

First and foremost, we would like to thank the conservation easement donors that are the backbone of this work!

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# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES AN IMPACT

Since 1967, thanks to generous supporters like you, Aspen Valley Land Trust has protected and cared for:



46,000 acres



103 miles of river



30,000 acres of critical winter wildlife habitat



7 schools engaged in outdoor learning



45 properties providing public access

# THIS ONE'S FORTHE LAND STEWARDS

As I reflect on my 20 years at Aspen Valley Land Trust (how exactly did that happen?), I am filled with gratitude and awe for what we have accomplished together. Thanks to your generous support and partnership, we have protected over 46,000 acres of land in the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys, ensuring that our natural and agricultural heritage will endure for generations to come.



You are the reason we can do this work. Whether you are a landowner who has entrusted us with a conservation easement, a donor who has contributed to our stewardship fund, a volunteer who has helped improve and restore land, a partner who has brought resources and expertise to a project, or a community member who has enjoyed the beauty and benefits of our conserved lands, you are part of this conservation family. And we could not do it without you.

As we look ahead to the next 20 years, we face new challenges and opportunities. The pressures of development, climate change, and population growth threaten to fragment and degrade our precious landscapes. But we also have the chance to leverage new tools and partnerships, to engage new audiences and supporters, and to expand our impact and reach. We have a vision of a resilient and connected landscape that supports wildlife, agriculture, outdoor recreation, and culture.

#### And we need your help to make it a reality.

Putting our first ever Strategic Conservation Plan into action is requiring increased resources, innovation, support, and energy – and your continued belief and partnership. **Now is the time to be brave and bold.** Nothing less will do.

Thank you for being part of this conservation family. Together, we can ensure that the land we love is protected forever. Our lives depend on it.

With thanks,

Signine Fynz

Suzanne Stephens, Executive Director

# A HOMECOMING THAT CREATED A FOREVER HOME

"It was a no brainer."

Lulu Colby graduated as a Meeker High Cowboy, possibly unaware her school mascot was foretelling a future of working on the land.

Lulu spent years enjoying the beauty of the west while herding sheep in Northern Colorado, managing a ranch in southern Montana, and running weed-grazing goats all the way down to Arizona. When given the opportunity to select a destination for her next career relocation, she chose home: Rifle, Colorado.

"Rifle was nothing when I went away; there was nothing south of the freeway. Seeing what happened to the Western Slope since I've been away – everything changed so much – it made me want to do something."

Lulu wanted to buy her own slice of home and make sure it would be forever protected from the change creeping south of the interstate and across the region. In 2022, she donated a conservation easement to AVLT on her newly acquired property, Sweet Grass.

"It was a no brainer. I thought, there's an important piece of the puzzle."

Adjacent to other protected lands, Sweet Grass is home to uninterrupted sagebrush and gamble oak, rich riparian forests, woodlands, and wetlands. Ask about her choice to conserve the property and she will tell you, "if you've been up to my place you would understand."

Now that Sweet Grass is protected in perpetuity, Lulu stays busy with various restoration projects, planting native species, improving irrigation ditches, and fighting "this damn smooth brome."

"I've always been working on the land, living on it. It's evolved, you gravitate and progress, and now seeing what's happened to so many pieces of land, you say, now I need to work to preserve it."

What began as, and is once again, Lulu's home will forever also be home to elk, mule deer, moose, black bears, songbirds, and raptors thanks to Lulu's dedication to this valley.

"I hope we can preserve what we have and do a lot of work to conserve our resources, our wildlife, and our watersheds."





# MEMORIES TO CHERISH

To AVLT 2022 will forever be known as "the early days of Coffman Ranch." Ironically so, as it has been actively ranched for more than a century. But to AVLT, owning and managing a ranch is new territory and a new adventure that will have lasting benefits for all of our work throughout the region.

