



KARIS COMMUNITY

A PLACE OF HOPE & HEALING SINCE 1976

A photograph of a lush green backyard. In the foreground, there is a concrete sidewalk and a white metal planter with some green plants and a small orange flower. The middle ground is dominated by a well-maintained green lawn. In the background, there is a wooden fence, several large trees with dense green foliage, and a brick building. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2024-2025

A Message From Our Executive Director



This past fiscal year has been a powerful reminder of what is possible when people come together in community. At Karis, we witnessed remarkable progress: 94% of Community Members structured their days with employment, school, volunteer work, or treatment programming, hospitalizations were reduced by nearly 88% while living here, and all of our program graduates transitioned into varying levels of independent living — whether in apartments, housing with roommates, or our very own Stepping Stone Cottage. These outcomes reflect not only the strength of those who call Karis home but also the steadfast support of our partners and friends. Each success story is a testament to the healing power of connection and the unique role Karis plays in offering a space where growth and transformation are truly possible.

As we look ahead, we are committed to building on this momentum by exploring more integrative approaches to support overall wellness and thoughtfully investing in our home so that it continues to be a place of safety, dignity, and healing. These efforts are part of a larger vision to ensure that Karis can remain a beacon of stability and hope for decades to come. And with our 50th anniversary approaching in May 2026,

we are especially mindful of both honoring the legacy of the past and laying a strong foundation for the future. With your partnership, we can continue to expand opportunities for our Community Members, strengthen the foundation of our shared home, and ensure that Karis remains a place where individuals discover resilience, belonging, and new possibilities for the future. Thank you for being part of this journey with us — your care and support make all the difference!

Warmly,

Annie Wharton, LCSW, LAC
Executive Director

Our Staff

Annie Wharton, LCSW, LAC

Executive Director

**Lisa Andersson, Director of Development
and Communications**

**Grace Brown, Community Coordinator/
Program Intern**

**Hannah Clark, Community Coordinator/
Program Intern**

**Angela Lancaster, Property Manager -
Stepping Stone Cottage**

Dalia Rubenstein, LCSW, Program Manager

**Dominique Salinas, Community Coordinator/
Program Intern**

Sarah Scott, Alumni Coordinator

Jeffrey Wade, Facilities Manager

Contents

Board of Directors	3
Our History & Summary	4
Mission, Vision, Values	4
The Empowerment Program	5
Onsite Support	6
Criteria for Admission	6
Application Process	6
Goals & Objectives	7
Evaluation & Results	8
Successes & Challenges	9
Profit & Loss	10
Balance Sheet	11
Financials	12
Thank You - Supporters	13-15
Sustainability	15

A Note From Our Board President



Hello Everyone,

At Karis Community, we've learned that some of the most powerful healing happens in the simplest ways: sharing a meal, playing cards, or simply being present for one another. For individuals managing serious and persistent mental illness, authentic connection is not just meaningful; it is essential.

At Karis, we are doubling down on community, belonging, and trauma-informed care, creating safe, stable environments where people are known by name, supported by peers and professionals, and able to practice the skills of daily living with dignity. We remain committed to these principles, ensuring that every person, regardless of background, can access the relationships and resources that make recovery possible.

Your partnership makes this work real. Thank you for helping us build a community where connection is an integral part of the care plan and where hope has room to grow.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Bonder". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Drew Bonder
Board President

Board of Directors

Drew Bonder, *President*

Cynthia Grant, *Vice President*

Laura Rossmassler, *Secretary*

Aaron Connell, *Treasurer*

Sima Ali

Ben Brown

Shaun Fischler

Dominique LaCroix

Ronald Reeves

Susan Wagner



Our History + Summary

Karis Community offers a community-oriented residential program for adults managing serious and persistent mental illness as well as co-occurring substance use disorders. Founded in 1976, Karis (the Greek word for “grace”) began as a retreat center for those needing respite from life’s stressors. Inspired by Great Britain’s post-WWII discovery that veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder could significantly recover in communal environments, Karis adopted a therapeutic community model. Our work lies at the intersection of mental health, trauma, and substance use, with recovery goals that include managing and reducing symptoms, learning coping strategies, developing life skills, and restoring the capacity to engage in healthy relationships.

