September 13, 2018

**Mile High United Way Partners with the Piton Foundation, a part of Gary Community Investments, to strengthen the nonprofit sector**

In an effort to improve the lives of Colorado’s children and their families, Mile High United Way is partnering with Gary Community Investments on Strengthening the NonProfit Sector initiative to amplify the contributions of effective organizations providing supportive services for individuals and families who struggle to make ends meet. As part of this partnership, Gary Community Investments is providing the Strategic Investment Grants program at Mile High United Way with $1.4 million dollars in capacity building funding, as well as $600,000 access to loan guarantees to increase the effectiveness of the nonprofit sector.

As we all know, it takes significant financial investment to grow or improve any organization to higher levels of quality service delivery, increased effectiveness and demonstrated impact for its stakeholders. In general, organizations must have clear business or program models, effective practices to measure their impact, committed leadership and an ability to adapt to changing environments. For non-profit, community-based organizations, this scenario can be even more complex because the return on the investment is not necessarily measured in financial capital. The impact of the financial investment is often demonstrated in the nonprofit’s ability to support a third party customer base that is not able to pay for services. As a result, the success of a nonprofit organization must be demonstrated differently, and take into account the changing definition of value as it relates to service delivery.

Gary Community Investments, which includes The Piton Foundation, invests in for-profit and philanthropic solutions for Colorado’s low-income children and their families. The organization, which was founded by Denver oilman Sam Gary, leverages a full spectrum of financial tools, including philanthropic, near-market and market-rate capital, to help address the issues facing low-income children and their families.

Through this partnership Gary Community Investments hopes to establish a nonprofit capacity building/technical assistance platform that strengthens shared Mile High United Way/Piton Foundation investee partners as they pursue opportunities for transforming the supportive services/workforce ecosystems on behalf of low-income children and their families. The Piton Foundation is excited to enlist Mile High United Way
as convener and project manager of this capacity building/technical assistance initiative. The history and expertise of Mile High United Way in this intermediary role allows The Piton Foundation to take advantage of contracted resources to deliver requested training and coaching to our investee partners.

**About Gary Community Investments**
Gary Community Investments, which includes The Piton Foundation, invests in for-profit and philanthropic solutions for Colorado’s low-income children and their families. It was founded by Denver oilman Sam Gary with the belief that business and philanthropy can—and should—work together to create opportunities for those who need it most. Gary Community Investments is committed to investing in quality early childhood and youth development systems, expanding sustainable economic opportunities, and developing and supporting programs that create healthy family and community environments. By aligning all of our assets with our mission, we make creative investments that not only yield a financial return but can also improve the lives of Colorado’s children.

**About Mile High United Way**
Working side-by-side with the community, Mile High United Way fights for the education, health, and financial stability for everyone in Metro Denver. By uniting resources across the private, public, and philanthropic sectors, Mile High United Way changes the odds for the children, families, and individuals in our community, to move them out of poverty. We invest in long-term solutions that ensure children are learning and reading at grade-level; young people graduate from high school ready for college or the workforce; and families and individuals have their basic needs met and are afforded every opportunity to move toward economic success.