

Billings Community Foundation 2015 Summer Newsletter



Message from Our President



Greetings,

As I look back on the year 2015, it is hard to believe we are already heading into fall. We have had a very busy year at BCF, and have enjoyed working with many non-profit organizations in our Region.

We once again hosted a wonderful Awards Dinner in early June, distributing \$19,600 to 16 very deserving non-profit organizations in the Billings area. During that event, we hosted a grants writing seminar--the first of three this year--which was received very positively by the

Our Fall Open House - Join us!

You are cordially invited to join the board and staff of BCF for a fabulous late afternoon celebration! We will proudly honor our client partners, friends, and donors of BCF with appetizers, beverages, and good conversation on Thursday, October 22, 2015, from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Prescott Hall, Rocky Mountain College. Stop by for a minute or stay for a while....it is our opportunity to "thank you" for being part of the Billings Community Foundation.



individuals who were in attendance. We hosted a second grant writing event in June where we went into more detail regarding the grant narrative and partnership strategies. Our final session in the three part series will include a panel of individuals who give grants in our region. We are pleased that Barbara Sample from the Sample Foundation, Lisa Perry from NorthWestern Energy and Kelly Bruggeman from First Interstate BancSystem Foundation will be joining us on Wednesday, September 2nd from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to discuss their views on applying to their various Foundation's for grant support. That event will be held at the Mansfield Center at St. Vincent Healthcare. Everyone who is interested in this event is welcome to come. Please call the BCF office at 839-3334 for your reservation.

We are also pleased to add Jim Foley to the Board of Directors. Jim is the principal and founder of Foley Group LLC - Land Planning and Design. He brings a unique perspective to the board and we are pleased to have him as a member as we continue to grow to meet the needs of our regional community. Our growth also includes new endowment and planned giving partners with Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, Central Montana Foundation, Billings Christian School Education Foundation, and the YRPA John H. Dover Park Endowment. These individuals and organizations have entrusted us to help them with their planned giving and endowment strategies in order to grow their contributions to the communities they serve. We are truly blessed and grateful to be a partner with them as they build their capacity to serve.

BCF will host its second fall "meet and greet" for our clients, donors and special guests on October 22 from 4 - 6 pm at Prescott Hall at Rocky Mountain College. This informal social gives our donors, clients and board members an opportunity to meet and visit with each other, as well as giving the Board an opportunity to express our gratitude to our donors and clients for their faithful commitment to serving the needs of our Region. Please plan on attending, as this is a wonderful event that we look forward to

Please RSVP by October 16 by calling Suzanne at 406-839-3334. See you there!

Awards Dinner Recap

.....and what an evening it was!

Billings Community Foundation's annual Awards Dinner was held on June 3rd at Prescott Hall on the campus of Rocky Mountain College. It was a lovely evening, honoring 16 grant recipients with a total of \$19,600 awarded.

The event began with a "Quick Tips for Grant Writing" seminar, followed by a cocktail reception.

Sara Becker, Vice President of BCF's Board of Directors, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening. A wonderful buffet dinner was provided by RMC's Sodexho catering. Sara began the program with the awarding of grants from the Matthews-Dousman Memorial Endowment Fund of the Montana Community Foundation, followed by the Clocktower Inn Animal Fund and the Tom and Amo Wilkins Endowment. Visit our [website](#) for a complete list of recipients!

The work being done by these nonprofits is amazing! The many needs of our communities are being met by dedicated staff and volunteers doing great work on limited budgets. Children, seniors, veterans, and our four-legged friends are all being served by these honored nonprofits. As each recipient shared their story, the dinner guests- impressed with the goals and accomplishments of each nonprofit-were enthusiastic in their support.

To close the evening, Mayor Tom Hanel and County Commissioner Bill Kennedy thanked the grant recipients as well as BCF for the many services they provide in our community. It was a fitting end to a remarkable evening!

hosting on behalf of those we serve.

Doris Barta

Grant Writing Seminar Series: The Final Presentation

BCF is honored to present the third seminar in our grant writing series: "Finalizing Your Proposal and Getting Funded." The seminar will be held on September 2, 2015, from 1 - 3 pm at the Mansfield Health Education Center, 2900 12th Avenue North in Billings. The cost is \$20 per person.

At this seminar, you will hear from a panel of area grantors who will share what they are looking for when considering funding requests. This is your chance to meet these philanthropic leaders in our community: Kelly Bruggeman, First Interstate BancSystem Foundation; Lisa Perry, NorthWestern Energy; and Barbara Sample, Sample Foundation.

Presenters Doris Barta, Director of Telehealth for St. Vincent Healthcare, and Nova Pauls, Grants Coordinator for St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation, will also be available to answer your questions about grant writing. For further information and reservations, please contact BCF at 406-839-3334 or by email at billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com.

