

ENERGYWISE

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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

www.smpa.com
www.facebook.com/SanMiguelPower

In the event of a power outage, contact your local SMPA office to reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH!

Working from Home? Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Avoid overloading outlets
- Never plug in a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- Never run power cords under rugs, doors or windows.

San Miguel Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call

(866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Giving Reveals Community Strength Amid COVID-19 Shutdowns

Katie Singer is an optimist...

It's an asset in her line of work. Singer is the Donor Relations and Events Director at the Telluride Foundation, a nonprofit community foundation that channels local donations towards service-oriented nonprofits, regional economic development, and other initiatives that improve the quality of life for those who live and work throughout the San Miguel Basin. As such, she witnesses critical financial needs, as well as humbling generosity from local people every day.

But even thirteen years of such work could not have prepared her for the kind of need our communities would be experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the resultant economic shutdowns that followed. "When I heard about businesses closings and so many people losing their jobs, I didn't know what we were going to do," said Singer. "Our Foundation is organized to provide focused aide to nonprofits that fulfill specific needs in the communities; it's not designed to handle this kind of immediate, widespread income stoppage."

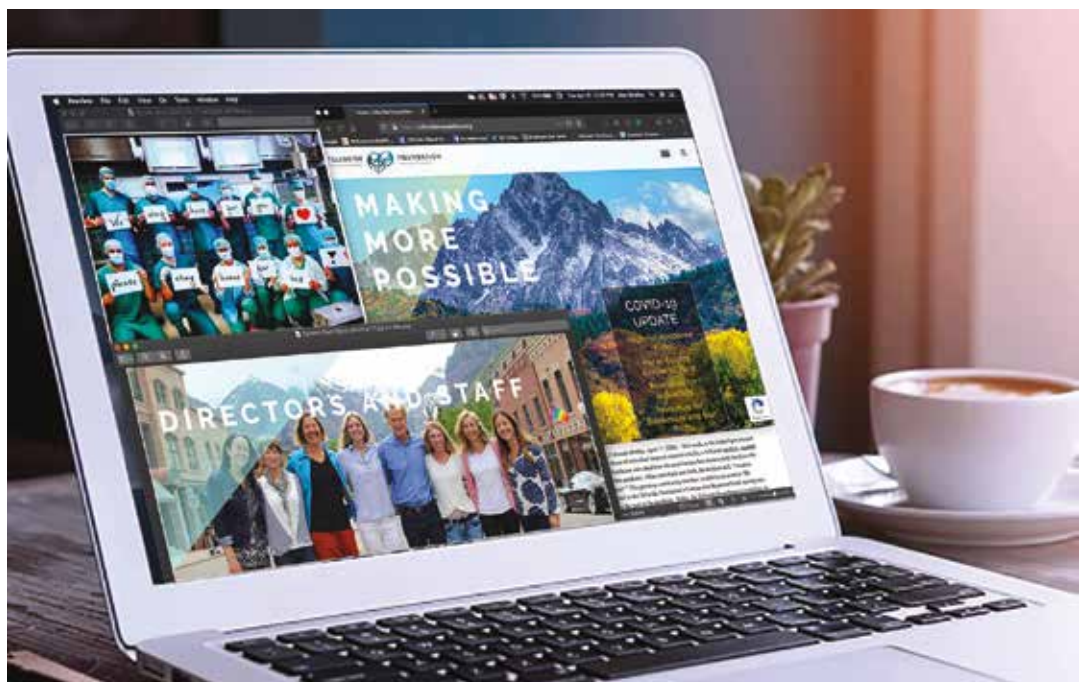
Even so, Singer, and her co-workers at the Telluride Foundation, resolved to do everything they could. They decided to start with a program they already had. The

Foundation's "Good Neighbor Fund (GNF)" had been addressing emergency hardships for over fifteen years, helping people to pay their rent, car repair, medical bill, etc. during an unexpected time of need. "We decided to expand this resource, targeting funds toward to individuals and families impacted by the economic effects of COVID-19."

They named the expansion the "COVID-19 Response Fund," but this fund could do little without the power of more generous donations. "That's when the magic happened," said Singer. "We started receiving emails and phone calls from donors wanting to help fulfill the needs they were seeing in their communities." One Ouray County resident pledged to match donations to his county up to \$200,000, necessitating the creation of a separate fund.

