



Partners in Nonprofit Success

August 6, 2013

Grant Review Committee
Pikes Peak Community Foundation

Dear members of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation Grant Review Committee:

I am writing this letter of support for United Policyholders (UP) and their application for funding to support their work with Black Forest fire victims. In my role as the project manager for the 2012 Colorado Fire Relief Fund, I have had the pleasure of working directly with UP staff and have had direct experience with their work related to wildfire relief in El Paso, Larimer, and Boulder counties.

When UP initially applied to the Fire Fund for support, we contacted the Community Foundation Serving Boulder County to learn more about their experience with UP. We had some concerns about the organization being based outside of Colorado and wanted some information about their previous experience in Colorado before making a decision on their applications. The feedback we received indicated an exemplary level of service within Boulder County and the Community Foundation provided a strong recommendation in favor of funding UP's work for the High Park and Waldo Canyon fires.

As the primary point of contact for the Fire Fund, I have received nothing but positive and enthusiastic reviews of their work with individual fire victims. The organization has also done an admirable job of leveraging their resources in working with Larimer and El Paso counties and through their volunteer network. The data they have gathered in their surveys with fire victims has also been very helpful in determining the pace of recovery for individuals and families. In addition to providing direct services, UP has also played a leadership role in ensuring that future wildfire victims are treated more fairly by their insurance providers as part of a collaborative and successful effort to change some of Colorado's insurance-related legislation and regulations.

I have been very impressed with UP's work on their three Fire Fund grants and would highly recommend funding them for their work related to the Black Forest fire. They are an excellent source of support, information, and action for homeowners who really need an understanding and helpful partner during one of the worst times in their lives.

If you would like more information about our experiences with UP through the Fire Fund, please do not hesitate to contact me at sarah@npsuccess.org or 303-243-4783.

Sincerely,

Sarah Marino
Project Manager, Colorado Fire Relief Fund (a fund of The Denver Foundation)
Principal Consultant, Partners in Nonprofit Success