People experiencing mental illness are often marginalized, stigmatized, and made to feel ashamed of their conditions. They face societal barriers, including limited access to healthcare, unemployment, housing instability, and discrimination. Many of our Community Members have experienced homelessness, abuse, dysfunctional relationships, suicidal ideation, substance misuse, and institutional isolation. There is an alarming lack of affordable mental health treatment options for individuals who may not require hospitalization but are not ready to live independently. Karis’ program equips Community Members with the skills and tools to find employment, reduce costly and traumatic hospitalizations, and strengthen relationships with others.

Our Mission

To provide a community where people heal together.

Our Vision

To create a world where people with mental illness can connect with others who understand their experience and can support their growth.

Our Values

COMMUNITY

ACCOUNTABILITY

HOPE

GROWTH

EMPATHY



Our Empowerment Program

Karis serves over 100 adults each year, including current Community Members, residents at the Stepping Stone Cottage, alumni, applicants on the waiting list who require immediate support, and individuals who may not be ready for the program but need resources. The Empowerment Program is intentionally designed to provide deeply personalized, community-oriented support. We aim to ensure that each Community Member experiences significant personal growth and empowerment, receiving the highest level of care and attention, helping them on their path to recovery and long-term stability. The depth of our engagement with each person leads to significant, transformative outcomes.

Community Members commit to a minimum of six months' participation. They may stay up to two years, providing the longevity and stability needed to grow and succeed.

Each week, there are six support group meetings: Recovery Support, Evidence-Based Interventions, Healthy Relationships, Mindfulness, Life Essentials, and Structure Support. A Community Meeting serves as a forum to express gratitude, discuss relevant issues, provide check-ins when struggling, and offer traditions for those joining or leaving the Community. These groups foster open communication, respectful cooperation, mutual feedback, healthy self-awareness, personal responsibility, autonomy, and interdependence. Community Members can learn relationship skills and concepts relevant to their recovery, including empathy, collaboration, and sharing, preparing them for integration into the broader community.

Community Members structure their days by working, volunteering, attending school, or participating in treatment programming for at least 20 hours per week. The weekly Structure Support Group is available to help create a daily schedule and develop relevant skills.

Community Members are encouraged to use a 24-hour on-call phone to contact program staff and receive support through intervention methods designed to enhance internal coping resources and reduce the need for hospitalization.

Karis employs three Peer Support Specialists. Having successfully navigated the program, these specialists are uniquely positioned to provide guidance, practical advice, emotional support, and serve as role models to current

Community Members and alumni. Two specialists live in apartments within Karis' building and are available as a resource to the current Community.

Since 2015, Karis has operated the Stepping Stone Cottage, a meaningful continuation of care that has supported program graduates for a decade to build on their progress at Karis and take important steps toward lasting independence. The Cottage provides housing for seven alumni who are ready to practice the coping and life skills gained at Karis in a less structured environment. It offers affordable housing, continuity of care, stability, social integration, reduced risk of homelessness, and crisis prevention. Like the setup at Karis, one of our specialists resides onsite, serving as both a Peer and Property Manager to support these individuals as they continue their journey toward independence.

We understand that recovery is not a linear journey and are dedicated to providing necessary support even after completion of the program. The Alumni Group offers weekly support meetings facilitated by one of Karis' Peer Support Specialists. Alumni can also meet with the Executive Director or the Program Manager for individual check-ins and ongoing or as-needed case management support.

Happy
10-year
anniversary to the
Stepping Stone
Cottage!

"The beauty of Karis is that the relationships you develop with the staff and residents don't end when you move out. I have had many of my friends from Karis calling me to check in and see how I am doing and make plans to be together."

