

# Billings Community Foundation 2013 Fall Newsletter



## President's Letter

It is hard to believe 2013 is coming to an end! It has been a busy year for BCF, beginning with the addition of Suzanne McKiernan as part-time Development Associate.

Suzanne hit the ground running and her energy has been contagious!

In early June, BCF held its annual "Grant Awards Event" distributing \$15,000 to support 14 great nonprofit programs in the Billings area. We also co-sponsored a forum with the Downtown Billings Association and presented a workshop on the Montana Tax Credit. During the year, Sara Becker and Karin Lucas were welcomed to the Board, and we have opened new Client

## Updates from our Grant Recipients

Last June, the Billings Community Foundation was pleased to award grants to 14 different nonprofits in the region. The total amount for all grants awarded in 2013 was \$15,000. The programs awarded were meeting needs in areas ranging from animal welfare, children's programming, senior services, domestic violence, employment training, Yellowstone River clean-up and the Zoo. Many of these recipients are now sending follow-up reports to the foundation. The work these groups do on a limited budget is truly amazing. Here are some excerpts:

The Bridger Community Food Bank, with the help of their grant, is able to provide fresh ground beef to their clients every day

Endowment Accounts for Billings Studio Theater, Arts Without Boundaries and Big Sky Senior Services/Prevention of Elder Abuse. (Click the "BCF Services" button on our website to see all 29 nonprofit clients we serve.) With the "Bison for Bruce" program, we have initiated Fiscal Sponsor relationships and we are pleased to announce that BCF now offers locally invested Donor Advised Funds.

During 2013, we established the "BCF Endowment Fund" and have an anonymous \$5,000 matching gift that will double the first \$5,000 received. Your gift designated for the "BCF Endowment Fund" would help us meet this challenge. Also, BCF has developed new programs to recognize our supporters and created new sponsorship opportunities. These programs are outlined in the following article. We have recently added a PayPal button to our BCF website, allowing us to receive donations online. Please consider participating in one of these opportunities to help us improve our service to individuals and nonprofits in the Billings area. We would like to include you in our "List of Supporters".

In addition, the Board has adopted a "Three Year Plan" for development that we believe will take our service to the Billings area to "the next level". If BCF can secure \$15,000 to \$30,000 in donations, grants, in-kind gifts and/or pledges for each of the next three years, we can hire a full time Executive and establish a permanent office. We believe this will allow BCF to increase the grants made to area nonprofits and enhance our Client Services. We believe future income from sponsorships, donations, service fees and endowment will sustain operations in future years.

The year 2014 promises to be a good year with Colleen Weast as President and the following Executive Committee members: Suzanne McKiernan, Katheryn Maehl, Doris Barta, Carolyn Yampradit, Sara Becker, Ralph Spence and Sarie Mackay.

This has been an exciting year and it has been a

that the food bank is open (two days per month) rather than one day per month.

Kayhan Ostovar, associate professor of environmental studies at Rocky Mountain College, reports that with our grant and other generous donors, his Yellowstone River Research Group saw the biggest turnout ever. In September, 35 people hopped into canoes, metal boats, rafts and kayaks on a Saturday morning to scour the river and riverbanks for trash - all part of the seventh annual Yellowstone River Cleanup.

Big Horn County Library in Hardin reports with their grant, they were able to provide 33 programs over an 8 week period with a total summer attendance of 646 children. Activities included programs about dinosaurs, construction vehicles, ancient Egypt, animals that live under the ground, magic, ogres, worms and pirates. Each week the library provided three programs divided into age groups.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services of Red Lodge was busy in October, training teachers to use their program of "Power UP, Speak Out". With their grant, they were able to order the necessary program toolkits and give them to the teachers at no cost.

