

*Telluride Association of REALTORS® First Time Homebuyers Assistance Fund – Still Growing Strong*

With each passing year and every changing season, TAR continuously strives to go beyond its call of duty by spearheading programs that give back to those within the Telluride community and beyond. The FTHBF program, in particular, has exploded with flying colors.

Most REALTORS® would agree that the most rewarding aspect of being a REALTOR® in Telluride is working with locals to find a home. That sure rings true when the assistance money behind the FTHBAF program comes from several avenues, the largest of which are local REALTORS®/TAR members. About 83% of active TAR REALTOR® Members voluntarily contribute a portion of every closed transaction to the program. This translates to roughly 170 brokers, employed by more than 35 brokerage firms, who repeatedly make donations. Beyond that number we also have other local area REALTORS® giving to the program. Donations are made in allocated increments taken from each closing; 100% of the monies granted are applied toward the FTHBAF recipient's closing costs. Additionally, affiliate TAR members like Stewart Title, Alpine Title, Land Title, United Title, the Telluride Daily Planet and The Telluride Watch financially contribute to FTHBAF. We even have to personally thank Donald and Carolyn Metzger "local" Telluride home owners themselves, who have given to the program 3 years in a row now because they believe so strongly in FTHBAF and feel it's such a worthy cause.

*"Helping locals buy their first homes in our community is the heart of this program. It does not matter if they are working with a REALTOR® or buying directly from the seller; we just want locals to stay local and we are putting our money towards this great cause," said TAR Board & FTHBAF Committee Member Asa Van Gelder.*

As successful as the past years have been, 2008 was no different as a total of \$49,000 was awarded to first time homebuyers. Awards were presented to 34 recipients in the form of 23 grants. Since its inception in June 2002, T.A.R.'s FTHBAF has donated upwards of \$258,850 to 343 individuals in the form of 231 grants. The number of recipients receiving and/or applying for these funds is still growing and another wonderful indicator of locals being able to find homes in our community. While most of the applicants are purchasing in the Telluride region, we are beginning to see more applicants who are purchasing in the Ridgway/Ouray and Rico area as well.

*"The underlying issue for us is that we remain a group and an association that is very strongly committed to finding housing solutions for our locals and keeping them in this community," said TAR Past-President Liaison Jim Lucarelli. "That's really what it's all about."*

The TAR office and our REALTOR® members make every effort to offer the application on this financial assistance for any first time homebuyer that meets the qualifications for regional property. For example, currently we are promoting and taking applications for the new Town of Telluride deed restricted complex "Entrada" as well as any other projects that are nearly finished or expected to be built in the very near future. Everyone is

encouraged to apply as the guidelines are quite subjective as we realize every individual case is different. For more information on the TAR First Time Homebuyers Assistance Fund program please visit [www.telluriderealtors.net](http://www.telluriderealtors.net), ask your local REALTOR® or call 970-728-5172. All applications are due to the TAR office by the last Wednesday of the month prior to the month of the property's closing date.

Robyn Pale, Executive Vice-President of the Telluride Association of REALTORS®