

Garfield County Human Services Commission
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13th, 2026
9:30 – 11 am
Garfield County H&HS Building; Rifle Falls Room

Welcome and Opening Comments

Approval of prior meeting minutes

Review of minutes, changes were made, motion to approve with changes made by Sally Boughton seconded by Ali. Vote was taken and motion carried.

Kelly Esch/Sarah Fedishen

Pat Horwitz/Traci Gurley-Tomashosky

Introduction of Guests

Kathryn Kuhlenberg, Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District
Paul Stanley, Confluence Early Childhood Development Service District

Kelly Esch/ Sarah Fedishen

Committee Reports

Services Award Dinner (Ad-hoc)

The date of the event has been pushed to the fall of 2026 (September 14th at Hotel Colorado). Nominations are due July 31, 2026. Discussion was held. Also, if you want to be a part of the committee, reach out to Blythe if interested. Please nominate any volunteers that you have in mind. See nomination form and press release attached.

Hans Lutgring/Blythe Chapman

Grants (Standing)

They are working to develop on-line application for the large Garfield County grants.

Mason Hohstadt/ Pat Horwitz/ Shiela Strouse

Membership (Ad-hoc)

No report.

Caroline Barnes/Suzanne Wheeler- Del Piccalo

Colorado Gives Day (Ad-hoc)

No Report.

Mary Cloud/ Todd Chamberlain

The State of Human Services (Ad-hoc)

The committee met with Fred, Jamacia and Heather from Garfield County, notes to come. They are doing a lot of work.

Sara Sims/Mason Hohstadt

Old Business

- **BOCC:** Monday, May 18th, at 8:00am. Presenting are: Health Solutions West, A Way Out, Aspen Hope Center, Path Finders
- **Documents:** [Meeting calendar](#), [BOCC Calendar](#), [Bylaws](#) and [Spotlights](#) for 2026 (Chairpersons)

New Business

- [Confluence Early Childhood Special District](#) (Kathryn Kuhlenberg)
- In Person Meeting Discussion, etc (Chairpersons)
- **Spotlights:** [High County Volunteers](#) & [A Way Out](#) could not attend, no presentations.
(Spotlight purpose is for agencies to talk about their updated programs and what activities they are working on currently; Content is of value to other non-profits on HSC; and Outcome is collaborating and educating. Given the timing there could be 2 spotlighted organizations per meeting. Limit report to 10 minutes.)

Opportunity for Public Comment (Please limit to 3 minutes)

Staffing Updates/Agency Rounds (if time allows)

Next Meeting: June 10, 2026- Glenwood Springs Library: Upstairs Classroom

Upcoming Spotlights: June: CASA, WMRHA

Adjourn



Garfield County Humanitarian Awards 2026 NOMINATION FORM

*This nomination form and letters must be submitted by
Friday, July 31st at 4:00 pm. No exceptions!*

Name of nominee: _____

Organization, if any: _____ Title, if any: _____

Nomination Category: _____ Volunteer _____ Staff (Check one or both categories.)

Approximate age of nominee _____ (Nominations can be submitted for people of any age.)

Nominee's contact information:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day time phone: _____ Mobile phone : _____

Name of person submitting nomination: _____

Organization, if any: _____ Title: _____

Nominator's contact info:

Day time phone : _____ Mobile phone: _____

E-mail : _____

How did you hear about these awards: radio newspaper other (describe) _____

- You must attach a letter explaining why *you* are nominating this person.
- In addition, nominations require supporting letters from at least two other people but no more than five other people. All letters must accompany this form.

All materials should be emailed to garfield.county.awards@gmail.com by **4 p.m.** on Friday July 31st, 2026. Questions? Call 970-893-6307.

Garfield County Humanitarian Awards Nomination Rules - 2026

1. **Only one nominee** per organization or individual will be considered each year.
2. **Nominees may live and/or work/volunteer in Garfield County.** (Given the geographic make up of our community it is not uncommon for a person to be contributing to Garfield County, while living in Eagle or Pitkin Counties.)
3. **Past winners** cannot be nominated for or receive an award.
4. **Past nominees** who never won this award may be nominated again.
5. Finalists must be able to be physically present at the HSA banquet or they will be disqualified from being considered for an award (we will not consider awards for anyone who has passed away). **If the individual is unable to attend, they can be nominated again next year.**
6. The nomination form, nomination letter and at least **two** additional letters of support (but no more than five **additional** letters). A minimum of three and maximum of six letters must be **received via email by 7/31/26 at 4 pm.**
7. If any part of the packet is received after **4 pm 7/31/26**, the late materials will not be considered. We request that the nomination and letters be **scanned as one document** and that you note the name of the nominee in the subject line of your email (if you need help with scanning or emailing, please call **970-893-6307**).
8. All finalists chosen to be honored at the Garfield County Humanitarian Awards Dinner on **September 14th, 2026**, will be notified by **8/3/2026**.
9. Finalists will receive a free dinner, and each finalist will have an assigned table. Finalists will receive a call and an email that will explain dinner tickets and other details for the evening.
10. Nominators will also receive an informational email to share with the people who wrote letters of support.
11. Finalists will be presented with copies of their nomination letters, a certificate and a rose during the dinner.
12. At the end of the evening, the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners will announce category winners.