It was a year of learning, listening, and growing love for this land. We have been blessed to have the guidance, wit, and wisdom of Rex and JoAnn Coffman as they continue to live in their home of 67 years and tolerate our occasional antics and blunders as we learn to call Coffman Ranch home. Their legacy and spirit is inseparable from the ranch and will forever be a part of its future, even as we slowly transition to new agricultural systems and practices with the help of our new ranch lessee. We are slowly introducing new opportunities for outdoor education and public access, and envision habitat restoration projects that recall the glory days of this riverside floodplain that once supported ponderosa pine thickets and wide bands of wetlands and cottonwood galleries long before ranching began to cut a living from this verdant cloth in in early 1900s.

It was a year of getting dirty. We cleaned, pulled weeds, and built trails with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and numerous volunteers. We catalogued a treasure chest of natural wonders with CSU's Colorado Natural Heritage Program and local ecologists. We tested the educational waters by inviting schools and students from Pre-K to college to come get to know the ranch and help envision future partnerships to serve more students from more backgrounds. We intend for Coffman Ranch to become a community asset, by the community and for the community, and we saw the community turn out in a big way for this ranch last summer.

It was also a year full of visioning and planning. It is not often you get the opportunity to assess how you want to do things before packed calendars, running to-do lists, and the unrelenting urgency of it all gets in the way. For AVLT, 2022 introduced an opportunity to be intentional in how we want to manage this ranch, its rich resources, and a community eager to access this rarity. As a demonstration ranch, this was our first opportunity to showcase how we can create a sustainable stewardship model to create a new future for this special place, while ensuring that it remains a working ranch and a home for living things. "Balance" is usually easier said than done, but this ranch offers us the chance to learn and respect that inflection point.

There is a long road ahead as we prepare to refine and implement the conceptual master plan and broaden our commitment to stewarding this place and mindfully connecting this community to it. Thank you for making this memorable year possible and for your ongoing commitment to this transformational place.

# **ECOLOGICAL BASELINE**

An extended ecological inventory was data is a guide for all restoration and future use planning.

#### **STAFF & BOARD ANALYSIS**

An internal review of project vision and goals

#### **PARTNER INTERVIEWS**

Seeking detailed input regarding specific uses, completed in 2021. This was completed in 2022. needs, and constraints.

(2022 - 2023)

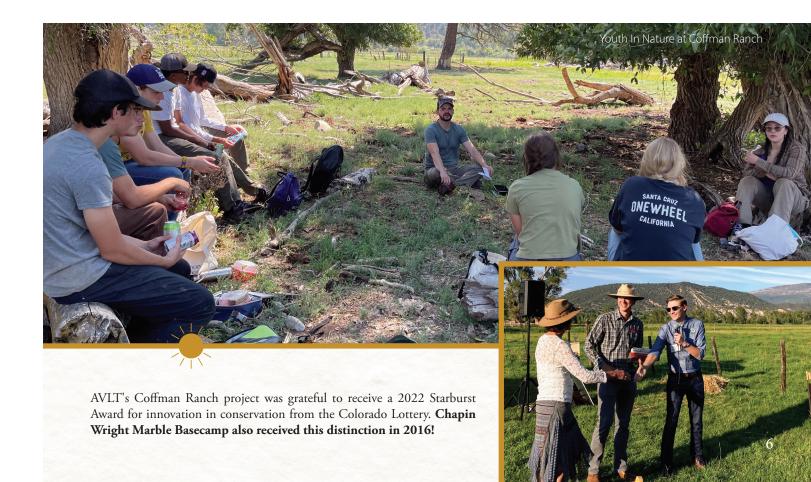
#### **PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

Seeking feedback of draft plan and ranch management and uses.

(Starting 2023)

#### **ADOPT & IMPLEMENT MASTER PLAN**

The finalized plan will outline action steps, a timeline for implementation, and fundraising needs.



# BRINGING A CONSERVATION PLAN TO LIFE

Making the biggest impact, while we can.

In 2022, AVLT adopted its first 10-year Strategic Conservation Plan. Now we need your help to put it into action! With the support of our community and partners, we are laying the groundwork to protect and expand our existing conservation incentives, while creating new tools to catalyze more conservation and stewardship in our region and across the state. We have shared data and resources from the plan with partners and municipalities to help build a stronger network of support for conservation.