– *Karis Alumni*

Criteria for Admission

- 21+ years of age
- Manage a serious and persistent mental health diagnosis
- 90 days abstinence from substance use and self-harm behavior/suicide attempts
- Able to pay monthly program fees (\$685 per month)
- Able to work, volunteer, attend school, or engage in outside treatment programming for at least 20 hours per week
- Working with a therapist
- Working with a psychiatrist (if prescribed psychiatric medication)
- Able to take medication(s) independently
- Able to complete Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) independently
- Able to attend the following:
 - Thursday evening Community Dinner & Meeting
 - At least three weekly Dinners (including Thursday)
 - At least one Community Support Group each week
- Able to complete House Job(s)
- Able to offer and receive support from the Community



Onsite Services

- Check-Ins
- Groups
- Case Management
- Care Coordination
- Life Skill-Building Opportunities:
 - Budgeting
 - Meal Planning & Cooking
 - House Jobs
 - Socialization

Every applicant's entry into Karis is decided by *a democratic group vote* — ensuring Community Members commit to one another's recovery as well as their own.

Application Process

- 1** Karis' Program Manager carefully screens and assesses the applicant to determine the appropriateness for admission into the Empowerment Program.
- 2** If it is determined that the program at Karis is a good fit, then the applicant is invited to attend an Applicant Dinner.
- 3** Community Members engage in a heartfelt discussion of the applicant's motivation, experiences, and desire to be a part of the Community.
- 4** A democratic group vote determines the applicant's entry into the program. This process ensures that all Community Members will commit to the recovery of others as well as their own.

Goals

Supportive Environment:

Provide a structured and safe environment that fosters self-worth and self-efficacy.



Skill Development:

Empower Community Members to develop essential skills for symptom management, healthy coping mechanisms, and independent living.

Meaningful Living:

Assist Community Members in leading meaningful and fulfilling lives, both at Karis and beyond.



Objectives



Community Members will create a daily structure through a minimum of 20 hours per week of employment, volunteering, education, or treatment programming.



Reduce psychiatric hospitalizations by 80% for all Community Members during their time at Karis.



80% of all Community Members will complete the program and transition to independent living.



Evaluation + Results

Karis uses the following evaluation tools to measure the program's impact.

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Journey maps serve as a visual guide for collaboration between Community Members and program staff. This tool supports Community Members' reflection on key experiences throughout their mental health recovery, particularly during their time at Karis. It facilitates conversations to help them identify meaningful moments, shifts in mindset or behavior, and the program's features



that impact their journey. Our predominantly qualitative process, conducted quarterly, involves discussing components like clinical programming, life skills, case management, and relationships. The insights gathered are then analyzed quantitatively to identify program effectiveness, areas for improvement, and to allow Community Members to track their personal progress.

HOUSING

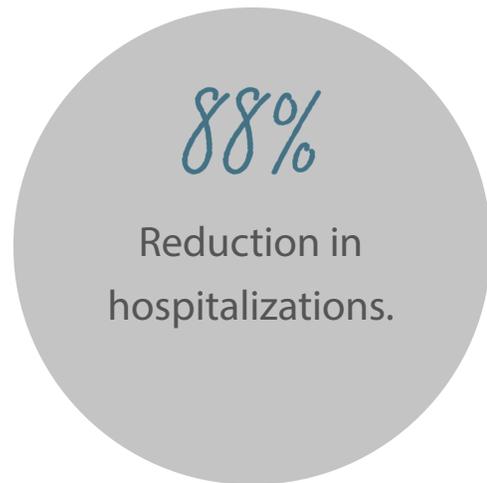
Before their stay at Karis, 9% of Community Members were managing homelessness, 37% were living in a group home, treatment facility, or sober living environment, 39% were living with family members, and 15% were living independently. Three Community Members transitioned to the Cottage after graduating from the program. The remaining graduates moved into varying levels of independence, including apartments and housing with roommates.

DAILY STRUCTURE

Upon arrival at Karis, 63% of Community Members came directly from inpatient treatment settings or were engaged in treatment-related programming. 15% had no consistent daily structure, 33% were working, 15% were volunteering, and 9% were enrolled in school. Of those Community Members engaged in structured activities, most struggled to maintain consistency before joining the program. During their participation at Karis, 94% structured their days with employment, volunteer work, school, or outside treatment programming.

