and Consulting

Adam Wylie, Associate Director, Environment & Global Responsibility, Leprino Foods

Floyd and Michael left the board in 2020 after many years of dedicated leadership. We thank them for their valuable service.

IES STAFF MEMBERS

Lynn David Bird, Attorney, Caplan and Earnest LLC (pro bono)

Leah Bluntschli, Information Designer, Middle Child

Alana Burrow, Administrative Director

Danielle Granquist, Graphic and Website Designer, Golden Marketing

Caitlin Jacobshagen, Chemical Footprint Project Manager

Jesse Johnson, Videographer, IOTK Media

Carol E. Lyons, Executive Director

Carrie Martin-Haley, Tree Project Manager

Laura Prickett, Wheat Ridge Project Manager

Michael Smith, Chemical Footprint Project Manager

IES GRADUATE INTERNS

Chemical Footprint Project

Janel Abbot

Andy Arnold-Murray

Ashley Brubaker

Tanner Drake

Austin Duncan

Haley Flynn

Reed Gerberick

John Godin

Sara Haney

Ben Hoesley

Courtney King

Michael Smith

Kathryn Steinmann

The Tree Project

Emmalee Benson

Gabe Catenacci

Haylee Grace

André Gratto

Julia Hrycyk

Alex Modrzecki

Kelsey Paisley-Lasso

John Rosol

Cathi Schramm

Hailey Smalley

Catherine Trowbridge

Sarah Turner

TREE PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Desirée Cunningham, U.S. General Accountability Office

Donna Davis, Colorado State Forest Service

John Kelly, Colorado State Auditor's Office

Sabrina Kleinman, Owner/Partner, Enviroplan Partners, LLC

Lloyd Levy, Lloyd Levy Consulting

Sean Mangus, Iron Mountain Inc.

Milly Nadler, Colorado Academy retired

Kelly O'Toole, BLM Colorado

Judith Ward, Critical Habitats, Inc.

CHEMICAL FOOTPRINT PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

Nancy Billica, University of Colorado Boulder

Jaclyn Bowen, Clean Label Project

Kyra Brisson, Metro Wastewater

Caroline Byus, Pinyon Environmental

David Dani, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Greg Fabisiak, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Randy Putnam, CWP MBA

Kim Schultz, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange

Susan Sherrod, Ecologist

Andrea Stucky, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

In 2020 our volunteers, board members, interns, aover $100,000 in in-kind contributions. IES's primary source of monetary support comes from grants that we apply for from corporate and private foundations, and from local and state government agencies. Individual donors provide necessary operating funds. Over 90% of contributions and funding directly support projects, which includes project materials, trees, shrubs, grasses, outreach materials, technical equipment, educational and workshop materials, and modest stipends to project staff members. Many program activities were delayed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our generous and understanding grant sponsors extended most program deadlines. Program funds that were not used in 2020 were carried forward to 2021 to be allocated to their project purpose.

	ADMINISTRATION & FUNDRAISING	PROGRAMS	TOTAL
INCOME			
Grants	$14,125	$34,520	$48,645
Interest	$66	$0	$66
Unrestricted Board Contribution	$1,478	$0	$1,478
Unrestricted Contribution	$20,909	$448	$21,357
Fund transfer from 2019		$47,007	
TOTAL INCOME	**$36,577**	**$81,975**	**$118,552**
EXPENSE			
DIRECT EXPENSE			
Curriculum development	$0	$304	$304
Dues, training	-$16	$60	$44
Insurance	$229	$458	$687
Internet, website, telephone	$759	$359	$1,118
Meeting / conference supplies	$153	$605	$757
Office supplies	$977	$2,237	$3,214
Printing,reproduction, pubs	$639	$2,000	$2,639
Project supplies and equipment	$23	$8,524	$8,547
Transportation	$118	$1,229	$1,347
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSE	**$2,882**	**$15,776**	**$18,658**
LABOR			
Administrator	$1,965	$2,560	$4,525
Executive Director	$0	$7,695	$7,695
Project staff members	$2,001	$46,291	$48,292
Graphic designer	$935	$1,320	$2,255
Videographer	$0	$3,850	$3,850
TOTAL LABOR	$4,901	$61,716	$66,617
TOTAL EXPENSE	**$7,782**	**$77,492**	**$85,274**
NET	**$28,795**	**$4,483**	**$33,278**
Fund transfer to 2021			**$33,278**

DONORS, SUPPORTERS, GRANTS AND SPONSORS

Donations and contributions are 100% tax deductible and directly support programs that improve the environment and human health.