#### Plan Objectives by 2032:

- Double conserved acreage to protect a total of 90,000 acres
- Support 3-5 additional community-centered conservation projects and increase community engagement with conservation throughout the region
- Develop new funding, tools, and incentives to catalyze meaningful conservation, stewardship, and restoration of land

There is much work to do toward meeting the goals and objectives laid out in this plan and we look forward to continuing to make a tangible and forever impact on these valleys with your support!

#### **FOLLOW THE BUCKS**

... and does, bulls, and cows. Large mammal species such as deer and elk need connected land for traveling and finding food and shelter as they move from the mountaintops in the summer to the lowlands and river bottoms in the winter. Protecting uniterrupted habitat increases our resilience to climate change and protects biodiversity. This also benefits the smaller critters and natural resources who also call this habitat home.

Most of the critical winter habitat for big game in our region exists on private land. Protecting private land – often agricultural land – is AVLT's priority. Using wildlife habitat, specifically big game species, as a data layer to prioritize conservation areas, we can best direct our work to have the biggest impact on biodiversity, climate resiliency, and the health of this community – both human and wild.

# **INTERDEPENDENT GOALS** WORKING LANDS The landscape-scale goals of protecting open space, working lands, wildlife habitat, and water are interwoven and dependent on our goals of increasing community access OPEN SPACE and connections to land. Everyone deserves to be involved in this work and this work depends on everyone being involved. CONSERVATION GOALS CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Public landPrivate conserved land

WILDLIFE HABITAT PRIORITY LEVEL

er Hig

# ELEVATING OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Advancing access and equity at every altitude

We talk a lot about the elevation of student's high-alpine experience at Chapin Wright Marble Basecamp – but in 2022, the conversation about elevating outdoor education sounded different.

Year after year, you have read about the growth of our outdoor education program, which has served thousands of students, seven schools, and three nonprofits. Through the generous support of our community, thousands of students have been able to connect to their place and one another. Even with all this growth, the unfortunate reality is that many kids are still excluded from these experiences.

Every kid in these valleys should have the opportunity to feel blanketed by stars next to the warmth of a high-alpine campfire and to dip their toes in the river on the first warm days of spring. **Every kid deserves to connect to place.** The limits of our capacity do not limit the need for this work.

In assessing the gap between our growth and vision of reaching every child in our valleys, the power of partnerships becomes clear.

To elevate our outdoor education programs and ensure that every child is able to access the magic of quaking aspens and the call of hawks, AVLT is reaching new partners and supporting programs that lack access to land and this type of experience.

By providing the place, infrastructure, and program support, AVLT supports the schools and community partners that utilize Marble Basecamp and Coffman Ranch to strengthen their curriculum through these experiences. By exploring new partnerships, there is an exponential opportunity to serve more kids that have never had these opportunities, and to accomplish more than AVLT could do alone. **Thank you partners!** 

Basalt Middle School at Chapin Wright Marble Basecamp



# **THANK YOU, DONORS!**

You make forever possible

You protect all that is special about the places we love. Every dollar you give is an investment in clean air and water, your local community, and future generations. Thank you.

List includes gifts from 1/1/2022 - 1/10/2023. We apologize for any misprints or omissions. Please contact ault@ault.org for any corrections.

> \*Gave for last 5 consecutive years \* Gave for last 10 consecutive years \* Gave for last 15 consecutive years \*\* Gave for last 20+ consecutive years

# AVLT'S STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

Help us build capacity and save more priority land now, while we have the chance. By joining the Stewardship Circle, you can help create a healthier future for our wild and human communities.

Founder \$100,000 + Guardian \$25,000 + \$10,000 + Champion Conservator \$5,000 + Steward \$1,000 +

(levels based on annual giving)

# STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE CORE

AVLT's Stewardship Circle Core is reserved for the dedicated supporters who have made a four-year pledge to the Stewardship Circle. This leadership gift enables us to care for all the special places forever protected over the past 55 years.