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Community Members experienced a combined total of 145 hospitalizations throughout their lifetimes (6,547 days), with 31 hospitalizations in the year preceding their stay at Karis, and four during their stay. Thus, Community Members reduced hospitalizations by approximately 88% while at Karis. We track the 24-hour on-call phone to assess when this service prevents hospitalization versus when hospitalization is unavoidable. Last fiscal year, there were 10 on-call outreaches. 90% of Community Members did not require access to a higher level of care after utilizing our on-call system.



OUTCOME

Karis served over 100 individuals from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Of those who were engaged in our program, over 80% of Community Members completed each objective.

Successes + Challenges

At Karis, we remain committed to continuous reflection and improvement. This past year, we adapted to evolving needs while staying grounded in our mission.

SUCCESSES INCLUDED:

- Karis serves a uniquely vulnerable and often overlooked population, individuals managing both serious and persistent mental illness as well as co-occurring substance use disorders. Our holistic, community-based approach continues to stand out in the mental health landscape, addressing the whole person and empowering individuals to rebuild stability, purpose, and independence.
- A major success this year has been the reintegration of Community Members into the broader community. With the support of individualized care plans, weekly check-ins, and peer support, 100% of graduates successfully transitioned out of the program, establishing solid structures and moving into either independent or peer-supported living.
- In a time when many nonprofits struggle to meet fundraising goals in an increasingly saturated landscape, Karis has continued to thrive. We not only met but surpassed our Colorado Gives Day goal of \$50,000, raising over \$80,000 in 2024 through strategic donor engagement and compelling impact storytelling. We have now exceeded our fundraising goals for five consecutive years, strengthening our organization for long-term sustainability and growth.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED:

- Program demand continues to exceed our current capacity. While we maintain a waitlist, we are focusing on strengthening partnerships and systems that help ensure timely communication and support for those awaiting placement.
- There is often a gap in care following discharge from hospitals or treatment centers. Many individuals referred to Karis lack access to structured support during this interim period. We are working to enhance referral pathways and identify short-term community-based supports to bridge this gap.
- Some CMs face financial barriers when transitioning into our program. Early-stage costs can be a hurdle as they work to stabilize. In response, we are expanding our efforts to connect them to rental assistance, benefits navigation, and other financial support services.

PRIMARY GOALS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2025–2026 INCLUDE:

- Launching an infrastructure campaign to raise over \$40,000 for trauma-informed facility upgrades, ensuring our home continues to foster emotional safety, dignity, and belonging for all who live and work here.
- Beginning implementation of these upgrades, integrating trauma-informed design elements that reflect the lived experiences and feedback of our residents.
- Expanding strategic outreach as we leverage our 50th anniversary to grow awareness, strengthen community partnerships, and engage new donors and volunteers through compelling storytelling and our annual celebratory spring fundraiser.
- Strengthening referral and aftercare systems to reduce service gaps for individuals awaiting placement, including enhanced communication with partners and supportive resources for those in transition.
- Increase access to financial assistance for residents who face barriers to affordability.

"Karis is the first place I have lived where I not only feel comfortable but do so while improving my mental and physical health. *I feel seen by the staff and fellow residents.* I have already made great friendships, and I know I will make more as I continue to stay and work on myself."

– Karis Community Member

Profit + Loss

Statement of Activity: July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

REVENUE	
400.00 Resident Fees	\$156,856.10
410.00 Public Support	
Total 410.20 Foundation Grants	\$137,600.00
410.50 Corporate Donations	\$4,017.19
Total 410.70 Individual Donations	\$148,662.20
Total 410.00 Public Support	\$290,279.39
Total 420.00 Fundraising Events	\$71,111.88
Total 470.00 Investment Income	\$2,469.40
490.00 Misc. Income	\$3,244.42
TOTAL REVENUE	\$520,716.77
Gross Profit	\$520,716.77
EXPENDITURES	
3000.00 S.S.C. Expenses	
Total 3100.00 S.S.C. General & Administrative	\$5,895.19
Total 3200.00 S.S.C. Building Operations	\$10,292.23
Total 3300.00 S.S.C. Communal Expenses	\$10,456.51
Total 3000.00 S.S.C. Expenses	\$26,643.93
Total 700.00 Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	\$340,894.01
Total 750.00 General & Administrative	\$55,144.34
Total 800.00 Building Operations	\$36,676.28
Total 850.00 Resident Program & Activities	\$35,672.58
Total 900.00 Development - Fundraising	\$26,666.95
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$521,698.13
Net Operating Revenue	-\$981.36
Other Expenditures	
757.00 Deprec & Amort Expense	\$45,565.30
757.10 Deprec & Amort Expense SSC	\$29,460.00
Total Other Expenditures	\$75,025.30
Net Other Revenue	-\$75,025.30
Net Revenue	-\$76,006.62

