

Billings Community Foundation 2013 Spring Newsletter



President's Letter

The date of our annual Awards Dinner, June 5th, is quickly approaching. More information is included in this newsletter and invitations will go out soon. We are still looking for \$250 or \$500 sponsors of this event and would be happy to provide more information.

This event allows the Billings Community Foundation to recognize and support some of the great work being done by non-profits in the Billings area. Through our grant

Billings Community Foundation - Annual Awards Dinner

The annual Billings Community Foundation Awards Dinner will be held this year on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, at Prescott Hall on the campus of Rocky Mountain College. The dinner is from 5:30 PM to 8 PM. The dinner will recognize the Billings Community Foundation's 2013 grant recipients and give each honoree an opportunity to share their story. The BCF is honored to be able to support local nonprofits in the work they do serving our community.

application process, various projects are considered and those chosen to receive grants get financial assistance as well as the opportunity to share their story at the Awards Dinner. These grants are funded by the BCF Endowment Fund, the BCF Community Fund or one of the BCF Field of Interest Funds. If you are planning your estate, you may want to consider giving to one of these funds with the following in mind.

Each year requests are received from 40 or more non-profits and the Grant Committee chooses the projects that are determined to be the most beneficial. In the future, this selection process could channel support toward great projects by non-profit organizations that might not even exist today. With a gift to one of the funds that support the BCF Grant Program, the donor can be assured that their gift will go toward the most beneficial programs in the Billings area well into the future.

Sara Becker joins the BCF Board

Sara Becker will be joining the BCF Board at our May meeting. Sara is in charge of advertising and PR for the First Interstate Bank system in three states. She moved here from Great Falls a few years ago, has background as an ED for a non-profit and has served on boards. Sara was actively involved with the United Way in Great Falls and is eager to get more involved in the Billings Community. We expect to put her marketing skills to good



Sponsorships are available; Gold sponsorships for \$500 and Silver for \$250. Sponsors receive 2 complimentary tickets to the event and are recognized by level on the evening's program. Individual tickets to the dinner are \$25 per person.

Preceding the dinner, the BCF will host a seminar presented by Kurt Alme, President of the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation. Kurt will review the recent revisions to the Montana Endowment Tax Credit. The seminar will be held from 4 - 5 PM at the Morledge-Kimball building near Prescott Hall. There is no charge for the seminar, but reservations are required.

[For more information on the dinner, sponsorships, and reservations for the dinner and/or seminar, please call Suzanne at 839-3334 or e-mail \[billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com\]\(mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com\).](#)

Progress Report: BCF's Granting Process

This year's grant application process closed on March 31, 2013. BCF received 42 applications for grants this year! The grant committee is currently in the midst of making their decisions and as usual, it is a difficult task. The committee is honored that so many organizations have taken the time to apply and that our community has such

use and look forward to working with her on the BCF Board.

BCF Co-Sponsor of the Downtown Billings Alliance Annual Meeting

The Billings Community Foundation was co-sponsor with Stockman Bank for the annual meeting of the Downtown Billings Alliance. The event was held at the Alberta Bair Theater and featured a film titled, "The Next American Dream." Following the film there was a thirty minute question and answer period where the audience answered questions with their cell phones and responses were tabulated on the screen in real time.

The focus of the film was the revitalization of the downtown area of Kansas City, Missouri. There was discussion of national population trends and the recent tendency for young people to migrate back to the downtown areas. This is being accelerated in some areas through the combined efforts of developers and city planners using encouraging tax structures. There is enthusiasm for seeing a continuation of the revitalization of Downtown Billings.

BCF gives thanks to the Foundation for Community Vitality for providing a grant that allowed us to be a sponsor. Our first use of the FCV grant funded a discussion of Issues Facing Regional Non-Profits. The second application sponsored a workshop on Early Childhood Development. This event helped us build partnerships for Community Development. All three of these events, where individuals and groups discuss and exchange ideas, build connections and inspire a vision for the future that will help

dedicated nonprofits serving so many needs.

This year the committee will be awarding \$15,500 to recipients. There will be specific grants in the areas of animal welfare and bricks and mortar projects. Other grants will meet a variety of needs in the areas of children, women in transition, the arts, outdoor activities, the needs of our seniors and education. The grants will be awarded at our annual Awards Dinner on June 5, 2013. Details of the event are in this newsletter or call our office at 839-3334.

New BCF Clients

Billings Studio Theater

We are very excited to announce a new endowment for the Billings Studio Theatre. Now patrons and friends of the theatre can make planned gifts to BST through The Billings Community Foundation. These gifts will qualify for the Montana Endowment credit as well as the federal charitable deduction.

With a gift of appreciated property, the donor can realize tax savings through the Montana credit, the federal charitable gift itemized deduction and no capital gain tax on the appreciation. A gift of \$10,000 could cost \$1,500 or less, depending on the donor's particular circumstances.

make Billings a better place to live.

American Taxpayer Relief Act Enhances Certain Gifts

Clients who are subject to the new top income tax rate of 39.6%, the new 3.8% tax on net investment income, and the increased capital gains tax rate of 20% can minimize tax liabilities with well planned contributions, such as gifts of securities and life income gift arrangements.