Contact jeff@avlt.org to learn more about joining the Stewardship Circle or Stewardship Circle Core and investing in the future of this region.

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in memory of Joseph Benson ★Ellen and Bill Birk **Judith Blanchard** 

Carly Bolliger and Molly DeMarr

Mike Bucchin and Charis Caldwell, in honor of Erin Bucchin Ianet Buck Eliza and Andrew Burlingame Sarah P. Carleton, in honor of Carol Duell Steve and Georgia Carter Rory and Lucy Cerise, Lathrop Strang Memorial Fund, in memory of Lee Ann Eustis Patricia Chew and Robert Whalen, Hause Family R3 Fund, in memory of Ian and

Kea Hause ★Anne Austin Clapper Bruce and Betty Collins Mary Coogan, in memory of Lee Ann Eustis Brandon Cowhey Russ and Linda Criswell

★★Paula Derevensky, Coffman Ranch Tom and Lynn Dunlop Ralph Dupps

Christine Elliott Joe Enzer

Lawrence Bond

★Molly Fales

**★**Marguerite Flett Amber Franze

Christy and Nathan Garfield, in honor of Kalli Sinclair

\*\*\* Sara Garton

★★Ion Gibans

Doug and Peggy Graybeal Thomas Griffiths

Barb Hanrahan

Carolyn and Dan Hardin, in memory of Lee Ann Eustis

Ted and Robin Haugland

★Jamin and Caitlin Heady-Smith ★George Hendrix, Coffman Ranh

Virginia Hmielowski, in honor of Clare Bastable Michael Hutton and PJ Wallace The John and Mary Lou Flynn Family Joseph John

★ Jackie Kasabach Megan Lamb

Vennie Lilly and Paula Casper, Coffman Ranch, in memory of Stella Florine Lilly ★Laurie Loeb

★ Gave for last 5 consecutive years \* Gave for last 10 consecutive years \*\* Gave for last 15 consecutive years \*\* Gave for last 20+ consecutive years

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# LOST MARBLES RANCH FOUND ITS FUTURE

We are incredibly grateful to the McBride family for once again demonstrating their commitment to the wild and human lives of this area by conserving the rest of their family ranch. Lost Marbles Ranch is an integral piece of the tapestry of protected properties in the Capitol Creek Valley and will forever be a haven for wildlife and diverse ecosystems.

"We feel it's the right thing to do for the land, the wildlife, and the valley."

- John McBride



# 2022 SUPPORTERS

#### (1/1/2022 through 1/10/2023)

#### EXPLORERS CONT.

Jennifer and Greg Long

- ★Ken and Joani Lubrant
  Ashley Martin, *in honor of Clare Bastable*Anthony and Sheryl Merkel
  Marnie Mosiman and Ted White
- ★Mountain, Valley and Plains, Inc.
- ★★Rick and Virginia Newton Tom Oken and Janie Lowe Ethan Oster
- ★Niall Parker Barbara Pettinos
- Donna Phelps and Bruce Pearson ★Ken and Bonnie Pletcher
- Jude Prochaska, *in honor of Tim McFlynn* Carol and George Pucak

Kelly Radunske

Ron Reed

Ron Reed Dana Revnolds

Paula Rhodes

Holly and Dan Richardson

Jennifer Sauer

Rebecca Schild and Chris Barlow

Barbara Schomaker, Coffman Ranch

Elizabeth Selzer, Coffman Ranch, in honor of Brian Hightower and my RFOV trail crew

Paige Slaughter Kim Stacey

Richard Stevens

Anais Tomezsko

★Tom Turnbull
Elizabeth Wheeler, in memory of Earl and
Robert Wheeler

Jan and Kirk Williams Zach Wilson

### SEEDLINGS

(\$49 & under)