Balance Sheet

Statement of Financial Position: July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

ASSETS

Current Assets

Total Bank Accounts	\$379,877.45
Accounts Receivable	
110.00 Resident Fees Receivable	\$3,644.47
Total Accounts Receivable	\$3,644.47
161.00 Pre-Paid Expenses	\$3,057.58
Total Other Current Assets	\$3,572.48
Total Current Assets	\$387,094.40
180.01 Fixed Assets	\$2,529,226.92
190.01 Accumulated Depreciation	-\$933,725.01
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,595,501.91
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,982,596.31

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

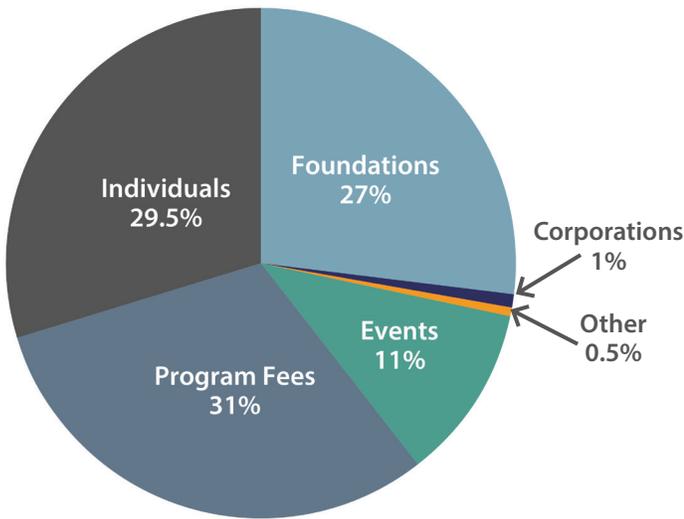
Total 200.00 Accounts Payable	\$1,594.92
Total Credit Cards	\$8,673.69
Total 230.00 Payroll Liabilities	\$9,396.66
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$14,081.66
Total Liabilities	\$24,350.27

Equity

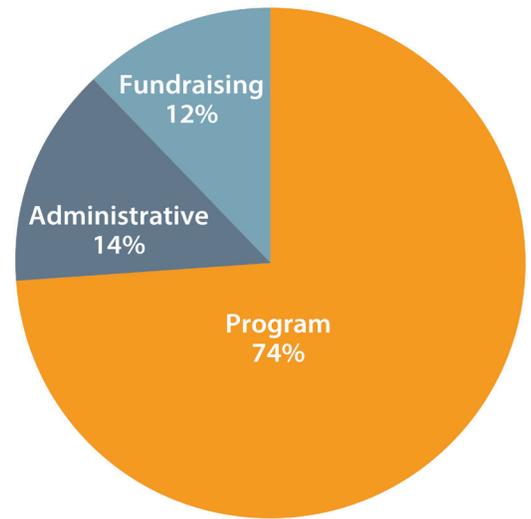
310.00 Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,243,275.16
Net Income	-\$76,006.62
305.00 Temp Restricted Net Assets	\$788,000.00
Total Equity	\$1,955,268.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$1,979,618.81

