WHAT IS THE FOUNDRY?
The Social Enterprise Foundry is community change in action. The Foundry is a collaborative home for triple bottom line nonprofits to train, employ, and empower individuals and the community. We envision a community that empowers and supports all people by providing meaningful employment opportunities, responsibly managing our natural resources, and investing in financially sustainable businesses and nonprofits. Through this physical building, and the partnerships that it fosters, we are working to achieve that vision.

Acquired by the Urban Land Conservancy in 2014, this 44,000 square foot warehouse includes over 8,000 square feet of office space and provides an affordable, quality home for several partners. Located in the Sun Valley neighborhood of Denver, this property provides education and employment opportunities to this community and beyond. This press kit provides information about the partners, programs, and people working in the Foundry.

WHO WORKS HERE?
The Foundry houses four tenant partners who collectively employ over 100 people in the building.

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Blue Star Recyclers is an award-winning, 501c3 social enterprise, with a mission of providing certified electronics recycling services to create local jobs for people with autism and other disabilities. Blue Star Recyclers delivers measurable results in job creation, taxpayer savings and environmental stewardship, and operates facilities in Colorado Springs and Denver.

Blue Star Recyclers was co-founded in 2009 through initial and ongoing support of the Fagnant family, owners of Qualtek Manufacturing (www.qualtekmfg.com), a Colorado Springs custom metal manufacturing company. Blue Star offers pick-up of computers and other electronics from businesses and accepts drop-offs from individuals at the Blue Star facilities. For hours and information, go to www.BlueStarRecyclers.com, or call 303-534-1667.
Effective shared spaces create a sense of place, extend the reach of organizations and businesses housed within them, and achieve greater impact on local communities. We envision a community where social-impact organizations intentionally share space to create a sense of place, extend their reach, and achieve greater impact on local communities.

As an innovative collaborative, Denver Shared Spaces works ensure that the Denver Metro is home to a dynamic network of effective shared space centers through programs that Create, Improve, and Champion shared spaces.

By locating our office inside the Social Enterprise Foundry, we are investing in the growing partnership within the building and with the broader neighborhood. Through funding from the Urban Land Conservancy, we provide backbone support to the collaboration between the anchor partners.

The Energy Resource Center keeps families efficiently warm and safe. We do this by providing energy audits, energy conservation measures, and energy education. We serve 13 Colorado counties and improved nearly 1,000 homes this year. Our work saves the average recipient 20% in energy usage, and our work is provided free to low income clients.

Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization established in 1992 to give youth ages 16 to 24 a chance to earn an income and learn hands-on job skills while serving in their communities. In its first year, 20 youth served Denver neighborhoods through a single 10-week
program. Today, MHYC engages over 200 youth (called Corpsmembers) every year through several comprehensive programs that integrate paid work experience on community service projects with leadership development, career exploration and education. During our twenty-two year history, Mile High Youth Corps has grown from a small, seasonal, neighborhood-based organization to a comprehensive, year-round, regional program that integrates work experience, education, career preparation, and life skills training. Our mission is to help youth make a difference in themselves and their community through meaningful service opportunities and educational experiences.”

MHYC operates in three facilities in Denver. The Foundry is home to the Energy and Water Conservation Program. This is a five-month program (Jan-June; July-Dec) during which Corpsmembers are trained to conduct an energy assessment in low-income housing and nonprofit facilities. After this energy audit, Corpsmembers provide client education and install water and energy-efficiency measures including compact fluorescent light bulbs, aerators, programmable thermostats, and high-efficiency toilets. In 2014, 32 youth provided over 16,000 hours of service while earning more than $45,000 in educational awards.

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PCs for People is a 501c3 organization based in St Paul, MN, and has just expanded to Colorado. Partnering with BlueStar recycling, our mission is to create new opportunities by providing affordable personal computers, computer repairs, Internet service, and education to people with limited technological experience due to social, physical, or economic circumstances. The partnership with BlueStar also will help the team develop employment opportunities in the computer repair industry, and hopes to offer similar job training in conjunction with other partners in the NFP community here in Denver.

Opening on August 18th, PCs for People plans to place more than 5,000 PCs to the local community in the next 12 months. This will include our PCs for Kids program, where we partner with local schools to get a computer into every household with school age children. Affordable PCs start at $30

In 2014, PCs for People in St Paul distributed 8,549 computers, completed 2,642 repairs, and signed up 6,491 new internet subscribers. Of the computers distributed, 2,400 of them were at no cost to the recipients through our PCs for Kids program. The average family size that we worked with was 3.3 people with a household income of $12,800. We estimated 47,183 people were impacted by our efforts, and 25,736 of these were children. Let’s see what we can do in Denver!
WHO OWNS THE FOUNDRY?

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The Urban Land Conservancy is a nonprofit organization that uses real estate as a tool to benefit urban communities in metro Denver. ULC preserves, develops and invests in place-based real estate including affordable housing, nonprofit office space, community centers and schools. In its role as owner of the Social Enterprise Foundry, ULC is working to ensure that light industrial, employment focused spaces remain affordable in the Sun Valley neighborhood as redevelopment pressures begin to grow.

COME SEE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN ACTION!

The Foundry is intended to be a place where those interested in social enterprise to come see this growing model for nonprofit management in action. Our doors are open. We welcome you to come for a tour of our space, learn more about our programs, and find ways to engage. Contact Megan Devenport at megan@denversharedspaces.org to schedule a tour.