

# 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission: To enhance ministries of United Methodist churches and related agencies by providing services that strengthen their fiscal base and promote faithful financial stewardship from members.

OFFICE: (303) 778-6370

EMAIL: [umfinc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:umfinc@qwestoffice.net)

ON THE WEB: [www.RM-UMF.org](http://www.RM-UMF.org)

## BEHIND THE NUMBERS



At the Rocky Mountain Conference United Methodist Foundation we are blessed to work with people who have responded to God's grace in their lives by leaving legacies of generosity to their local churches.

This and every Annual Report contains facts, figures and numbers. Ours is not a ministry of numbers because behind the numbers are the stories of people.

Stories of generous United Methodists, like Frelon Mardick (see story next page), who responded to God's blessing by giving out of their abundance so that ministries of their church could receive their gifts long beyond their lifetimes.

Stories of churches who have planned for the future, like the folks at Wilson UMC (see story, next page) who acquired a loan from the Methodists Helping Methodists Fund to help complete their vision.

Stories of many other churches who have created and nurtured their church's endowment fund by utilizing the Planned Giving resources of the Foundation toward a specific goal, mission or project.

And the numerous churches who over the years have invested in the Foundation's Social Responsible Investment Funds as represented in the over \$1.3 million returned in 2008 to expand and sustain their ministries.

The Foundation mission of serving churches of the Conference in these matters is one we are proud of and cherish with great honor.

God Bless,

Marilyn M. Bierbach  
Executive Director

## 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

### Methodists Helping Methodists Fund

- SEVEN capital improvement loans made by the Methodists Helping Methodists Fund.
- United Methodists folks believed in and trusted to invest \$530,110 in 2008 to bring MHM Fund total to \$4,302,912 by year end, a 14% increase from previous year.

### Planned Giving

- Planned Giving Director, Linda Gardner, made over 20 presentations at sub-district meetings and churches to educate on the benefits of estate planning and to encourage endowment development in churches.
- Two new gift annuities established to benefit local churches in the future.
- Website [www.umchurchlegacy.com](http://www.umchurchlegacy.com) had 40,000 page hits last year. This service of the Foundation stimulates a "giving environment" that encourages future gifts and bequests.

### Social Responsible Investment Funds

- Total market value of assets under management for churches and agencies of the Rocky Mountain Conference \$13,909,124.
- Total new money invested by churches and agencies: \$804,976.
- Over \$1,091,832 of interest and principal returned to churches and agencies at their requests to further their ministries.

**Audit:** 2008 audit completed by Capin Crouse LLP and available upon request.

# FRELON MARDICK

## Meet our newest Gift Annuitant



*I moved to Parachute, Colorado in 1990. One of the first things I did was find a United Methodist Church. It was such a friendly and welcoming place. I felt right at home there. I learned about the United Methodist Foundation and was glad that I was able to make an investment to help other churches through their Methodists Helping Methodists Fund.*

*After several years of letting my investment grow, I decided it would be helpful to have more income. I gave my investment to the Foundation in exchange for a gift annuity. I now live in a retired senior independent complex, so my quarterly income from the annuity is very welcome. It is also very comforting to know that the remainder of the annuity will go directly to the church I loved in Parachute after my death.*

*In God we Trust,*

Frelon A. Mardick

## Social Responsible Investment Funds

As we all know, the investment market experienced extensive volatility in 2008. The Foundation Funds investments are managed by the Wells Fargo Trust Department, American National Bank and the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church. The Foundations investments are held in trust at those institutions for the benefit of the Foundation and its Church investors. As a result, these assets are *not subject* to claims of creditors should they encounter financial solvency issues.

The investment committee, made of knowledgeable professionals from around the Conference, meets quarterly to evaluate the money managers and confirm that they are:

- operating to their highest fiduciary standard, and
- meeting the social principles of the United Methodist Church, while
- maintaining performance returns at or above comparable benchmarks.

Performance, policy and portfolio of the Funds are available on the web site or by calling the office.

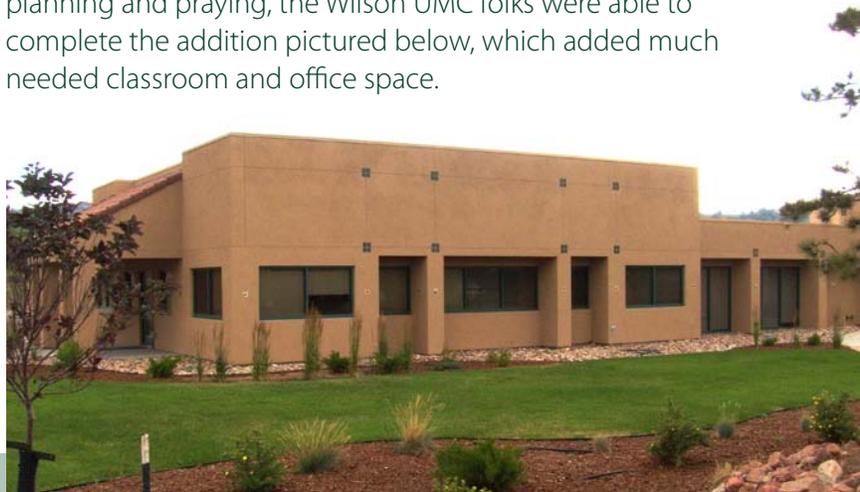
## Methodists Helping Methodists Loan Fund

In 2008, the MHM Fund approved its 80th loan since the Foundation assumed responsibility for the Fund from the Conference in 1997.

It is continually rewarding to see the dollars invested by faithful United Methodists folks being used to help United Methodist Churches of the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Conference with these much needed improvements, repairs and additions. It is a true testimony to the connectional system at work.

The loan committee is comprised of business professionals and clergy who review each loan application very carefully. Churches must meet the United Methodist Church 2008 Book of Discipline requirements as well as demonstrate a healthy congregation with strong financials.

The MHM Fund's biggest and first construction loan was to the Wilson UMC pictured below. After several years of faithful planning and praying, the Wilson UMC folks were able to complete the addition pictured below, which added much needed classroom and office space.



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