



**youthzone**  
Connect and Grow

**September 2024**

## **Congratulations to Silvia Barragan for Her Advocacy on Capital Hill!**



**YZ** youthzone

We're incredibly proud of our Youth Advocate, Silvia Barragan, who recently attended the 2nd Annual Latino Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. Alongside 18 other participants, she presented the 2024 Colorado Latino Policy Agenda, advocating for universal healthcare regardless of immigration status. Silvia shared her own personal experiences with the high cost of healthcare and the challenges of supporting family members with mental health issues.

"There was a sense of unity and shared vision at Latino Advocacy Day. We were co-hosted by Senators Michael Bennett and John Hickenlooper, and it was a great honor and opportunity to advocate for issues that deeply affect our community. Particularly, I engaged in a meaningful conversation with Senator Michael Bennett, expressing our critical need for universal healthcare regardless of immigration status. My experiences of dealing with family mental health issues and the stress of the high cost of health insurance not only gave my advocacy a personal touch but also grounded it in reality", shared Silvia

Read More About Silvia and Her  
Success

## Cheers to a Successful and Informative Evening at Juicy Lucy's Steakhouse



Thank you to everyone who joined us for a successful meetup at Juicy Lucy's Steakhouse on October 17th! The event was not only an enlightening journey through YouthZone's transformative work, but also offered a platform for networking among proactive community members. We appreciate your support and warmly invite you to stay connected. Keep checking our website at [youthzone.com](https://youthzone.com) to learn more opportunities where you can extend your contribution to shape an empowered future for our youth.

## A \$253,421 Grant From The Colorado Health Foundation Boosts LGBTQIA+ Support



The Colorado  
Health Foundation™

We're thrilled to announce YouthZone's recent receipt of a generous 24-month, \$253,421 grant provided by The Colorado Health Foundation. These much-needed funds will be directed towards The Space — an indispensable LGBTQIA+ youth peer-to-peer group that provides an environment of acceptance, understanding, and shared experiences in Rifle, Glenwood Springs, and Basalt. The mission behind 'The Space' is to alleviate feelings of isolation suffered by many

Read More About

This Grant

Learn More About  
The Space

LGBTQIA+ youth while promoting healthier community attitudes. Come take part and help us nurture an inclusive, stigma-free space for these bright young individuals. Check out 'The Space' at <http://youthzone.com/peersupport/> and get involved!

## Boosting Youth Mental Health with a \$20,000 Grant!



For over 30 years the Wyoming Community Foundation (WYCF) has connected people who care with causes that matter to build a better Wyoming. WYCF has granted more than \$100 million to charitable causes across the state.



The Wyoming Community Foundation, as part of their charitable efforts, has generously granted \$20,000 to YouthZone. These funds will be directed towards enhancing and expanding our mental health programs, playing a crucial role in providing necessary resources and support to our youth community. To explore more about this initiative, or to get involved, visit <http://youthzone.com/get-involved/>. Let's come together to ensure mental health support for every youth in our community!

Click Here to Learn  
More

## YouthZone's Column in The Post Independent



Ali Naaseh-Shahry, Deputy  
Development Director at YouthZone

We are proud to announce a new partnership with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

"Thanks to a \$76,000 grant award through the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, YouthZone will be able to implement our Safe Pathways program, a community-based gun violence initiative focused on interrupting cycles of gun violence, trauma, and retaliation. The program will prevent firearm suicides; provide wraparound services for victims, offenders, and the community to facilitate successful re-entry after a firearm-related incident; and inform citizens of safe-storage obligations while respecting their Second Amendment rights."

Read Full  
Article!

## Staff Work Together to Explain C.R.A.F.T. - YouthZone's Community Reinforcement and Family Training Program

The poster is an informational device explaining our Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) program to parents and youth clients. It's a program that we're beginning to offer that supports parents and guardians with youth who are struggling with substance use.



*Keri Sorenson, Substance Intervention Specialist, Michelle Medrano, Substance Intervention Coordinator, Pete Durrance, Restorative Justice Facilitator, and Erin Greenwald, Substance Intervention Specialist*

## Aspen Thrift Shop Grants YouthZone \$5,000



We're thrilled to announce a positive development that highlights our community's generosity and commitment towards supporting youth. YouthZone has been granted \$5,000 by Aspen Thrift Shop. This significant contribution will boost our ability to provide critical youth programs and resources in the Roaring Fork Valley. Let's continue working together to empower our future generations!

[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

**Keri and Michelle Celebrate Three Substance Use**

## Education Program Graduates



Witness the inspiring transformation of three youths who have taken proactive steps towards bettering their lives through our Substance Use Education program. Youth Advocates Keri Sorenson and Michelle Medrano are bursting with pride for these graduates. Beginning from daunting challenges, they have shown remarkable triumph and growth. Let their stories motivate us all to work zealously toward a healthier community.

## Join Us at the Glenwood Canyon Brewpub Takeover on November 14th!

This November 14th, YouthZone joins hands with Bay Equity Home Loans for a fantastic event at the Glenwood Springs Brewpub. In anticipation and awareness of Colorado Gives Day on December 10th, we are hosting a restaurant takeover to generate support and donations for our vital community services. RAVP today, because there are only two reservation seatings 7:30 pm (5:30 and 7:30pm)! Together we can make a difference!

# Restaurant TAKEOVER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>  
5:30PM OR 7:30PM  
TWO SEATINGS AVAILABLE

**GLENWOOD CANYON BREWPUB**  
402 7th Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Join us for a night of questionable service  
to raise awareness for Colorado Gives Day!

*All tips will support your  
community nonprofits!*

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
CALL RYAN PARKER AT 970.309.6850



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Learn More About the Event

Call Ryan to RSVP

Help YouthZone Turn Dreams Into Reality



YouthZone is dedicated to shaping young minds and fostering growth through various developmental programs. Our efforts thrive on the strong support from our community. Right now, your help can radically change a young person's life for the better. Click one of the links below to learn how you can donate, volunteer, or join our team. Let's work together to turn our youth's dreams into reality.

[Volunteer at YouthZone](#)

[Careers at YouthZone](#)

[Donate to YouthZone](#)

## Thank You Sponsors!



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YouthZone | [970.945.9300](tel:970.945.9300) | [youthzone.com](http://youthzone.com)

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136th East 12th Street, Rifle, CO 81650

Carbondale, Rifle, and Aspen (by appointment)





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