

Billings Community Foundation 2016 Winter Newsletter



Message from Our President



While I never envisioned myself stepping back into the role as President of the Billings Community Foundation, I am happy to do so. BCF has come a long way in the past decade as 2017 will mark our 10th year of actual operations. Watch for the 10th year anniversary celebration next year!

2016 Grant Applications

The Billings Community Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt innovative community fund. It is governed by local volunteer citizens promoting philanthropy and charitable giving throughout the Greater Yellowstone Valley Region. 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**

For the past five years, I have had the pleasure of working with and learning from Obert Udem as BCF has grown its planned giving program. Obert has been invaluable in this effort and still travels around the region to visit new and potential BCF clients. Most small area nonprofit organizations, and some very large ones, lack the software and trained personnel to run this sort of program and/or do not meet the requirements of the State of Montana to offer such services. In 2008, BCF was granted permission from the State Auditor's office to offer basic planned giving services and the program has been growing by leaps and bounds.

BCF's first "planned gifts" (eligible for the 40% MT Tax Credit for individual taxpayers) arrived in 2008 with the generous Neal and Rosemary Isto gifts to the Joliet Community Center Endowment and the first Sindelar gift of land destined for the YRPA John H. Dover Memorial Park project and endowment. The Sindelar transaction is one of the things that makes BCF somewhat unique in the community foundation world - we view assets gifted to us with the utmost respect to the donor's wishes even though legal ownership may have transitioned to BCF. The flexibility is there to do creative things when and if the time comes for an organization to take its planned giving program in house or to add staff knowledgeable in the area of endowment management, for example. Later in this newsletter, you will learn how we did this with the Billings Family YMCA.

In 2013, BCF took its Donor Advised Fund (DAF) program in house. DAF's provide a great way for philanthropists to receive a tax deduction for their gift in one year, while retaining the right to recommend distributions from that gift in future years. This works in a way that is similar to a private foundation for someone who sells an asset and wants to donate some of the gain, but prefers not to designate the charitable beneficiaries all in the same year. BCF charges some of the lowest administrative fees available for this service and, since introduced by BCF, we have opened several funds that now hold over \$125,000 in assets.

- 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.

To submit a grant application please note the following:

1. Applications for 2016 grants may be submitted from February 15th through April 15th 2016.
2. All applications must be submitted on-line (no paper applications will be accepted).
3. For complete grant guidelines and further application information follow the link below:

[Grant Information and Application Form](#)



"Give Local" Yellowstone Valley Region

Billings Community Foundation is pleased to announce that it will be hosting "Give Local", a powerful 24-hour online giving event that connects people with their community nonprofits.

I want to thank our very dedicated team of volunteer board members without whom the Billings Community Foundation would not exist. In particular, I want to recognize Past President, Ralph Spence, without whose leadership our first ever "Give Local" program would not be happening this year, among other things. A HUGE thank you goes out to Carolyn Yampradit, our volunteer Treasurer, whose term expired at the end of 2015. BCF has grown to the point where a bookkeeper will now be hired and Joy Culver took the lead on that. Also thanks to Jim Foley who only recently joined our board. Jim has taken the lead on the BCF Grant Program and recently helped us transition to an online grant application process which will be more secure and efficient. BCF's annual grants program just opened so check out our website for more details.

Thank you to past President Doris Barta whose term on the board is complete and Katie Maehl whose term is also complete. BCF extends a special thank you to our part time staff person, Suzanne McKiernan who retired in January. For 2016, we welcome the return of two previous board members, Jack Nickels and Don Allen.

We are also very pleased to extend a warm welcome to our newest board member, Val Jeffries. Val is Regional Director of Operations for Holiday Stationstores, Inc. and has served on the Yellowstone Art Museum board as well as the Billings Chamber Board. Val has accepted the role of Secretary/Treasurer.



BCF has talented and hardworking board members. There are lots of exciting new things happening this year so be sure to read the rest of this newsletter!

Mark your calendars for May 3, 2016 and be ready for an exciting fundraiser that will benefit nonprofits in the Greater Yellowstone Valley Region. Local nonprofits' involvement in the event gives members of the community the chance to find and support an organization whose mission aligns with their passion. With the addition of Sponsor Prizes based on various criteria, they can make an amplified impact to an organization they already support. More details will be forthcoming but here's a few important points:

- GIVE LOCAL begins at 12:00 a.m. May 3rd, 2016, ending at 11:59 p.m.
- All giving is online with hourly updates provided through social media
- This is a national event, run by Kimbia, Inc., held throughout Montana. Kimbia provides the technical support, training and project management.
- Billings Community Foundation will be the regional host and nonprofits are charged \$75 each to participate.
- Statewide, in 2015, GIVE LOCAL brought in \$640,000, with 5 local community foundations participating.

Sign-up for non-profits will begin March 7th, there will be a Workshop on using Social Media on March 16th and more events to be announce. Send us an email if you want to be on the list for more information or "Like" us on Facebook to get updates posted there.

