



BILLINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

"Serving the Greater Yellowstone Region of Montana"

Winter Newsletter 2017

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From Our President, Teresa Darnielle-Morse

2016 marked the Billings Community Foundation's (BCFs) tenth year of operation! It was a busy year and another year of growth. The BCF board thanks our donors and community supporters.

Later in this newsletter, you will hear more about our second 24 hour online fundraising event coming up this May and our 11th annual grants awards ceremony coming up in June.

On a personal note, as I begin to receive fundraising request letters from nonprofit organizations in this New Year, I have noticed a tone of uncertainty in some as a new administration begins and the nation considers getting its fiscal house in order. My observation is most donors I have met over the past 16 years working with BCF and its predecessor organization, give because they are inherently wired to want to give back to their communities.

While tax benefits are wonderful and may shape the form of a gift, the giving spirit is something people either seem to possess or they don't.

Speaking of taxes, let's take a minute and congratulate those who had the vision to put the Montana Endowment Tax credit into effect *twenty* years ago. Nonprofits in Montana have had twenty years to encourage their donors to take advantage of this 40% tax credit (maximum \$10,000 per taxpayer) for gifts to permanent endowments in Montana. Endowments can generate much needed dollars for nonprofits to sustain the good works they do in good times and in bad. This credit encouraged donors and nonprofit organizations to focus on the long term vs. the short term. Much like saving for retirement, delayed gratification pays off over time.

If you know of a nonprofit in the southeastern region of Montana that does not have an endowment or planned giving program, there is no reason for them not to. BCF is only a phone call or an email away. Lastly, thank you to the hardworking volunteer board members of BCF past and present without whose commitment, this organization would not exist.

Thank you all and Happy New Year!

Welcome to Our New Board Members

Lori Byron-

Lori is a St. Vincent Healthcare Pediatrician. She was a physician with Crow Agency Health

Services for 27 years. She is Past President of MT Academy of Pediatrics and is current Legislative Chair for AAP, She is a member of the National Head of Citizens Climate Lobby Health Team, Founder/Director of "Reach out & Read-Crow Agency and a specialist in child abuse prevention

Bernard Rose -

Bernard is an emeritus professor of economics at RMC. He is active in MT Wilderness Association State Council, the Billings Public Library Board and Foundation Board, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation, the Yellowstone County Park Board and Director of the One Book Billings program.

Colleen Weast-

Colleen is a retired tax practitioner formerly enrolled to Practice before the IRS. She has worked in the accounting field for 30 years. Past president of MSPA two terms and has served on several church boards. She is Past President and Treasurer at BCF and helps represent Stillwater County.

Meet our entire Board of Directors below....

[Board of Directors](#)

2017 Grant Applications Being Accepted

BCF annually awards grants for a wide variety of charitable purposes in the following focus areas:

1. Education
2. Basic human needs
3. Arts and culture
4. Natural resources & conservation
5. Economic development
6. Endowment marketing support
7. Animal welfare
8. Billings area bricks & mortar projects



Grants awarded typically range between \$500 - \$2,000. In addition, one or more grants of up to \$5,000 will also be awarded for permanent community improvements of charitable organizations. This is funded by the Wilkins Trust, established by Tom and Amo Wilkins, long-time Billings residents.

[Apply Now](#)



2016 Billings Community Foundation Grant Recipients

Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter
Beartooth Humane Alliance
Friendship House of Christian Service
Our Montana
Dress for Success Billings
Rocky Mountain College
Pompey's Pillar
Make-a-Wish Montana
Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley
School District 2
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County
Absarokee-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation
Harvest Church Car Care Ministry Reporting
Billings Symphony
CASA of Yellowstone County
Billings Studio Theater
Big Sky Senior Services
Cultural Partners
Yellowstone River Parks Association
Wise Wonders Children's Museum
Moss Mansion
Billings Library Foundation
Living Water



A Day of Giving-A Legacy of Caring Yellowstone Valley Gives May 4th, 2017

Planning is well underway for "Yellowstone Valley Gives", our 24-hour crowdfunding event that will last from midnight to midnight on May 4, 2017. BCF has joined with other Montana Community Foundations, in choosing GiveGab as our platform provider this year. There is a \$75 registration fee and all 501(c) 3 nonprofits in the counties served by BCF are encouraged to participate .

This is not a fundraiser for BCF and the \$75 participation fee will be used to publicize the event, provide promotional materials and pay expenses. This is the second year the Billings Community Foundation has hosted a "Giving Day" event and last year \$34,000 was raised by 61 participating nonprofits. By working together, we believe it is possible to raise \$75,000 in 24-hours and hope to get 75 or more participating nonprofit organizations.

