



“FUND FOR THE FUTURE” CREATED AT PARK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Park County Community Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of its “Fund for the Future” endowment as a permanent source of charitable funds to benefit Park County and its residents. The Fund was created through gifts specifically designated for the endowment.

The Foundation Board of Directors established the endowment fund as a positive symbol of the organization’s permanent mission to serve Park County. This step also provides opportunities for donors to participate in the Montana Endowment Tax Credit program.

Incorporated in 2006, the Community Foundation has been primarily focused during its first decade on programs focused on needs most pressing to the community. Those include the Foundation’s Annual Community Grants Program, the Park County Early Childhood Coalition, involvement in Graduation Matters Livingston, fiscal sponsorship programs for emerging nonprofits or long-term community initiatives, and encouraging donor-advised accounts in support of community needs.

During that time, more than \$2.4 million has been distributed in Park County. That distribution was made possible by donors’ unrestricted gifts to the Foundation, grants made from donor-advised accounts, and funds donated through fiscal sponsorships such as the Pine Creek Fire Fund, Big Bear Stampede, The Livingston HOOT, and Chicks ‘n Chaps, among others.

The Foundation is committed to providing professional development and volunteer training opportunities to nonprofits and community groups through its monthly

Nonprofit Network series that features informative programs such as board development, finance, communications and management.

Through its convening and facilitating activities, the Foundation encourages cooperation and collaboration among nonprofits and supports that goal with its Collaborative Grant Program. That program provides support for two or more nonprofit organizations collaborating on a common-purpose activity or purpose.

The Community Foundation does not compete with local nonprofits but rather seeks to benefit them through the Annual Community Grants program. These grants provide nonprofits with funds to help them with their specific needs or goals. As the endowment grows and generates earnings from its permanent core, a steady stream of funding will be available for grants and other charitable activities across Park County.

For information, contact Foundation executive director Peter Fox at (406) 224-3920 or by email at Peter.Fox@PCCF-Montana.org.

The Fund
for the Future

PARK COUNTY'S PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

*Montana Endowment
Tax Credit Explained – Page 2*

MONTANA ENDOWMENT TAX CREDIT ENCOURAGES LOCAL PHILANTHROPY



The Montana tax credit allows donors to pay less in state income tax when contributing to a qualified endowment.

With the establishment of our “Fund for the Future” permanent endowment, donors to the Park County Community Foundation can take advantage of Montana’s 40 percent tax credit provision.

The Montana Endowment Tax Credit was established by the Montana Legislature in 1997 to encourage individuals, businesses and organizations to make lasting investments in their communities by giving to qualified endowments such as the Community Foundation “Fund for the Future.” Montana is one of only four states to provide an endowment tax credit program.

The law is set to expire on December 31, 2019, but is expected to be extended. The law provides for:

- **Planned Gifts** — Credit against state income-tax liability in the amount of 40 percent of the present value of any planned gift to a permanent endowment of a Montana charity, up to a maximum amount of \$10,000 per year per taxpayer (\$20,000 for joint filers). Individuals and joint-filing taxpayers are required to convey their gifts through a planned gift. Gift annuities, charitable trusts and estate gifts all fall under the definition of a planned gift. Charitable gift annuities, in most cases easily established, are the most often-used planned gift for this purpose.
- **Outright Gifts** — Credit against state income-tax liability in the amount of 20 percent of the present value of any outright gift by a business entity to a permanent endowment of a Montana charity, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year per taxpayer. Only corporations, small business corporations, partnership or limited liability company taxpayers may give gifts of cash.

Simply put, the credit allows donors to pay less in Montana state income tax when they make an irrevocable planned gift to qualified Montana charitable endowment such as “The Fund for the Future.”

Planned gifts are a way of giving that allows donors to maintain access to income during their lifetime, provide estate and tax-planning tools and build permanent wealth for the Community Foundation to continue its mission. A planned gift held at the Community Foundation can provide a legacy to a particular organization or interest area held dear by a donor.

By providing a permanent legacy gift to the community and causes you and your family care about, you can create significant tax savings for yourself or your business.

