

## Our History

ColoEast Bankshares, Inc., is a bank holding company comprised of Colorado and Kansas investors who in 1994 purchased two Southeastern Colorado Banks the American State Bank of Granada, Colorado and the First Bank & Trust in Holly Colorado. ColoEast Bankshares open a new facility in Lamar, Colorado, the county seat of Prowers County and trading hub for the tri-county area. In December 1994 these three banks merged and their names changed to Colorado East Bank & Trust.

May 1996 saw the purchase and merger of the Baca State Bank of Springfield, Colorado. Springfield is the county seat of Baca County and is located 60 miles south of Lamar. With a passion for working with local agricultural businesses, and small business loans this Bank has been a great addition to the group.

The McKeever insurance Agency was acquired in 1996 as well. This small independent agency and its agents allowed Colorado East its first entry into the new world of financial services.

By May 1997 Colorado East expanded to La Junta, Colorado the county seat of Otero County, 60 miles west of Lamar with the purchase of the Ark Valley Independent Bank. This merger brought a bank and staff strong in consumer loans into the ownership group.

The holding company continued to seek additional financial service subsidiaries in a strategic effort to become a complete financial service center and was successful in purchasing H & H was actively managing nearly \$28 million in client assets many of whom were Colorado East customers. This merger gained the bank licensed brokers, and an excellent broker/dealer in Linsco Private Ledger (LPL).

The financial circle of services was complete: Traditional Banking – Trust – Insurance – Investments and Financial Planning all locally owned and offered under the same name.

Throughout this time, growth in customer accounts and locations continued. In May 2000, Colorado East was successful in bidding and receiving a Wal-Mart Super Center branch five miles west of La Junta, Colorado.

A seventh bank location became a reality with the purchase and merger of Citizen State Bank, Keenesburg, Colorado in June 2000. Keenesburg is located in Weld, County 35 miles northeast of Denver and 14 miles north of Denver International Airport. Although Keenesburg is nearly 200 miles north of Lamar, it lies in the path of the Front Range expansion along I-79 and provides a diverse community of agricultural and real estate development loans together with new financial service opportunities.

Bank eight was realized with the purchase of an existing bank facility, from Wells Fargo in LaSalle, Colorado. A suburb of Greeley, LaSalle maintains its own identity with strong residents diverse in small business, construction and agriculture.

To date 19 bank locations are now owned and locally managed by ColoEast including Dacono, Pueblo, Pueblo West, Pueblo South, Buena Vista, Fairplay, Mead, Severance and Colorado Springs in Colorado as well as Tribune and Elkhart, Kansas.

Colorado East will exceed \$785 million in total bank assets by the end of 2008. We service in excess of 35,000 banking accounts over 13 Eastern Colorado and 2 Western Kansas counties. We do this while managing over \$100 million in Wealth management assets and writing in excess of \$10 million in insurance premium business per year.

This is a wonderful beginning. Most of the short-term strategic goals have been achieved and more are set. Colorado East remains one of few Eastern Colorado Banking Companies building a financial service center culture and as such unchallenged today in much of the company's trade area. With \$75 million in capital and strong earnings even greater growth and service opportunities will result.

Our desire is for you to see Colorado East as your community bank available with services you need to fulfill your financial goals.

Steve Sherlock  
Chief Executive Officer