



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Douglas County Community Foundation Inaugural Heroes Gala a Resounding Success**

*Honoring local heroes and fundraising for community relief*

**[Douglas County Colorado]** Douglas County Community Foundation (DCCF) celebrates the success of its inaugural Heroes Gala honoring first responders, military personnel and veterans at the picturesque Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms. The sold-out event, which was attended by 650 people, including 140 uniformed members from local law enforcement and fire service agencies, raised more than \$550,000 for Douglas County nonprofits and the DCCF Community Emergency Relief Fund.

"We exceeded expectations for our fundraising goals, in large part due to the heartwarming and compelling stories shared by our eight award honorees," said Mike Waid, Executive Director of the Douglas County Community Foundation. "Recognizing these local heroes and raising money to support them in times of crisis in Douglas County inspired generosity in our attendees."

The curated event featured interactive and static displays of emergency equipment, Douglas County mounted patrol and K-9 units, demonstrations with first responders, live music by an all-fireman band, a Colorado Emerald City Pipes & Drums band procession, and a heartfelt awards ceremony – all followed by a spirited live auction. The evening was punctuated by a "silent disco" afterparty and an acoustic Spanish guitarist serenade.

"Thank you to the Board of County Commissioners for their partnership and support of this first-of-its-kind event," said Brock Smethills, chairman of the DCCF Board. "The County's commitment of \$200,000 in matching funds to the DCCF Community Emergency Relief Fund will ensure maximum impact of our benevolent individual and corporate contributions. It allows our community foundation to provide financial assistance in times of emergency, ensuring our first responders have the tools they need to thrive and continue their invaluable work," he said.

Event information, photos and videos featuring each of the award recipients can be viewed at [dccf.org](http://dccf.org).

#### **About Douglas County Community Foundation**

Douglas County Community Foundation provides leadership and responsible stewardship of resources to enrich the lives of every resident in Douglas County. We are committed to inspiring generosity, responsibly managing philanthropic contributions, maintaining agile funds for emergencies, and providing support to local nonprofit organizations serving the needs within our community.

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