For information contact the Park County Community Foundation at (406) 224-3920, email Peter.Fox@PCCF-Montana.org, or contact your financial advisor.

2018 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM EMPHASIZES COLLABORATION, INNOVATION

Some three dozen Park County nonprofits are expected to apply for grant funding in the 2018 Annual Community Grants program of the Park County Community Foundation. The Community Foundation provides significant support to vetted nonprofit programs, helping them increase capacity and reduce their dependence on annual or ongoing donor solicitations.

As of last year, the program, which has been in existence since 2007, has distributed a total of \$377,982 through 2017 for the betterment of Park County residents. In 2017 alone, a record \$90,000 was awarded to 27 separate Park County nonprofits and community projects.

In order to secure grant funding, grant applicants go through a highly competitive application process. Each applicant submits a formal proposal that addresses questions around the project's impact goals, target population, implementation plan, sustainability, and budget. The Community Foundation Grants Committee then thoroughly vets and evaluates each proposal based on need and overall beneficial community impact, and then selects annual award recipients. Upon notification, grant recipients must agree to submit final reports at the end of the grant period to report on measurable outcomes and overall community impact for their project.

This year on a trial basis the Foundation is offering a Multi-year Grant Opportunity based on feedback received over the past several years from Park County organizations. Multi-year grants are intended to support one of two focus areas: support for the evolution of a program or project initiative over a period of time, or support of a necessary initial purchase that would allow the organization to better fulfill its mission. Multi-year granting allows grantees to have greater financial security to enable innovative, long-term planning over a two to three-year period. The Foundation will work with multi-year grantees throughout the grant period to check progress, evaluate impact and provide support.

Similar to last year, Collaborative Grant Opportunities will be offered in 2018. The Collaborative Grant was

offered for the first-time last year on a trial basis to provide support for two or more nonprofit organizations applying for a common-purpose program or project. The evaluation period for this opportunity continues.

The Community Foundation granted a record \$90,000 during its 2017-18 grant period.

However, Annual Community Grants to individual organizations remain the mainstay of the Community Foundation grants program. These grants provide support for community projects and general operations, and make up the majority of the funds awarded by the Foundation.

The Community Foundation will be accepting 2018 grant applications from February 1 through March 23, with grant award recipients to be announced in May.

The bulk of Annual Community Grant funds are from individual donors in Park County. Significant funding for the grants program is provided by Crazy Mountain Ranch as well as First Interstate Bank of Livingston and Gardiner. Clearly, without the generosity of Park County donors, dozens of local nonprofits would lack significant financial support they need to continue the crucial role they play in improving the quality of life for all Park County residents.



LINKS for Learning provides parents with after-school care and activities for their children.

'CONNECT REFERRAL SYSTEM' FOCUSES ON COLLABORATION, COST EFFICIENCIES

The pilot period of the “Connect Referral System” that ensure individuals and families are connected to the support services in Park County is nearing completion with plans to expand. The system is a secure, web-based program for sending and receiving referrals and is administered by the Park County Health Department on behalf of and for the benefit of Park County communities.



Excellent partnership and shared vision of “what could be” brought the Park County Community Foundation and the Park County Health Department together in July of 2016 to examine why this program is a success in Lewis & Clark County

and what it could mean here. The Community Foundation convened nearly 40 county organizations to learn about the interconnected system. Subsequently, some two dozen organizations including human-service agencies, local governments, school districts and nonprofit organizations expressed interest in being part of a system that can deliver cost and time-related efficiencies in providing assistance to people in need.

A “crawl-walk-run” model was adopted for the start-up with the pilot launch in October 2017 involving six direct-service agencies. The feedback received during the pilot indicated that expanding the reach of the system to other Park County agencies is a must. The more agencies that take part in the system, the more the system can encourage continuity and coordination of care among agencies – which translates into reduced costs, increased efficiencies

and better care for clients. For the first time, providers can aggregate valuable data and reports that can be used to prevent duplication, evaluate county-wide priorities, trends and emerging needs, and other information agencies can use to evaluate social-service effectively.

