Dear Community Member,

*“I cannot believe that the purpose of life is to be happy. I think the purpose of life is to be useful, to be responsible, to be honorable, to be compassionate. It is, above all, to matter: to count, to stand for something, to have it make some difference that you lived at all,”* from Passions and Prejudices, by Leo Rosten.

It is appropriate that the above quote was one of my Mom’s favorite. Many of you remember Katy Atkinson, a fearless Colorado political consultant, as a tireless advocate for those in need – including a friend or an agency. If you didn’t know Katy, you missed out on a good friend who was caring, compassionate, and always looking to make the world a better place. My Mom worked to support several causes throughout her life, never seeking recognition or compensation, because what she was doing made a positive impact for those less fortunate. My Mom’s humility is something I will always cherish about her. You may remember seeing, or hearing, news stories about a gold coin being dropped into a Salvation Army kettle during the holiday season. That was my Mom, never one to miss a chance at free publicity, giving to a cause she believed in and helping draw attention to their good works.

The creation of the **Katy Atkinson Jeffco Prosperity Project (JPP) Memorial Fund** is an extension of my Mom’s work. The Jeffco Prosperity Project leads transformative change by developing new strategies for success for families and students by collaborating with schools and community groups to break the cycle of generational poverty for Jefferson County families. JPP harnesses the power of community to support families and project partners to work together to find and create solutions. The project works to move low-income families to self-defined success and focuses on children from Head Start pre-school obtaining a high school diploma and beyond.

JPP was a project my Mom was not only passionate about, but one she helped establish in 2009. Since that time, this project has assisted over one hundred individuals as they move from generational poverty to self-defined self-sufficiency, gaining the dignity and respect that comes with it. This project began with an end in mind: to end poverty. Its premise is to believe that all individuals, if given a quality education and opportunities, will reach success and stand on their own two feet. This premise has proven itself repeatedly, and with your support will continue effecting positive changes in our community.

*“I am proud that Katy’s work will continue on through this fund.” We are now reaching out to you to honor Katy, keep her work alive, and assist us in this venture. We are asking for any donations, small or large, to ensure this project remains strong as we successfully assist families in changing their lives, forever. Please share this effort with others so that we can continue empowering those less fortunate than us.”* Lynn A. Johnson, friend of my Mom’s and visionary of JPP

Please help with the Katy Atkinson Memorial Fund by sending tax deductible donations to:

Human Services Building

ATTN: Jeffco Human Services Foundation, Suite 370

Re: Katy Atkinson Jeffco Prosperity Project (JPP) Memorial Fund

900 Jefferson County Parkway

Golden, CO 80401

Be sure to make your check out to **Jeffco Human Services Foundation**, and include Katy Atkinson Jeffco Prosperity Project (JPP) Memorial Fund in the memo line or on the envelope.

Thank you for honoring my mom,

Randy Atkinson