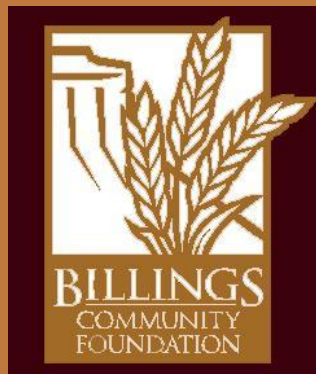
Billings Community Foundation is honored to support these programs and others like them. We applaud their fine work.

## **Bison for Bruce Update**

What happens when a group of civic leaders want to honor Bruce Putnam, the Director of Aviation & Transit for the city of Billings for over 28 years? They remember that Bruce always wanted a display of bison at the airport for visitors to enjoy. To honor Bruce and his years of service, these civic leaders contacted Joliet

great joy for me to work with so many talented people who are committed to assisting individuals and nonprofits who want to do good work in the Billings area.

Ralph Spence



*Let your good work  
begin with us*

## A New BCF Pal...



...PayPal that is! We're excited to announce BCF is now able to accept online donations using PayPal. Look for this new donation option on our [website](#). Our new PayPal account will also enable us to accept credit card payments for BCF-sponsored events.

## BCF Supporter Recognition

The Billings Community Foundation Board is grateful for the support we receive from individuals, businesses and other nonprofits in the Billings region. In order to show our appreciation, we have developed three new ways to recognize our supporters.

artist Charles Ringer to discuss the vision of bison sculptures at the airport. Mr. Ringer created two different scale different scale models and the idea of selling the small replicas to finance the bison display at the airport was born.

That's when Teresa Darnielle Morse, a BCF board member and Assistant VP for Planned Giving, was contacted. After meeting with Teresa, Don Allen and Carolyn Yampradit, the project committee learned that through a Fiscal Sponsorship, BCF offers services that help individuals and groups perform charitable works. These services assist groups in starting, growing and completing important community projects without delay. BCF can serve as the umbrella 501c3 or nonprofit "home" for this worthy memorial. Teresa later made a presentation to the Billings City Council and the project was approved. By joining with BCF in a Fiscal Sponsorship, this group of civic leaders is focusing on bringing their project - Bison for Bruce - to life, while BCF is handling the financial management, tax filings and other back office issues.

This is an exciting project for Tom Binford, Director of Aviation & Transportation; Vicky Harrison, Airport Accountant; and committee members; Mark Kennedy, Stan Hill, Dick Larsen, Ed Ulledalen and Terry Zee Lee. Charles Ringer and his wife, Emily, have been a great help as Charles is busy keeping up with the demand of his sculptures. The community's response has been heartwarming, with many of Bruce's old friends and colleagues proud to have a Ringer bison in their office or home.

In the end, this is a win-win for the city, for Billings Community Foundation and for the memory of Bruce Putnam. Each bison is a reminder of a fine man and community leader. Billings Community Foundation is a proud partner in this project.

If you are interested in purchasing a Bison for Bruce, please contact Suzanne at the BCF office at 839-3334 or

### **BCF Annual List of Supporters**

Any individual or organization giving an Undesignated Gift, contribution to the BCF Endowment Fund or gift to one of the BCF Field of Interest Funds will be included in the "Annual List of Supporters". This list will be:

- 1) Published in the Jan/Feb edition of the BCF Newsletter for the previous year.
- 2) Donors of \$1,000 or more will receive two free tickets to the next BCF Grant Awards Dinner.

### **BCF Endowment Fund Lifetime List of Donors**

The BCF Endowment Fund is invested to grow in perpetuity with the income directed first to the granting programs of BCF and the remainder distributed at the discretion of the BCF. For donations restricted to the BCF Endowment Fund, the cumulative amounts given by donors will be:

- 1) Recognized in the July/Aug edition of the BCF Newsletter and on the BCF Website.
- 2) Recognized in the following categories at the BCF Annual Grant Awards Dinner:

\$0-\$999 - Billings Region Booster  
\$1,000-\$4,999 - Billings Region Promoter  
\$5,000-\$9,999 - Billings Region Sponsor  
\$10,000-\$24,999 - Billings Region Patron  
\$25,000-\$49,999 - Billings Region Enthusiast  
\$50,000-\$74,999 - Billings Region Devotee  
\$75,000-above - Billings Region Visionary