Participants share ongoing costs of the system in the range of \$100 to \$200 per entity. The Park County Health Department provided initial set-up and training funding.

With the pilot period coming to an end, focus is now on bringing additional organizations into the program and setting a new standard for collaboration in our community.

Park County now is one of only five Montana counties to adopt the Connect Referral System.

WE'VE MOVED!

We're delighted to announce that the Park County Community Foundation is now a tenant of the historic Grabow Building at the corner of Callender and B streets, just a block east of our former location on South Main. Our new location at 202 E. Callender provides great visibility for the Foundation office as well as street level accessibility.

Particularly appreciated is the gracious loan by John Banovich of nine of his North American wildlife paintings to grace our walls including a spectacular moose entitled “Bull of the Woods.”

Please do stop in for a visit!



DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Everyone can be a philanthropist at whatever level they choose. The Park County Community Foundation welcomes your gift via our secure “E-Donate” link on our website at www.PCCF-Montana.org.

FROM VICTIMS TO SURVIVORS ASPEN'S AID SAVES LIVES

In the everyday activity of our lives, filled with families, friends and work, a reality exists that is often overlooked: the prevalence of domestic violence.

Domestic violence impacts millions every year, yet remains chronically underreported. In rural Montana, women experience an even higher rate of intimate partner violence than their urban counterparts.

ASPEN, an organization dedicated to providing shelter, advocacy, and support, stands as a light in the darkness. ASPEN – the Abuse Support Prevention Education Network – operates out of a small office in downtown Livingston with a tiny but dedicated staff. ASPEN plays a critical role in the community's response to domestic violence.

The organization creates a path to safety for victims in Park County and beyond while overcoming the logistical challenges of limited resources. The Park County Community Foundation proudly supports ASPEN by funding advocacy and outreach efforts.

Operating as a free and confidential support system, ASPEN provides counseling for individuals in challenging and dangerous situations, serves as a safe house during periods of transition, and provides resources to those looking to creating a new life for themselves and their children. In 2016, ASPEN answered 739 support calls, provided 2,215 nights of shelter, and supported 54 child witnesses.

Heidi Barrett, executive director since fall 2016, occupies the roles of advocate, protector, educator, and administrator. Her panoramic approach goes beyond addressing the issue one incident at a time: under Barrett's leadership, ASPEN aims to address the factors that contribute to domestic violence.

Last year, ASPEN reached more than 500 Park County students through their age-appropriate educational program "TREE," which stands for "Tolerance, Respect, Empowerment, Empathy." From Livingston to Gardiner and the Shields Valley to Big Timber, ASPEN gave youth

the words and the understanding to form healthy, happy, safe relationships – and to recognize risk, as well as abuse.

High-school students learned about dating, violence prevention, and consent. Middle-school students discussed healthy relationships and boundaries. And elementary-age students received education on safe touching, empathy, and bullying prevention.

In 2016, ASPEN worked with more than 300 professional staff and community members. The organization shared its expertise on the dynamics of an abusive relationship, realistic ways to provide support, and available resources. Among the trainees were Park County nurses, Yellowstone National Park rangers and first responders, and the Sheriff's Departments of Park and Meagher counties.

ASPEN's educational outreach efforts are working – last year's program participants responded unanimously that they felt more confident talking with victims of domestic or sexual violence and identifying red flags. Advocates work in a variety of roles within the community, helping victims receive medical care, educating on legal rights and options, and providing supportive counseling during a crisis.

Through the hard work ASPEN's staff and volunteers, and the financial support of the Park County Community Foundation and other donors, hundreds of women – and men – in need of help receive protection, advocacy, and education. ASPEN changes the world by supporting survivors of domestic violence and working to end cycles of abuse.



Left: ASPEN staff meet frequently with city and county law enforcement officers.

VISIT THE FOUNDATION WEBSITE WWW.PCCF-MONTANA.ORG

Meet our volunteer board of directors, learn about our history and the principles under which we operate, consider ways to help build the Foundation, apply for grants and scholarships, see what community programs we support, and check out what's in "News & Notes." Our Facebook feed is visible on our homepage.

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PARK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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