



Bridging what divides us strengthens us

Conflict transpired out of a recent [Rural Philanthropy Days event in San Luis Valley](#) between the lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) and faith communities, eventually leading to a resolution worth discussing. At the Foundation, we see this chain of events as an important reminder that our communities are strongest and healthiest when we lean into difficult conversations and find a way to come together despite our differences.

We stand with the LGBTQ community in all we do and believe every individual – regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, socioeconomic background and more – should have safe spaces to tell their stories. Personal stories carry power, and can help to create understanding and empathy around different life experiences. Elevating various voices sheds light on common ground, making communities across Colorado more equitable, and therefore healthier, for those who call them ‘home.’

We are all on our own journey towards practicing fair treatment of all people we encounter – and it’s important that we work together in support of those journeys. Hearing stories from people who look, think and live differently than us is just one way we can chart our paths forward in creating healthier communities that are united as one.

Read [Justin Garoutte’s coming out story](#) and join us in honoring #SpiritDay, which raises awareness about the bullying and harassment LGBTQ young people experience.

TYPE

Announcements

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