### **BCF Community Sponsors**

The Board is also offering individuals and businesses the opportunity to be a "BCF Community Sponsor". Funds raised through this program will be used to provide grants and to sponsor events. With a gift of \$1,000, or a donation of in-kind services with that value (received or pledged in January-February of each year), BCF Community Sponsors will:

- 1) Be listed in all BCF Newsletters that year
- 2) Have their name or logo on the BCF Website
- 3) Receive two free tickets and be recognized

[billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com).

### **And the Survey Says....**

Earlier this fall, we asked you to fill out a short survey letting us know how we're doing as an organization. We received some great feedback, and we wanted to share our results with you.

Overall, we're doing a great job living our mission as a community foundation, but there's still a lot of room for improvement. In fact, 24% of the people who took our survey don't have a relationship with BCF! The good news, however, is that community foundations are very important or extremely important to 87% of our respondents. To us, that number is further incentive to strengthen the work we do throughout Billings and the surrounding communities.

To those who completed the survey, thank you! Your input serves as a driving force for our Board of Directors. For those who were unable to complete the survey but still have feedback you'd like to share, please contact us! Feedback truly is a gift, and we'd love to hear from you. Simply reach out to a Board Member, contact our office at 839-3334, or email us at [billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com).

at the BCF Annual Awards Dinner.

Please consider taking advantage of these philanthropic opportunities to help the Billings Community Foundation build on; the support/recognition given through grants to regional nonprofits, the education/networking opportunities provided through BCF workshops and the management/financial assistance provided to BCF clients. Your tax deductible gift to the BCF Endowment Fund, Community Sponsor Program, or your undesignated annual support will allow us to do even more!

Please send gifts to Billings Community Foundation  
PO Box 1255 - Billings, MT 59103

## BCF Client Endowment Funds

You can make a substantial gift to a charitable organization in the Billings region for just pennies on the dollar. We can show you how.

A federal charitable deduction for your gift is available for those who itemize on their taxes. A Montana credit is available for 40% of the present value of any planned gift to a permanent endowment up to a maximum of \$10,000 per tax payer (individual or business). A Montana credit of 20% is available for a cash gift given by a business entity to a permanent endowment.

Finally, with a gift of appreciated property, there is no recognition of the capital gain for federal or Montana income tax purposes.

Check out the BCF list of existing Client Endowment Funds by clicking on "BCF Services" on our website. You can also set up a new fund by contacting Suzanne at:

[billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com)



"Like" us on  
FaceBook!

Billings Community Foundation now has a Facebook page. We are using that page to update our community on new clients, activities of BCF, provide follow up stories on our grant recipients and share links to our website and newsletter. Like us and share the good work that we do with your friends and family.

## Billings Community Foundation Community Sponsors

Anderson ZurMuehlen  
Data Corp, Mary Stickney  
Foundation for Community Vitality  
PPL Montana  
RBC Wealth Management  
Rocky Mountain College,  
Prescott Hall  
St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation

## Board of Trustees

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Planned Giving  
Don Allen  
Doris Barta  
Sara Becker  
Karin Lucas  
Jack Nickels  
Lisa Reid Perry

## Advisory Committee

## **New BCF E-Mail Address and Web Page Updates**

BCF has recently established a new e-mail address. Please use the following for all your correspondence:

[billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com)

Please check out the new look of our Web Site and the new page describing "BCF Services". This page gives a comprehensive overview of all the services that BCF offers to individuals and other non-profits in the Billings area. It also includes a list of groups we are presently working with as well links to their web pages.

[www.billingscommunityfoundation.org](http://www.billingscommunityfoundation.org)

Jessica Fehr  
Bill Milton  
Sarie Mackay  
Lynda Moss  
Melanie Schwarz

### Development Associate

Suzanne McKiernan

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