



**J. Charles Chisholm**  
**Widefield, CO**

J. Charles "Chuck" Chisholm lives in Widefield, Colorado with his wife Cheryl. They have been blessed to have raised eight children, six girls and two boys. They have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Chuck is a retired railway research engineer, having a history of design and analysis of train crash, derailment, ride quality, simulating runaway and bridge failures for improving railroad safety. He retired in 1998.

Long before retirement, Chuck became a community activist helping parents of elementary school students improve access to choices to improve their child's learning opportunities. This passion has been fueled by the deplorable academic skills of many high school graduates: graduates with only 8<sup>th</sup> grade understanding. As a result of these issues, Mr. Chisholm joined together with a group of concerned citizens to found a K-8 charter school in Colorado Springs. The Space, Technology and Arts (STAR) Academy opened in 2007 with the founders believing that quality education of students is more likely to be achieved when quality educators and parents engage and work together with students.

The school opened in a former retail location in the southern area of Colorado Springs School District 11 with 111 students. There are now over 450 students at two campus locations. The school is on the way to the founders' dream of making successful life-long learners of their students.