Financial Breakdown + Additional Information

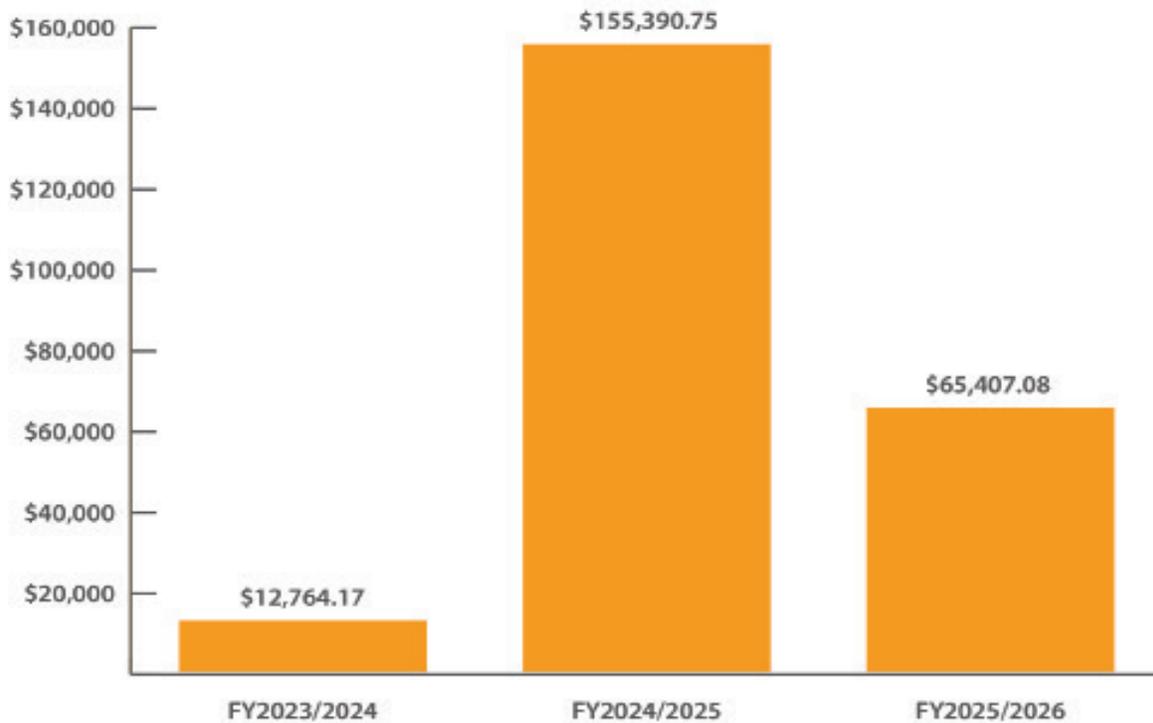
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 REVENUE



FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 EXPENSES



In June 2024, Karis was awarded a restricted 18-month grant of \$233,562 from the Caring for Denver Foundation to support program salaries through November 2025. In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the full amount was recorded as a contribution receivable in FY2023-2024, as it was an unconditional pledge. However, the grant was disbursed in two payments: \$76,585 (August 2024), and \$156,977 (May 2025). As a result, Karis' FY2024-2025 and FY2025-2026 financial statements may reflect a temporary deficit despite ongoing funding and financial stability. Below is how the Caring for Denver Foundation grant is being applied across fiscal years to support program salaries.



Thank You to Our Major Supporters

A.V. Hunter Trust
Anonymous
The Anschutz Foundation
The Antero Foundation
Caring for Denver Foundation
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Connie Burwell White and
William W. White Foundation
Anne Marie Currin
Carma Ossola-Royce and
Peter Gailing
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This list includes donors \$5,000+. We apologize for any omissions or spelling errors that may have occurred.