For example, a donor who contributes \$20,000 of stock burdened with \$10,000 of long-term capital gain will receive deduction tax savings of \$7,920 in a 39.6% tax bracket. Furthermore, he or she will avoid paying 23.8% in capital gains tax and net investment income tax on the \$10,000 of "paper profit" - another \$2,380 in savings. After taxes, a satisfying \$20,000 gift costs our donor only \$9,700 (\$20,000 - \$7,920 - \$2,380).

Donors who own assets laden with long-term capital gains may find charitable remainder unitrusts attractive for their ability to liquidate stocks or real estate without increasing their exposure to the 20% capital gains tax and the 3.8% surtax - while providing them with a good income for life. Charitable gift annuities can offer similar savings, and charitable deductions are an added bonus.

Annuities can be issued to Donors with significant state and federal income tax savings (including the 40% Montana income tax credit) while also paying quarterly annuity payments based on the Donors age at the time of donation and amount gifted. For

We look forward to growing this fund with the Billings Studio Theatre. Please call us to find out how this can work for you.

Arts Without Boundaries

Arts Without Boundaries recently made the decision to establish an endowment fund. That decision was based on the need to establish a reliable source of funding for the student programs that AWB supports. Students and teachers need to have confidence that funding will be available to support AWB programs in art, music and creative writing.

While the individual lessons are important, the most significant impact occurs over time with repetition - repetition from week to week and repetition from year to year. An adequate endowment fund will enable AWB to establish stability, sustainability and expansion of critical assistance for at risk students as well as students with the passion for a career in the arts.

<http://artswithoutboundaries.org/>



"Like" us
on
FaceBook!

example, a 90 year old donor will receive a rate of 9% per annum on charitable gift annuities issued now. Call Obert Udem for details, in confidence, at (406) 657-1142, without cost.

Reports from the 2012 Grant Awards Recipients

In 2012, the Billings Community Foundation was proud to award grants totaling \$10,000 to the following organizations: Beartooth Christian Ranch, Beartooth Humane Alliance, Big Horn County Library, Billings Public Schools Back Pack, Billings Symphony, CASA, Eagle Mount, Family Services, Help for Homeless Pets, Little League Baseball, Tumbleweed, and YWCA of Billings.

At the end of the year, these recipients submitted a brief report, summarizing the purpose and outcomes of these grants. Here are a few excerpts from the reports:

"The life-skill classes have now been in operation for just under one year and are a real success among the homeless and at-risk youth population that we serve. The classes are designed to impart knowledge and develop skills through hands-on learning. We have seen these taught life skills being used by our youth to find jobs and housing, live safer and develop greater independence and senses of self-worth." -**Tumbleweed Program, Inc.**

"Measurable impact was that 550 bicycles were repaired (helping kids ride home with happy faces); another 300 safety helmets were distributed to children in need, 200 youths and adults received training on how to perform minor repairs on the bicycles and

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

SB108: Charitable Endowment Tax Credit - Passed

The Charitable Endowment Tax Credit was renewed for another six years with the following changes:

First, the bill lined up the definition of "permanent, irrevocable fund" with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) in such a way that if the act changes, Montana statute will follow suit without needing modification.

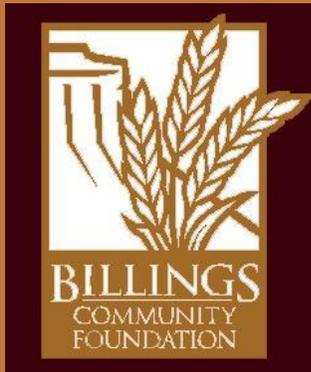
Second, the statute was modified so that the first partial or full-year payment of the annuity is required to begin within the life expectancy of the annuitant.

Finally, the statute requires that the annuity payment rate be at least 5%.

These were important changes

were given a small repair kit to take home with them and throughout the day more than 1,500 children, youth and family members enjoyed a strong sense of community collaboration focused on serving children" - **Living Water Church**

These are just two of the many appreciative comments from our 2012 grant recipients. BCF is pleased to support the notion that by working together, we can all make Billings a wonderful community.



Let your good work begin with us

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

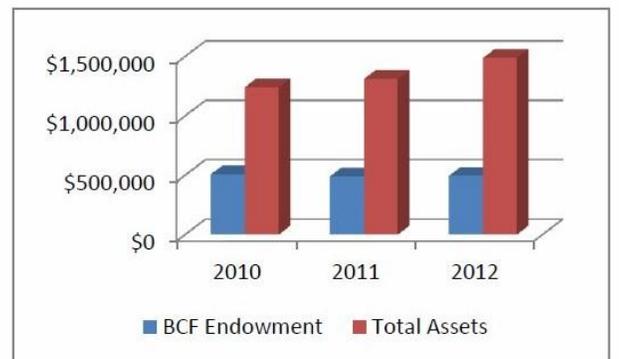
Also, please check out the new look of our Web Site and the new page describing "BCF Services". This page gives a comprehensive

that not only cleaned up some technical inconsistencies, but also raised the bar in terms of the ethical use of the credit.

You can find out more when Kurt Alme, with the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, presents a workshop on the changes in this law at the workshop before the BCF Awards Dinner on June 5th at Rocky.



Billings Community Foundation Clients and Funds



Billings Community Foundation Assets

[Billings Community Foundation Community Sponsors](#)

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 along with links to their web pages.

www.billingscommunityfoundation.org

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Data Corp, Mary Stickney
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PPL Montana
RBC Wealth Management
Rocky Mountain College,
Prescott Hall

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