



Nonprofit Foundation Launched to Save Historic Crystal Mill

PRESS RELEASE

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Denver, July 27, 2020 — The newly formed Crystal Mill Foundation was created to help preserve the 130 year old Crystal Mill from the 1880s by purchasing it from the private family owners to prevent it from possible destruction.

By purchasing the Crystal Mill and placing it into this nonprofit foundation, it will ensure the Mill is preserved and managed for the next generations of visitors. The foundation will be able to install much-needed health and safety measures like public restrooms and public drinking water for hikers, bikers and other recreationalists. The foundation will also be able to create a safe way to get down to the water's edge by installing stone steps and an observation area so the young and old can experience the Mill together in a safe way.

"Most visitors think the Crystal Mill is a state or county owned historic structure that is already preserved. They have no idea it is privately owned and could be torn down tomorrow. We need to move it into this nonprofit foundation so we can manage it and protect it for the next hundred years," said Heather Leigh, Crystal Mill Foundation President.

Historic tourists make up more than **60% of Colorado's** visitors and thousands of those tourists visit the mill each year. The Crystal Mill is being **loved to death** and is in danger of destruction if not properly managed and maintained. The goal once this structure is purchased by the nonprofit is to hire professional staff that can act as historic educators and guides to explain the Mill and the area to visitors while also acting as safety managers for the high traffic volume. The foundation will also develop historic education programs to share the amazing stories of the grit and determination of men and women who lived and mined silver in Crystal in the 1880s and help their legacies live on.

"The number of people that come up to the Mill has increased dramatically with the popularity of social media in the past several years. It was never like this when I was a kid," said Christopher Cox, Owner. "Now crowds gather daily and weekends are out of control! Each year, visitors gather daily at the railing or hike down to the water's edge to get that perfect selfie with the Mill as the backdrop. It has simply outgrown us. There are literally thousands of people that visit each year and we are overwhelmed. It's becoming unsafe with the size of the crowds. It is time to place the Crystal Mill into a nonprofit and let the public experience it in the future."

For more information on the Crystal Mill and to learn how you can donate: visit:
www.crystalmillfoundation.org