[Billings Community Foundation - FB](#)

This will be a team effort. Working together, the nonprofits in our region will have a 24-hour opportunity to market their good works and promote their mission. Donors will have the opportunity to give to their favorite charity (or charities) easily and electronically. For more information, go to the following web site:

[Give Local Yellowstone Valley Region](#)



Last fall, members of the BCF Board met with members representing Miles City area businesses and nonprofit organizations and help them establish the "Miles City Area Community Fund".

This is a new opportunity for donors to give to a permanent endowment fund and benefit the Miles City area for generations to come. As gifts are added to the permanent endowment fund, the investment income earned will be available to provide long-term financial support of the charitable, educational, cultural or scientific regional nonprofit organizations, whose services enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

[Miles City Area Community Fund](#)

A "Win-Win" for YMCA, BCF and Billings

Towards the end of 2013, the Billings Family YMCA was the recipient of generous gifts from donors who wanted to receive the 40% Montana Tax Credit benefit for gifts to permanent endowments. However, the YMCA was not registered with the State of Montana to accept planned gifts. With no software or trained staff in the area of planned giving they reached out to the Billings Community Foundation for our support.

This is not an uncommon situation as donors wishing to utilize the MT Tax Credit are often the drivers for creating or growing endowments. Previous BCF Board Presidents, Colleen Weast and Teresa Darnielle met with the YMCA investment committee in late 2014. The YMCA



Community Sponsorships Promote Your Business

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. For more information, please call 839-3334 or send an email to:

billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com

Board of Directors agreed to outsource their planned giving services to BCF until such time as the YMCA had the expertise to bring them in house. BCF partnered with the YMCA to grow their endowment, by accepting gifts on their behalf in 2013, 2014 and early into 2015.

In 2015, the YMCA hired veteran fundraiser, Kim Kaiser who came to them with a wealth of knowledge in the area of planned giving. The YMCA filed the application with the State of Montana to take their planned giving program in house. BCF is happy to have helped incubate this program for the YMCA.

Last year, BCF assisted donors with planned gifts that benefitted 18 area nonprofits, including the YMCA. Partnering with the YMCA is one example of how we are fulfilling our mission to enhance the capacity of donors and charitable organizations to meet the needs of the great Billings region.

Natalie A. Dietrich Scholarship Fund

BCF was recently asked to establish the Natalie A. Dietrich Scholarship Fund by her family to honor her life. Natalie Dietrich touched the lives of many and a gift to this Scholarship Fund will continue blessing the lives of other for many years to come.

To make a donation, make your check out the Billings Community Foundation specifying the Natalie A. Dietrich Scholarship Fund or donate online by clicking the link below and following the instructions there. After filling in your credit card info, indicate the Natalie A. Dietrich Scholarship Fund under "special instructions" on the second page.

[Click here to make a Donation](#)

Did You Know...

Another tax saving incentive is to fund a qualifying gift with highly appreciated securities or land and avoid the federal and state long term capital gains taxes which can be as much as 22% of the gain. That can save big dollars in taxes and increase the amounts permanently benefiting favorite Montana charities. Such gifts can also qualify for the 40% Montana income tax credit.

Board of Trustees

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Val Jeffries
Secretary/Treasurer

Obert Udem
Vice President, Planned Giving

Teresa Darnielle-Morse
Assistant Vice President, Planned Giving

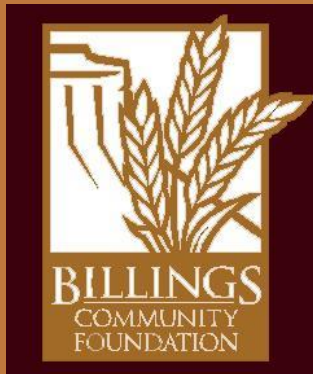
Don Allen
Joy L. Culver
Jim Foley
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Advisory Board

Bill Milton
Sarie Mackay
Lynda Moss
Lisa Reid Perry
Melanie Schwarz
Colleen Weast

billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com

Are you interested in more information?



Let your good work begin with us

Lifetime Endowment Contributions

\$75,000 - Above: Billings Region Visionary
Cynthia Foster

\$10,000 - \$24,999: Billings Region Patron
Spence Family Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999: Billings Region Sponsor
Joy Culver

\$1,000 - \$4,999: Billings Region Promoter
Bill & Karin Lucas
Mark & Teresa Morse

\$0 - \$999: Billings Region Booster

First Interstate Bank
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Jason & Kathryn Maehl
Joseph & Suzanne McKiernan
Jack Nickels
Ray & Beverly Sandness
Obert & Virginia Udem
Colleen Weast
Weast Ptr LLP
Thomas & Carolyn Yampradit

Do you want to get involved with BCF?
Please contact us!

Billings Community
Foundation
P O Box 1255
Billings, MT 59103
406-839-3334

www.billingscommunityfoundation.org

Like us on Facebook 

2015 Community Sponsors



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Obert Udem Community Endowment Fund

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First Interstate Bank System Foundation
Jack Nickels
Colleen Weast
Obert & Virginia Udem
Carolyn Yampradit



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.