Thank you 2020 donors! Donations help grow a community of environmental stewards. We could not be successful without you.

RIVER WARRIOR ($1,000 TO $2,499)

Suzanne & Gale Biggs, Boulder
Elizabeth Gardener, Denver
Marilyn Kelman & Leslie Kelman, Atlanta, GA, in memory of Bernice Tarlie
Yves Parent, Golden
Adam Wylie, Wheat Ridge

ALPINE ADVOCATES ($500 – $999)

Anonymous
Anne Farrell, Santa Fe, NM
Briana Gunn, Denver
The Mark and Nina Kuhl Family Fund, Denver
Susan Sherrod, Golden
Mark & Diana Stucky, Castle Rock

TREE HUGGER ($250 – $499)

Anonymous
Desiree Cunningham, Lakewood
Mara & Art Hertel, Wheat Ridge
Lloyd E. & Patricia Barry Levy, Wheat Ridge
William Martin, Westminster

IES PARTNER ($100 – $249)

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Urte H. Barker, Pasadena, CA
William Battaglin, Golden
John Wayne Beard, Humble, TX
Kristen Gray Bertuglia, Vail
Nancy Billica & Brian Vickers, Boulder
Floyd & Jackie Boyard, Denver
Susan Cuthbert-Peck, Littleton
The Deru Family, Arvada
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Katharine Glaub, Morrison
Gertrude Grant, Denver
Edward & Stephanie Harvey, Denver
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John D. Kelly, Evergreen
John & Denise Kelly, Evergreen, in honor of John D. Kelly
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Sean Mangus, Broomfield
Vicki Martin, Greenwood Village
Bill & Suzy McKee, Golden
Iulian & Mihaela Obreja, Niwot
Betty Jo Page, Wheat Ridge
Patti Prickett, West Chester, OH
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Allison Robinette, Denver
Andrea Stucky, Denver
Luke Swaney, Centennial
Kathleen Thaxton, Parker
The Waltermire Family Charitable Fund, Castle Rock
George & Rita Wylie, Wyandotte, MI
John & Barb Wylie, Grand Prairie, TX

IES FRIEND ($10 – $99)

Anonymous
Tara Beiter-Fluhr, Sheridan
Alana Burrow, Thornton
Sandy Carlsen, Lafayette
Margaret Corbin, Graham, WA
Jennifer Croskrey, Wheat Ridge
Lauren D., Bailey
Mary Dienst, Aurora
Libby Fay, Buena Vista
Erica Flores-Muff, San Diego
Ann Frazier, Morrison
Ben Garcia, Wheat Ridge
Reed Gerberick, Boulder
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Julia Gray, Centennial
Heather Halderman, Denver
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Kathleen King, Lafayette
Sabrina Kleinman, Lakewood
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Bill Vaughan, East Orleans, MA
Michael Verdone, Superior
Cindy Webreck, Butler, PA
Janet Winslow, Louisville
Geoff & Lynn Wodell, Wheat Ridge

IES thanks our generous sponsors and grant providers!

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DaVita Inc.
Colorado Combined Campaign
H&R Block
HunterDouglas Window Fashions
King Soopers
Lucky's Market, Wheat Ridge
The Ohana East Foundation

In support of the Tree Project:

Chalets General Federation of Women's Clubs & Knights of Columbus
City of Sheridan, CO (funded by Great Outdoors Colorado)
City of Wheat Ridge Outside Agency Program
Community First Foundation
Forever Our Rivers
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
South Suburban Parks and Recreation
Trees Forever
Xcel Energy Foundation
Xcel Energy Day of Service

In support of the Chemical Footprint Project:

Trinity Youth Community Fund, Boulder
Wolcott Family Foundation, Denver

IES In-Kind Donors and Partners:

IES partners and stakeholders make our programs successful!

City of Sheridan, CO
Fort Logan Northgate School, Sheridan
Kullerstrand Elementary School, Wheat Ridge
Sheridan School District No. 2
South Suburban Parks and Recreation District
Wheat Ridge Parks and Recreation Department
Wold Architects & Engineers

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