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Media Contacts:

Jackie Brown-Griggs (303-300-2255, jackiebrowngriggs@gbsm.com)

Emma Harrison (630-632-0285, emmaharrison@gbsm.com)

Daniels Fund Awards Step Denver \$250k to Advance Innovative Addiction Recovery and Homelessness Model

*Medal of Excellence Finalists Receive Nearly Half a Million Dollars at
Daniels Fund Inaugural Salute to Excellence Event*

Denver, Colo. – January 10, 2024 – Tonight, the [Daniels Fund](#) awarded [Step Denver](#) its prestigious Medal of Excellence, a \$250,000 prize to honor excellence in nonprofit work and support the organization’s addiction recovery and homelessness programs, at its inaugural *Salute to Excellence* event at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

The event recognized the work of three top-performing grantees: [Climb Wyoming](#), [Gold Crown Foundation](#) and [Step Denver](#). Each advanced pioneering solutions and demonstrated community impact aligned with the Daniels Fund’s mission and founder Bill Daniels’ legacy.

“All three finalists impact our communities tremendously, and we’re confident Bill would be both humbled and thrilled to witness their transformative effects,” said Daniels Fund President and CEO Hanna Skandera. “Bill was very open about his struggle with alcohol addiction and embraced sobriety after seeking treatment,” added Skandera. “So, we’re pleased to support Step Denver’s effective approach to recovery, teaching men to live with integrity and hold each other accountable while getting their lives back on track.”

Step Denver is a residential addiction recovery program that offers men with nowhere else to turn the opportunity to rebuild their lives through sobriety, work, accountability and community. Over the last three years, Step Denver served nearly 1,000 men, and program alumni reported the following outcomes: 80% sustained sobriety, 84% currently employed and 91% independently housed.

“We are deeply honored to receive the Daniels Fund Medal of Excellence,” said Step Denver CEO Paul Scudo. “We are humbled that the Daniels Fund would recognize Step’s alignment with the values of Bill Daniels and are grateful for the Daniels Fund’s support in our mission.”

Medal of Excellence finalists Climb Wyoming and Gold Crown Foundation each received \$100,000 to advance their work in the areas of job training and support for single mothers, and youth sports and enrichment, respectively.

“We are grateful for our longstanding partnership with the Daniels Fund,” said Climb Wyoming CEO Katie Hogarty. “Over the past 10 years, they have been a critical partner in our work to help single mothers gain job skills and new careers that move their families from poverty into financial stability and self-



sufficiency. We appreciate the deep and lasting impacts this partnership has on the entire state of Wyoming.”

“Our entire organization is thrilled to receive this impactful recognition,” said Gold Crown Foundation Executive Director Kevin Petty. “This funding will allow us to increase and expand our scholarship programs to allow better access to affordable and impactful youth sports and life skill programs throughout the region.”

The awards, totaling \$450,000, are in addition to funding support the Daniels Fund has given to each organization over the past several years as longstanding grantees. The Daniels Fund has distributed more than \$1 billion in grants and scholarships throughout its nearly 25-year history.

If you are interested in donating to these organizations, please visit their websites:

- [Climb Wyoming](#)
- [Gold Crown Foundation](#)
- [Step Denver](#)

Photography and Interview Opportunities: Professional photographs, video, and other information from the event are available here: <https://www.danielsfund.org/salutetoexcellence>

Interviews with Daniels Fund leadership and grantees may be scheduled for expanded stories.

About Daniels Fund

The Daniels Fund, established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, is a private charitable foundation dedicated to making life better for the people of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming through its grants program, scholarship program, and ethics initiative.

Bill Daniels established the Daniels Fund Grants Program to give back to people in the states he loved with specific funding priorities that held a deep personal significance for him. In 2023, the Daniels Fund awarded \$54 million in grants to more than 350 highly effective nonprofit partners that are transforming their communities across Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Visit [DanielsFund.org](https://www.danielsfund.org) to learn more.

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