Thanks for your nomination.

We hope to see you at the Humanitarian Awards event on

Monday September 14th, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., Hotel Colorado Glenwood Springs

Nominations Open for 2026 Garfield County Humanitarian Service Awards

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo...April 15, 2026...The Garfield County Human Services Commission and the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners are accepting nominations for the 36th Annual Garfield County Humanitarian Service Awards. The awards honor community volunteers and human services staff for their selfless contributions that make Garfield County communities vibrant, diverse, sustainable, supportive and safe places to live, work and play. **Nominations are due by July 31st, 2026.**

Volunteers and staff can be nominated by anyone in the community – typically peers, friends and individuals connected to the nonprofit/human services arena. Nomination support letters describe the wonderful ways in which these individuals help the community. Members of the Garfield County Human Services Commission choose the winners of the Humanitarian Awards. The Garfield County Humanitarian Awards Dinner has honored unsung heroes for 36 years. This event is not a fundraiser for any agency or Garfield County or the Human Services Commission.

The completed nomination package must include: a) nomination form; b) letter stating why the person is being nominated; and c) support letters from **at least three but no more than six** other people. **Package must be emailed to garfield.county.awards@gmail.com** by 4pm on Friday July 31, 2026.

The Humanitarian Service Awards Committee reviews the nominations, and finalists are selected. Finalists must agree to attend the dinner (free of charge). All non-finalists receive a certificate of recognition and a copy of their nomination materials including nomination support letters. Due to space limitations, non-finalists do not attend the dinner.

The awards dinner will take place on **Monday, September 14, 2026** at the Hotel Colorado.

During the awards ceremony, the finalists' achievements are recognized from the stage. Finalists receive a copy of their nomination materials along with a flower and a certificate of recognition. At the end of the evening, the winning humanitarians are announced by the Board of County Commissioners. Each winner receives an award plaque. For more information **970-893-6307** or **garfield.county.awards@gmail.com**

Se abren las nominaciones para los Premios al Servicio Humanitario del Condado de Garfield 2026

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo... 15 de abril de 2026... La Comisión de Servicios Humanos del Condado de Garfield y la Junta de Comisionados del Condado de Garfield están aceptando nominaciones para los 36.º Premios Anuales al Servicio Humanitario del Condado de Garfield. Estos premios reconocen a voluntarios comunitarios y al personal de servicios humanos por sus contribuciones desinteresadas que hacen que las comunidades del Condado de Garfield sean lugares vibrantes, diversos, sostenibles, solidarios y seguros para vivir, trabajar y disfrutar. Las nominaciones se recibirán hasta el 31 de julio de 2026.

Los voluntarios y el personal pueden ser nominados por cualquier persona de la comunidad, normalmente colegas, amistades y personas vinculadas al ámbito de

organizaciones sin fines de lucro y servicios humanos. Las cartas de apoyo a la nominación describen las maravillosas formas en que estas personas ayudan a la comunidad. Los miembros de la Comisión de Servicios Humanos del Condado de Garfield eligen a los ganadores de los Premios Humanitarios. La Cena de los Premios Humanitarios del Condado de Garfield ha honrado a héroes anónimos durante 36 años. Este evento no es una recaudación de fondos para ninguna agencia, el Condado de Garfield ni la Comisión de Servicios Humanos.

El formulario de solicitud en línea se puede encontrar en: <https://www.garfield-county.com/hsc/humanitarian-awards/>. El paquete completo de nominación debe incluir: a) el formulario de nominación; b) una carta que indique por qué se nombra a la persona; y c) cartas de apoyo de al menos tres y no más de seis personas adicionales. El paquete debe enviarse por correo electrónico a garfield.county.awards@gmail.com antes de las **4:00 p. m. del viernes 31 de julio de 2026**.

El Comité de los Premios al Servicio Humanitario revisa las nominaciones y selecciona a los finalistas. Los finalistas deben aceptar asistir a la cena (sin costo alguno). Todos los no finalistas reciben un certificado de reconocimiento y una copia de sus materiales de nominación, incluidas las cartas de apoyo. Debido a limitaciones de espacio, los no finalistas no asisten a la cena.

La cena de premiación se llevará a cabo el lunes **14 de septiembre de 2026** en el Hotel Colorado en Glenwood Springs.

Durante la ceremonia de premiación, los logros de los finalistas son reconocidos desde el escenario. Los finalistas reciben una copia de sus materiales de nominación junto con una flor y un certificado de reconocimiento. Al final de la velada, los ganadores humanitarios son anunciados por la Junta de Comisionados del Condado. Cada ganador recibe una placa conmemorativa.

Para más información: 970-893-6307 o garfield.county.awards@gmail.com.

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Garfield County Humanitarian Awards Committee
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