

June 29, 2012

**Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and SERVE 6.8 Northern Colorado Fire Relief Fund**

In response to the High Park and Estes Park fires, the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and SERVE 6.8 have created a fund that will provide resources for families and communities suffering loss as a result of the High Park and Estes Park fires in Northern Colorado.

SERVE 6.8 is a volunteer movement created to mobilize people from Northern Colorado churches and other organizations to meet community needs.

From the day the High Park fire started, SERVE 6.8 volunteers have provided caring service to community leaders, public servants, evacuated families, and relief agencies. SERVE 6.8 crews are hosting and supporting Samaritans Purse and Convoy of Hope, leading international relief organizations. Samaritan's Purse is founded and directed by Franklin Graham, son of well-known Christian leader, Billy Graham.

SERVE 6.8 lead volunteer Ron Hedrick stated, "We have had an overwhelming response of volunteers with over 1500 people signed up to serve families in a growing number of ways. We want to be in this for the long haul with these families knowing that the months ahead are going to be very challenging for them."

"Gifts to the SERVE 6.8 Fire Relief Fund will help families and communities most impacted to get back on their feet after the public spotlight moves elsewhere," said Rex Stahla, local business owner and SERVE 6.8 volunteer, "I think it is important to have this fund that will keep resources in Northern Colorado for long term needs."

"As we move from the immediate response to long-term relief for the families and communities most impacted by the fires, this fund will serve to fill those gap needs as they put their lives back together," said local pastor, Mark Orphan.

The Community Foundation serves a unique leadership role in that it brings people and resources together around important local issues. As the regional leader in building a more engaged, philanthropic and visionary community, the Community Foundation provides a trusted, local platform that enables people to give more effectively and to think strategically and creatively about the future of our community.

To learn about SERVE 6.8 assessment services being offered to families, please call the dedicated SERVE 6.8 phone number, 970-286-4845.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the SERVE 6.8 Northern Colorado Fire Relief Fund of the Community Foundation, visit [www.CommunityFoundationNC.org](http://www.CommunityFoundationNC.org) and click on "Donate Now" in the Announcements section of the homepage. Checks should be made payable to the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado with "SERVE 6.8" in the memo line and mailed to 4745 Wheaton Dr., Suite 100, Fort Collins, CO 80525.