Your participation can help make this a big success for our region!

Our GiveGab Site will go live on February 10th. Nonprofits will receive online assistance from GiveGab with the registration process, and there is a [Webinar](#) titled, "How to Register and Build Profiles" scheduled for February 13th. In addition, BCF will be offering a "Brown Bag" lunch in the Royal Johnson room in the Billings Library on February 21st to answer any questions or help nonprofits register for the event.

For More Information and Registration, visit our bulletin board!

[Bulletin Board](#)

We Need Sponsors For Our Yellowstone Gives Day!

Last year, our Sponsors names and logos were seen by over 60 nonprofits and their supporters!
All Sponsor funds will assist regional nonprofits

In order to make an amplified impact on the fundraising effort of nonprofits participating in "Yellowstone Valley Gives", we encourage local businesses and individuals to become "Event Sponsors" and "Prize Sponsors". You can find more information about being a Sponsor on the Yellowstone Gives Bulletin Board or contact us with any questions you have. We also want to express thanks to our [2016 Giving Day Sponsors](#) who helped make the day a success!

Putting on a successful event takes a combined effort and we are grateful for the assistance offered by members of our 2017 Steering Committee. We encourage anyone who would like to get involved to contact Billings Community Foundation, or one of the following members of that committee: Morgan Gastineau - Teresa Darnielle - Denise Smith - Chris Anderson - Kelsey Dwyer - McCall Linke - Felicia Burg - Emilee Meyer - Jack Nickels Lisa Olmsted - Tera Clough - Stephanie Bond - Sylvia Danforth - Lisa LaLiberte' - Ralph Spence



From the Desk Of Obert Udem... The Fine Art of Tax Planning

Tax payers of 70 1/2 years who must take required distribution from their IRA accounts should consider doing so by directing their IRA custodian to make a direct transfer of gifted amounts to the taxpayer's favorite charities rather than having those dollars paid to the taxpayer. Up to \$100,00 can be directly transferred to charity and metered against the required distribution without increasing the taxpayer's tax liability by the amount distributed. The taxpayer does not get to deduct the gift as a charitable deduction on that year's tax return; however, the gifted distribution escapes taxation at the taxpayer's highest tax rate for the year of the gift. This is a great advantage for

those who do not itemize charitable deductions. The taxpayer also avoids a 3.45% surcharge on this IRA required distribution.

Most IRA custodians (banks, brokerage houses etc.) have forms for the IRA owner to authorize a direct transfer. Each custodian has its own requirements. Some custodians may require that the gifts be above a minimum amount, others do not. Some may charge a small check issuance fee. It usually takes about a week for the checks to be sent. On request the IRA custodian will mail checks payable to the named charity or charities. Be aware that checks sent by custodians payable to tax exempt charities are usually sent with little information, including the hard to find donor's name. Resulting confusion can be avoided by sending the check to the charity with a letter detailing the donors information and instructions.

Thank You to Our Donors for Helping Billings Community Grow the Future!

BCF General Operations Donations

Don Allen

Central Montana Foundation

Joy and Gene Culver Mark and Teresa Darnielle-Morse

First Interstate BankSystem Foundation

Jim Foley (Foley Group)

Gainan's
 Val Jeffries
 Don and Carol Roberts
 Spence Family Foundation
 Jack Nickels
 Obert and Virginia Udem
 United Way of Yellowstone County
 Colleen Weast

BCF Endowment Donations

Joy and Gene Culver
 Teresa Danielle-Morse
 First Interstate BankSystem Foundation
 Don and Carol Roberts
 Ralph and Tancy Spence



BCF Clients and Assets



Become a Billings Community Foundation Sponsor

Billings Community Foundation is seeking community-minded individuals and organizations to support our efforts to provide grants to nonprofits in our region. We are specifically seeking support at the \$1,000 level through advertising funds, an outright gift, or donation of in-kind services of that value. Your sponsorship turns into additional granting dollars for BCF!

Community Sponsors receive:

- Recognition as a Community Sponsor in all BCF Newsletters for one year
- Recognition as a Community Sponsor on the BCF website for one year
- Complimentary tickets to the BCF Annual Awards Dinner
- Recognition as a Community Sponsor at the BCF Annual Awards Dinner

This is a great opportunity for you or your business to be connected with BCF, a nonprofit, tax-exempt, innovative community fund. Your sponsorship would give BCF an increased ability to fund grants to more nonprofits, doing important work in our community.
[Read More](#)

Thanks to our 2017 Sponsors



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