A Special Thanks to our Awards Dinner Sponsors.....

Gold Event Sponsor

- First Interstate Bank

Silver Event Sponsors

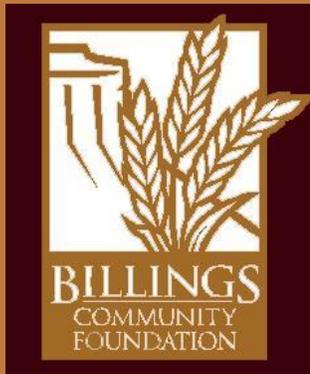
- Doris & Rick Barta
- Doug Osborne/Mass Mutual Financial Group
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- Obert & Ginny Udem

BCF Welcomes Jim Foley

The BCF Board of Directors welcomes Jim Foley as a new board member.



Jim is the principal and founder of Foley Group LLC - land planning and design. Jim is a registered Landscape Architect, a Member of the American Planning Association, an Associate Member of the Urban Land Institute, and holds CLARB Certification. Jim is a past board member of the Yellowstone River Parks Association, Billings Rod and Gun Club, and Past President of the Billings Preservation Society, which runs the Moss Mansion. He has been chairman of the Billings Preservation Society Endowment Trust for the past five years and most recently was awarded the Bernie Nelson Service Award by the Billings Preservation Society.



Let your good work begin with us

It's Not Too Early... **Tie Down 2015 Charitable Tax Deductions**

Montana residents have the wonderful option of making tax advantaged planned gifts to permanent endowments of Montana charitable institutions. Qualifying gifts secure important federal deductions and a Montana tax credit of 40% of the deductible amount of such a gift, up to \$10,000 per taxpayer, or \$20,000 for joint filers. That is a direct deduction of the Montana income tax liability!

Such gifts can be funded by transfer of highly appreciated assets to BCF to be held as permanent endowments benefitting your favorite qualified Montana nonprofit organizations. The federal charitable deduction will be the market value of such assets on date of transfer and will avoid capital gains tax incurred if the owner were to sell the asset and receive its sale proceeds. Total state and federal capital gains taxes approximate 23% of the gain. The tax savings are very real, and the gift produces perpetual endowment benefits for the chosen qualified charities.

Did you know farmers and ranchers can deliver harvested grain or calves to BCF accounts set up with their receiving elevators or livestock sales agencies? If calf sales are contracted with feedlot owners or cattle brokers, BCF will agree

In his spare time, Jim avidly pursues sporting clays shooting, fly fishing, and upland bird hunting with his English Setter, Rose. He also takes pride in his sporting clays course design, as well as native garden design projects, such as the new Billings Public Library. Jim and his wife, Cindy Walter, enjoy living near downtown Billings in a 100 year old house; they often vacation to wine country in search of fine food and wine.

Mark your Calendars: **Montana Nonprofit Association Conference**

September 30 - October 2, 2015
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Billings, Montana



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to sell on the basis originally contracted by the rancher. The ranchers or farmers who gift grain or young livestock will get state and federal deductions for the market value of the gifted property.

Retired friends who have Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) generating fully-taxable income can transfer up to \$100,000 from such accounts and the amount transferred can be metered against the annual required distributions. Such a transfer does not generate a tax deduction, but does avoid state and federal taxes on the amount transferred as well as Medicaid taxes. It may also keep the taxpayer in a lower income tax bracket.

BCF will prepare documents qualifying your gift for its extraordinary tax saving benefits. Gifts may benefit the annual granting program or operating budgets of BCF.

Check with your tax preparer or contact BCF with further questions about the tax consequences of such tax smart gifting.

Grant Recipient Updates

The formerly homeless veterans living at Volunteers of America Northern Rockies chapter's Independence Hall in the Billings Heights have found useful labor in their garden and greenhouse, growing vegetables that they use themselves as well as sell to the public. With a \$4,600 grant from BCF, the Montana Veterans Greenhouse Project will be fully operational with an electrical system, including heating elements and lights. This photo shows the greenhouse and gardens last year.

Joy L. Culver
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Suzanne McKiernan
billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com

Are you interested in more information?
Do you want to get involved with BCF?
Please contact us!

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Billings, MT 59103
406-839-3334

www.billingscommunityfoundation.org

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2015 Community Sponsors





Billings Community Foundation awarded a \$1,000 grant to Wise Wonders Children's Museum. BCF is proud to support Wise Wonders and be one of the First 50 Foundation Builders campaign for operations and exhibits.



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About BCF

Billings Community Foundation is a nonprofit, tax- exempt community foundation governed by local citizens promoting philanthropy and charitable giving. Our mission is to enhance the capacity of donors and charitable organizations to meet the needs of the greater Billings community. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