Later, a Telluride resident reached out to the Foundation and asked how she could donate her federal taxpayer stimulus check to help families who are struggling during this pandemic. After some back and forth, the resident said, "I want to 'Stimulate the Response!'" This generous community member, in addition to another 120 donors, have contributed over \$550,000 to date since the start of the pandemic.

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GIVING REVEALS CONTINUED

The timing was perfect. In the first few months of its existence, the COVID-19 Response Fund has provided over \$120,000 in direct assistance to affected families. The Fund has also provided eight nonprofit emergency grants, totaling \$200,000, to organizations including, food banks, community internet access points, and regional health clinics. The most recent emergency grant was awarded to the Telluride Medical Center for \$75,000 to support its Phase II Surge Program. “Though they remain anonymous, these donors deserve our deepest gratitude,” said Singer. “Their actions are examples of how our communities can become strong when individuals focus on giving. It makes me proud to live in such an amazing community.”

- For more information about or how to donate to the Telluride Foundation’s regional COVID-19s Response Fund, <https://telluridefoundation.org/responsefund/>
- For community resources and how to apply to the Fund, <https://telluridefoundation.org/covid-19-community-resources/>
- For more information about the Ouray County Response fund, <https://telluridefoundation.org/ouray-county-response-fund/>
- If you find yourself in financial hardship due to the COVID-19 epidemic, you can find out how to apply for assistance at <https://telluridefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-GNF-Qualification-Criteria-crisis.pdf>.
- Also, see the sidebar below:

Next-Door Heroes

Humble Handyman

Hired to make house repairs in Ouray. Asked for two checks as payment: one to him for materials and the other for his labor made out to Duckett’s Market “...for folks who don’t have enough food.”



Friendly Photographer

Ouray photographer donated social media ads to local businesses to help out with marketing & recovery.



Mask Makers

Aware of face mask shortages, these seamstresses dug into their fabric reserves and sewed masks for their neighbors.



Dutiful Dino

A benefactor with a theatrical flare, dressed up as a T-rex, purchased local gift cards and gift certificates to donate to customers in need.



Clever Creator

This Silverton snowboard maker recalibrated his shop to produce protective face shields for medical personnel.



Know of any other local heroes who are giving their time, money or material to help their communities through these tough times? Let us know at energywise@smpa.com

Resources for those in Need

Need financial assistance during this time? Learn more about these resources:

- <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/leap>
- <https://tchnetwork.org/covid-19-support/>
- <https://www.energyoutreach.org/>
- https://coloradopeak.secure.force.com/AC_Welcome?Language=EN
- <https://telluridefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-GNF-Qualification-Criteria-crisis.pdf>



2020 SMPA Board Candidates Announced SMPA Annual Meeting Posponed

At the April 28th San Miguel Power Association (SMPA) Board Meeting, the candidates for the upcoming SMPA board election were announced. In district #1, which includes Parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Ouray and Dolores Counties including Basin, Bedrock, Naturita, Nucla, Paradox, Redvale, Slick Rock, candidate, and sitting board member, Doylene Garvey will be running unopposed and will be deemed re-elected per SMPA bylaws.

In District #4, which includes Parts of Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties including Colona and a portions of Log Hill Village and Telluride, candidate, Tobin Brown is also running unopposed and will be deemed elected per SMPA bylaws.

Anyone who purchases power from SMPA and resides within the SMPA service territory is a member. SMPA Board Directors are members who are nominated by the membership of their Board District. Because neither of this year’s elections are contested, no ballots will be mailed to members this year.

Board election results are usually announced at the Annual Meeting of members. However, due to restrictions associated with the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak, the SMPA Annual Meeting has been postponed until further notice.

To learn more, please visit www.smpa.com or call (970) 626-5549.

SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month’s Puzzle: NOPE A PRETI BASC TON
Hint: Fiber optic cable delivers this much data over a distance of 50 kilometers.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
PO Box 1150
Ridgway, CO 81432

Last Month’s Scramble Answer: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Notice: We’re a bit behind. If you have won the Power Play, but have not received your prize, please be patient, we’ll get to you when the time is right. Promise.

SCAM ALERT!

If you get a call from someone threatening to turn off your power, hang up. View your account status at smpa.smarthub.coop