Thank You to Our Supporters

Sima Ali
American Online Giving Foundation
Amy Lyden-Cardinal and
Tabbey Cardinal-Lyden
Steven M Anderson and
Mary E Reyland
Gunnar Andersson
Lisa Andersson
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Lisa Astramecki
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Tarri and Douglas Cleveland
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Colorado Ballet
Colorado Gives Foundation
Colorado Housing and Finance
Authority
Colorado Symphony

The Colorado Trust
Comedy Works
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The Corner Beet
Creating Healthier Communities
Collette Cressy
Cindy Criddle
Saralyn and Bryan Crock
Jan Crouter
The Culinary Creative Group
The Cutlers
Cinda Daggett
Linda Dahl
Ruth Dalzell Muse
Lauryl Danuff
DaVita
Kimber DeLoia
Denver Art Museum
Denver Film
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
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Mary-Kate Doyle
Patricia and Daniel Duggan
Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge
Railroad
Martha and David Earle

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Nancy Enyart
Esther Cho and Richard Evans
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Van Bruwaene Family
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Dani Gilady
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Hale Martin
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Kathy Meyers
Jill and Allen Mitzel
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Lynne Moore
Lucille Danenhauer and Nate Morrison
Heather and Marc Moss
Movement Baker
Taylor Mueller
Jessica Murison
Museum of Contemporary Art Denver
Nathan Muzos
Cindy Nodland
North Italia
NorthPoint Development, LLC
Esther O'Sullivan
Gerardo Okhuysen and
 Christopher Pounds



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The Pardun Family
Patti and Tom Parson
PayPal Giving Fund
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Pinnacol Assurance
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Mallory Radcliff
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Lydia Rhino
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Lorraine Ross
Laura Rossmassler
Leanne Roth
Joe and Chris Rubino
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Rebecca Rutherford
John Rymers
Ann Sabbah
Julianna Malchman and
Michael Sabilia
Diane Sanders

Donna and Bill Scott
Sarah Scott
Jill Searle
Renee and Mark Shapard
David Shepard
Mary Ann and Rick Shube
Artis Silverman
Evan Silverman
Nina and Tom Sisk
Natasha Smith
Wendy and Martin Smith
Jenny Spellman
Linda Spilka
Sports Plus
Dotty Sprigg
Sally Sprigg
Marguerite Stewart
Mary Helen and Greg Stults
Sarah Kolb and Dan Suhr
Ellen and Morris Susman
John Taht
Rose Ann and Illar Taht
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Jody DiLeo and Chad Thomas
Nancy Thompson
Trader Joe's
Robert Tramaloni
Barb Trotsky
Pam Gates and Mark Trubowitz

Max Turek
Sanjay Tyagi
Lucy and Peter Van Dusen
The Vineyard Wine Shop
Aimee and Gary Wagner
Carol and Irwin Wagner
Susan Wagner
Ted Wagner
Waterway Carwash
Mary Ann Watson and Flint Whitlock
Judy Weingarten
Cole Weinman
Deb and Scott Wharton
Bryan Wilky
Polly and Randy Wilson
Rob Withers
Rebecca and Al Woehrle
Katie Wolpert
Margaret and William Wood
Brandi Wright
Adam and Tracy Zabel
Mallory Zalla

This list includes cash donors \$50+ and in-kind donations (FMV \$50+). We apologize for any omissions or spelling errors that may have occurred.

Sustainability

For nearly five decades, Karis has flourished thanks to our unwavering mission and the steadfast support of our generous community.

The impact of donor support is profound, and our success and sustainability are deeply rooted in the diverse support we receive from a wide range of dedicated donors and partners.

We are honored to have the continued backing of esteemed foundations (see the complete list in the "Thank You Supporters" section). Their substantial contributions allow us to maintain our life-changing Empowerment Program.

A cornerstone of our fundraising success is our annual spring fundraiser, which brings together community partners, donors, and friends to celebrate progress and deepen engagement. This signature event raises vital unrestricted funds, increases awareness of our mission, and energizes supporters through storytelling and connection. Karis is proud to say that 100% of our Board of Directors and staff contribute financially every year, reflecting a deep personal commitment to our cause.

Our commitment to accessibility and affordability sets us apart. While other therapeutic communities may charge upwards of \$10,000 per month, Karis offers comprehensive services for just \$685 monthly. This fee covers lodging, meals, household supplies, utilities, our Empowerment Program, and group activities, ensuring that high-quality care remains within reach for those who need it most.

Karis Community
1361 Detroit Street
Denver, Colorado 80206



303-355-5546
friends@kariscommunity.org
www.kariscommunity.org