In 2015, we supported and had employees participating in more than 160 community events and fundraisers. We donated $203,452 to 109 organizations. We also participated in 16 outreach events where we promoted our low-income assistance, Demand Side Management energy efficiency and home electrical safety programs.

160+ community events

109 organizations

16 outreach events

$265,952 donated*

*Total includes Black Hills Corp. Foundation gifts. *Total does not include in kind contributions.

$265,952 that’s a stack of $1 bills 95 feet high.

Charitable giving and community engagement

2015: Black Hills Energy’s community engagement in Southern Colorado

Nonprofit donations and sponsorships

Donation categories

This chart shows the above 109 organizations grouped by category.
Throughout 2015, employees raised funds to provide gifts to children who attend the Boys & Girls Club of Pueblo Eastside Clubhouse. Employees delivered presents to 85 children and spent time playing games with the kids. We also provided a catered meal for the kids and staff.

### Employee fundraisers

In 2015, 20 employees weatherized three homes in Pueblo, and 10 employee volunteers weatherized two homes in the Cripple Creek/Victor area. Volunteers assisted with caulking, covering hot water heaters with blankets, winterizing swamp coolers, installing programmable thermostats, replacing old lightbulbs with CFLs, and replacing furnace filters, door sweeps, door screens and weather stripping.

### Weatherization

In 2015, 20 employees weatherized three homes in Pueblo, and 10 employee volunteers weatherized two homes in the Cripple Creek/Victor area. Volunteers assisted with caulking, covering hot water heaters with blankets, winterizing swamp coolers, installing programmable thermostats, replacing old lightbulbs with CFLs, and replacing furnace filters, door sweeps, door screens and weather stripping.

### Black Hills Cares

#### 2015 contributions

Customer, employee, and other contributions: $44,104
Company match: $44,744
Total: $88,848

### Environmental stewardship

Every year, we continue our commitment to the environment through avian protection. Last year, in partnership with the Pueblo State Park and Pueblo Nature & Raptors Center of Pueblo, 14 perches were installed to attract ospreys, red tail hawks, great horned owls and an eagle away from the power lines where they often perch to hunt or nest.

We also partnered with the Arbor Day Foundation and provided more than 400 free trees to customers to plant in their yards through our Energy Saving Trees program. This is in addition to the community tree plantings that our employees hosted in Pueblo, Rocky Ford, Victor and Cripple Creek. At least 10 trees were planted in each of the respective communities.

Our energy-efficiency education program teaches sixth grade students how to be more energy efficient and understand renewable energy systems and their benefits. Students take home the lessons they learn and help their families become more energy efficient. This program reaches more than 600 students in Pueblo County each year.

We were honored in 2015 by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment as a 24-karat Gold winner of our Environmental Leadership Program for our environmental stewardship programs and going beyond compliance with environmental regulations.

### Education and safety programs

In 2015, employees participated in school visits for Careers in Energy Week to talk about the various types of careers available in the energy industry.

To support our educational initiatives, we offer as many as 10 scholarships each year to graduating seniors going to school in the areas we serve.

Additionally, employees often serve as judges at academic competitions, and in 2015, they served as judges for the Pueblo City School Science Fair and Spelling Bee. We were the presenting sponsor for both events.

### Black Hills Cares

Each January, we partner with the City of Pueblo to hold a Christmas tree recycle program where citizens can drop off their Christmas trees and the trees are turned into mulch for use in the city parks.

To promote energy-efficiency programs, we also partnered with local organizations and hosted CFL giveaways at the Care & Share Food Bank, the Pueblo Zoo and Catholic Charities.

Again in 2015, we supported and participated in Safety Jam, a home and family event promoting safety. As the only utility participating, we are able to talk to children and families about home electrical safety and provide information about our low-income assistance and energy-efficiency programs.

### Recognition and awards

In 2015, we were recognized twice at the Southern Colorado Community Foundation’s annual “Put on the Back Awards” for our partnerships with NeighborWorks of Pueblo and the Pueblo City-County Library district. Additionally, we were selected as a “Workplace Achiever” by the Denver Post in their annual Work Place Dynamics Awards. The Pueblo Police Department also recognized us at their annual awards luncheon in December with a commendation from Chief Velez for our help constructing the police/SWAT outdoor training complex.