

The Dolores J & Robert A Bochatey Foundation

Change your Future through Education

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Tutoring4Graduation

Grade Retention (or repeating a grade in school), though dreaded, can be necessary. More importantly, it indicates that the student and or teaching system needs support. We are proud to partner with Colorado Learning Connections of Summit County, CO to bring this support to 7th and 8th graders in Leadville, CO. As a way to supplement their education now and give them much needed skills for high school and beyond, BF is sponsoring Friday morning tutoring sessions for at-risk students. Since Leadville is on a 4-day school week, this is a perfect opportunity for CLC’s staff of experienced, bi-lingual tutors to coach each student one on one and monitor their progress personally. Meanwhile, we hope to further investigate some of the causes of a 67% graduation rate by cooperating with the community, public school, local government, and nonprofit organizations to develop confident, capable graduates for their best future.

Voice4Autism

Through the Voice4Autism campaign, BF was able to provide 20 specially programed devices to Firefly Autism. These tablets literally give a voice to those on the Autism Spectrum. They also provide tools which improve each student’s life and learning capability. In addition, BF sponsored a Christmas campaign on Nextdoor and Facebook which brought people together making homemade Christmas presents for FireFly’s myriad of students and faculty. Over 150 mittens, hats, parachute bracelets, blankets, totes and slippers were donated to show our love and support. Learning is part hard work, part curiosity, part practice, part patience and love. “It takes a community to raise a child”, is not just a cliché. We hope to inspire others to create similar projects in their own neighborhoods with crafts, book drives, mentoring and tutoring. There is so much to do for each



other and our country. We can each do something. What can you do?

GRANTS4U

In 2020, we chose 3 long standing organizations that help individuals with varied educational needs and goals. Firefly Autism was one. We provided grants for vocational training through MikeRoweWorks and another to Moody Bible Institute for undergrad students working toward 4-year degrees like Aviation or Education & Human Services.

We also gave 3 individual scholarships in 2020. One young man in Utah is entering Community College seeking a commission in the Army. “I believe in

our country and I want to do something to protect everyone’s rights and safety.” After serving in the military he intends to serve his community as a police officer. We provided a scholarship to a married mom for certification in the Culinary

Arts & Food Prep. Though her husband currently works in the mining industry, she fears for his safety and continued livelihood. She wants to be able to secure that

livelihood by opening a small home business while her children are young then move into a chef position at one of the local resorts. I want to “inspire my daughters to value education as the way to take care of family,

and me when I get old.” Late in the year we heard from a high school senior in St Louis, MO who is determined to become a dentist. We have committed to helping her do just that so she can return to her neighborhood and provide dental services to the community where she grew up. Scholarships for individuals and organizations are available. Go to BochateyFoundation.org, Grantwatch.com or Candid.org to complete and submit an application.

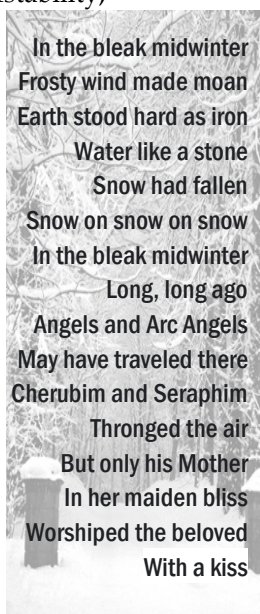
Stewardship4Work

BF is investigating a new initiative which will provide life coaching and stewardship skills to academic programs of all disciplines and vocations, a train the trainer component for 2- or 4-year degree programs. Initially, it will be integrated into an expanded selection of disciplines at Moody Institute. As part of a long-term development effort, the core of this program is already available to business owners and working managers as “Workplace Steward Leadership Course” online for six Saturday mornings. Contact BF for more details if you are interested. I will be taking the course myself through February and March. If coaching stewardship in the workplace is important to you, I recommend, “Good Work: How Blue Collar Business Can Change Lives, Communities, and the World”, a book by Dave Hataj.

It’s a long ride . . .

During this critical first year for Bochaty Foundation, it has been important to test and demonstrate the Foundation’s ideas in practice. Does our focus match current need? Can the help we provide make even a small difference in changing people’s lives toward self-sufficiency and giving communities a more capable and caring pool of citizens? Which initial targets and strategies are realistically viable and which need to be refocused? In general, I’d have to report that 2020, even with all its problems, was a good start for the Bochaty Foundation. Every year we will try to donate to a few individuals to assist their educational goals and 3 or 4 organizations who are successfully working to provide training, education, life/learning skills and experiences that breed our goals Education4stability, Education4family, Education4employment, Education4 freedom, Education4equity, and Education4peace. 2020 represents good work and the plans unfolding for 2021 follow suit.

This year, 2021, our focus is early education and literacy/ESL (at any age) in at-risk western communities and reservations. We hope to grow academic support and develop life skills opportunities which will foster a strong workforce, better citizens and community leaders for tomorrow. While we continue our work with Firefly Autism, Moody Institute and MikeRoweWorks, we are reaching out to new opportunities with Southwest Native-American Foundation, Penn Foster and others. Any suggestions?



trees4life

If you have been following our newsletter, you might remember Sadie who we pictured planting trees last summer in the college-prep leadership program for 8-12th graders. Well, it was a pretty dry year on the Western slope. While the trees struggled, the kids thrived in their new adventure. Enough so that we think the pilot program is worth pursuing. Built on experiential opportunities and coaching, our goal for 8-12th graders is to develop self-sufficiency, confidence, trouble-shooting skills, cooperation, listening, and leadership skills by exploring the great outdoors, wildlife, camping, and ranching first hand. During their adventures we invited speakers from the Parks Dept. & Forestry Service, history and museum docents, and science teachers from the local school system to develop activities and bring it all together.



You might also remember that we had lost our early partner for developing such a program. While we wait for Sadie to grow up and lead the

next generation (she became a budding leader and quite passionate last summer about ecology and the Forestry Service, or was it the handsome Ranger?), we are searching for new partners. To that end, we might have stumbled upon an opportunity to develop existing facilities and a little home grown talent, especially within the ranching and horse community. Contact us if you have any recommendations or suggestions.

Final Thoughts

I didn’t grow up singing “In the Bleak Midwinter”, but I’ve heard it more and more infiltrating America from across the pond. The common tune haunts me, almost a mind worm. The lyrics haunt me more. Not in the literal sense that it once described the world of 1872 when Christina Rossetti wrote the poem, but more symbolically, about some people’s hearts, actions and interactions. 2021 is a bleak midwinter. Everything feels hard and unyielding. It is up to each one of us to bring renewing spring, hope and caring to the corner of the world God has given us, be grateful, and pray that it spreads. It’s a gift to give help. It’s a miracle to receive it, even from your neighbor.

Be the salt of the earth.