Sara Adams

Paul Andersen and Lu Krueger-Andersen Rachelle Anslyn

Ryan and Bridgette Anslyn

kyan and Bridgette Ansly

Eric Bauer

Jeanne Beaudry and Jack Butterfield

Tera Boaeuf Lori Brandon Nic Caiano

Jodi Callison Nan Campbell

Margaret Cherny

Carolyn Cipperly

Sam Crary

Lib De Stefano

Molly Dillon

Nathan and Barbara Dills Lyssa Duncan

John Elkins and Susan Kave

Stephanie Erwin

★Katie Fales and Howie Kuhn

Donald Flaks

Alyssa Franklin

Marty Franze

Larry Gottlieb and Kay Knickerbocker

Susan Graves Lynn Holland

Andrea Inhoffer

Stephanie Janiga

Micki Jeronimus

Marie Keilbarth

Scott Kenner

Lynn Kirchner

Kerry Kleisner

Larisa LaLonde

★Ann Larson

Philip Lidov

Rick and Lindsay Lofaro, in memory of

Lee Ann Eustis

Parker Maddux

Jack McKay and Leslie Gallagher

Robert Mitchell Karen Moculeski

Bailey Mosiman

Anne Norrdin Grace Oliphant

Bryna Patterson

Erik and Carla Peltonen

Nancy Peterson Liz and Bill Phillips

Patricia and Mike Pilburn

Terri and Dave Ritchie

Jessica Riveira

Heather Rydell Jackie Sculco Stella Shoemaker Liz Silver

★Jon Sirkis Soldner Family Partnership

James Spencer Tatyana Stevens, Coffman Ranch

Carolyn Stoner

Jeremy Stott

Stacey Stuart

★Edward Sullivan Emily Supino

Lillian Sutherlar

Jillian Sutherland

Debra Winston

Elise Wolf

Keiko Woodyard

Ritchie Zah

#### SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Syd and Mary Baxter Carly Bolliger and Molly DeMarr Mike Bucchin and Charis Caldwell

★★★Lee and Donna Dale

★The Davlyn Family

Brandy Drake ★Adele Hause

Brian and Emily Hightower

★Samantha Johnston

★★Lisa Markalunas

★Tim and Donna McFlynn

Rebecca Moller

Robin Pauli

Dana Reynolds

Paige Slaughter

★★Amy and Doug Throm

Help keep conservation moving forward all year long by becoming a Sustaining Member with your monthly gift at avlt.org/monthly!

★ Gave for last 5 consecutive years

★★ Gave for last 10 consecutive years

★★★ Gave for last 15 consecutive years

★★★ Gave for last 20+ consecutive years

# THANK YOU, 2022 SPONSORS!

NORTH STAR





#### **SKY MOUNTAIN**









#### **CROWN MOUNTAIN**







#### FLYING DOG

Conservation Law P.C. F&M Architects, LLC Larry D. Harvey, P.C. Obermeyer Wood Investment Counsel LLLP

# **BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**



As Alpine Bank celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2023, AVLT would like to reflect on a long

history of support from this local institution that has had a remarkable impact on the entire community. For decades, Alpine Bank has demonstrated their dedication to the places and people that make the Roaring Fork and Colorado River valleys unique. Their support has played a major role in helping AVLT protect and care for these valleys. Thank you and Happy Birthday, Alpine Bank!

# 2022 IN-KIND DONORS

Judy Anderson Community Consultants

Aspen Skiing Company Batch Provisions Eagle Crest Nursery Lib De Stefano ★★★ DHM Design Corporation Eagle Crest Nursery Gorsuch Ski Cafe ★★★Gran Farnum Printing George Hendrix JAK Innovations, LLC Marble Distilling Company, LLC Ann L Ramsey Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers Tierney Lawrence Stiles T-Lazy-7 Ranch Brad and Liz Tucker Waterlaw: Patrick Miller Noto

> Dan Young Theresa Zelenka

There are countless ways to support your local land trust. Learn more about how to sponsor this work or make an in-kind gift by contacting avlt@avlt.org or (970) 963-8440.



# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR SYLVIA WENDROW

A long-time supporter and friend to AVLT, Sylvia had impeccable attendance at

every single one of AVLT's volunteer opportunties in 2022 – and for many years previously! From helping events run smoothly, to pulling weeds, to cleaning the Coffman Ranch historic barn, Sylvia is up for any task in order to support this mission. We can always count on Sylvia and enjoy her company in the process. Thank you, Sylvia!

# ROOKIE OF THE YEAR WILL TUCKER

Young in years but deep in skills, Will's entrepreneurial spirit and eagerness to help was quickly welcomed by the AVLT team. A 'Will' of all trades, he helped with everything from landscaping,

building bridges, and AV support for events at Coffman Ranch. The world needs more kids like Will and we hope he remembers us when he goes on to change the world!





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# CREATE A FOREVER LEGACY

Land conservation is one of the few investments that can last forever. By planning a gift to Aspen Valley Land Trust, you will help ensure the protected open lands, wildlife habitat, clean water, and local agriculture that is here today will be here for future generations. By planning a legacy gift to conservation, you can help protect these special places and the benefits they provide for both human and wild lives. Some of your options include:

- Leaving a simple bequest through your will.
- Designating a gift through your life insurance plan or retirement account.
- Donating a gift of real estate that can be conserved or sold to benefit conservation.

To learn more about how you can invest in the future of our valleys, contact Jeff Davlyn at jeff@avlt.org.



## 2022 FINANCIALS

#### CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION\*

# For the year ending December 31, 2022 (based on audited financial statements)

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 11,919,034	\$ 12,385,869
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 9,366,339	\$ 11,237,961
Land Held Permanently for Conservation	345,179	420,362
Temporarily Restricted Cash & Investments	485,807	699,530
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Net Property & Equipment	356,654	348,213
Land (Coffman Ranch, Marble Basecamp) <sup>3</sup>	4,059,991	4,219,332
Board Designated Stewardship Investments	2,273,273	2,001,973
Operating Investments	1,845,435	3,548,551
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 2,552,695	\$ 1,147,908
Short-Term Loan <sup>2</sup>	1,202,923	0
Amounts Held on Behalf of Others <sup>1</sup>	1,316,849	1,142,886
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	32,923	5,022
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$11,919,034	\$12,385,869
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT, net of depreciation	4,761,824	4,987,907
NVESTMENTS HELD ON BEHALF OF OTHERS1	1,316,849	1,142,886
RESTRICTED INVESTMENTS	1,010,099	1,448,079
INVESTMENTS	4,622,934	4,141,931
CURRENT ASSETS	207,328	665,066
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>

<sup>\*</sup> Includes AVLT and subsidiary LLCs (AVLT Coffman Ranch LLC, Chapin Wright Marble Basecamp LLC)

Land and conservation holdings (as of 5/15/2023): 45,919 acres

- Conservation Easements held/co-held by AVLT: 265 (45,667 acres)
- Parks and Open Spaces owned fee simple by AVLT: 11 (252 acres)

2022 REVENUE: \$1,446,916



Program Revenue 26% \$381,594

Contributions & 74% \$1,521,074 Special Events

(including donor restricted contributions)

Investments 0% -\$455,752

#### 2021 EXPENSES: \$1,361,254



Administration 15% \$207,568
Fundraising 22% \$305,587

Conservation & 61% \$848,099 Education Programs

Printed on recycled paper.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Investments held on behalf of others: Sutey Ranch Management Fund is an endowment held on behalf of BLM exclusively for management of BLM's Sutey Ranch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Short-Term Loan for purchase of Coffman Ranch was paid off in full April, 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Coffman Ranch was purchased for \$6.5M in August, 2021; a conservation easement granted to Pitkin County reduced its booked value to \$3.8M.



320 Main Street, Suite 204 Carbondale, CO 81623 (970) 963-8440 | avlt.org | avlt@avlt.org

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To become naturalized is to live as if your children's future matters, to take care of the land as if our lives and the lives of all our relatives depend on it. Because they do.

- Robin Wall Kimmerer



Aspen Valley Land Trust is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect the open land and special places of the Roaring Fork and middle Colorado River valleys for wildlife, agriculture, and community forever.