

# Billings Community Foundation 2016 Spring Newsletter



## Message from Our President



BCF has focused its efforts in a small number of significant directions so far in 2016. First and foremost was the Give Local Project which took most of our time and resources with results both satisfactory and disappointing. Results were satisfactory in the sense we got to know a lot of new non-profit friends in Billings and

ed bring 61 area organizations, their supporters local businesses together for the first ever 24 hour tal giving event.

Enthusiasm was high and many organizations put significant efforts forward. Results were disappointing through no fault of anyone involved. The vendor, Kimbia, simply failed to provide the high level experience to organizations and their donors that was expected. At the time of this writing, we are still working with them to sort out the donations and prizes as are all the other participating community foundations around the state and around the nation. Ralph Spence led this effort on behalf of BCF and will provide an update in this newsletter.

Our next project, which we anticipate will go smoother, is our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Grants Awards ceremony and non-profit educational workshop coming on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Grants Committee chair, Jim Foley will also provide an update in this newsletter.

## Annual Awards Dinner

### Annual Awards Dinner - June 8<sup>th</sup>

The Billings Community Foundation annual awards dinner is just around the corner. Please join us on Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> at Prescott Hall on the campus of Rocky Mountain College to recognize this year's grant recipients. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. and tickets are \$30 per person. To reserve your dinner please email to: [billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com)

This year we will present grants to 25 non profit organizations including:

**Education** - Rocky Mountain College, Wise Wonders Children's Museum, Our Montana, Billings Library Foundation and Pompey's Pillar.

**Human Welfare** - Make-A-Wish Montana, Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County.

**Arts & Culture** - Billings Symphony, School District 2, Cultural Partners and Billings Studio Theater.

**Natural Resources & Conservation** - Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation.

**Economic Development** - Living Water, Harvest Church Car Care Ministry and Dress for Success Billings.

**Endowment Marketing Support** - CASA of Yellowstone County and Big Sky Senior Services.

**Animal Welfare** - Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter and Beartooth Humane Alliance.

Thank you for the ongoing trust you have placed in BCF and its hardworking volunteer board members. We are always looking for talented people willing to dedicate time and resources to help those BCF is here to serve. Let us know if you have interest in a conversation about getting involved.

Good news - BCF received a generous, anonymous matching grant of \$5,000 early in the year and the board has raised the \$5,000.00 needed to match that goal. Thanks to our donor and all of you who joined in this effort.

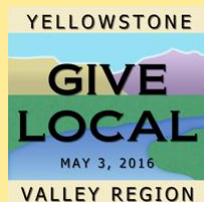
Quote for Spring: "Spring drew on...and a greenness grew over those brown beds, which, freshening daily, suggested the thought that Hope traversed them at night, and left each morning brighter traces of her steps."

Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre

## Give Local Yellowstone Valley Region

The good news is that our Give Local Day efforts raised \$16,972 from 235 donations during the 24 hour fundraising event! After "glitches" appeared in the system, gifts continued to trickle in throughout the day. We are still working through the numbers but, when Sponsor gifts are included, the total raised is estimated at close to \$34,000. The pace of giving was 20-25/hr in the morning, 5-10/hr in the afternoon and 10/hr in the evening. The fact that we received 45 donations from 2-3pm, when the system was up for a while, provided some indication of what our potential might have been.

Our totals for the event are still a moving target as we work through the reimbursement of donations that were duplicated when it appeared payments did not go through. We are contacting donors where it appears that might have happened. We have also heard that some may not received receipts for their donations. we have a limited time to address this with Kimbia's system so, if that happened to you, please send your name and contact info ASAP to:



**Bricks & Mortar Projects** - Yellowstone River Parks Association, Billings Preservation Society - Moss Mansion and Friendship House of Christian Service.

This year over \$34,000 of funding comes from several sources including:

- The Billings Community Foundation Endowment
- The Matthews-Dousman Memorial Endowment Fund in partnership with the Montana Community Foundation
- Steve Wahrlich's Clocktower Animal Fund for Animal Welfare
- Tom & Arno Wilkins Endowment Fund for Billings Bricks and Mortar Projects

The dinner promises to be an exciting opportunity to recognize the important work being done by nonprofits in Billings and the surrounding region. Join us for an evening of food, drink and celebration!

### Pre Event Workshop

Join our free pre-event workshop on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 5 pm at the Morledge-Kimball Building (near Prescott Hall) on the campus of Rocky Mountain College. The seminar will be lead by Dan Miller (from Anderson Zurmuehlen) along with a panel of local CPA's and will provide updates on tax laws and form 990's for non-profits. A question and answer session will follow the panel discussion so bring your questions. While admission is free, reservations are required and can be made by emailing: [billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com)

Billings Community Foundation is pleased to be able to offer this important informational workshop to all nonprofits throughout our region.

## Help us honor Grant Recipients at BCF's Annual Awards Dinner

Sponsor & Be Part of Our Annual Awards Dinner - BCF considers it a privilege to be able to award grants to well-deserving nonprofits. The work being done by the dedicated staff and volunteers of these organizations is amazing. Our awards dinner is a remarkable opportunity to hear each grant recipient share their organization's story which promises to be truly inspiring!

BCF would like to extend the opportunity to you or your company to celebrate the terrific work of our grant recipients. By being an Event Sponsor you will demonstrate your support of amazing accomplishments of these organizations that make our communities

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



Given the the breakdown in Kimbia's system, we feel like our results were pretty amazing! This success is due to the support of our generous Sponsors and the enthusiasm of our 61 participating nonprofits. We send out thanks to Rock Creek Coffee

Roasters, Thirsty Street Brewery and Hooligans for hosting our headquarters during the event. We also appreciate the great work of Alex and Bryce at Stodgy Creative and the support provided by all of our volunteers. The energy that came together Tuesday morning was exciting to see!

Look for more information in the days ahead on the BCF webpages or on Facebook. We will tabulate the results and make distributions to nonprofits in the weeks ahead. We apologize for the delay and thank all of you again for your participation. We will also be sending out a survey to participants to get input to guide our decisions next year. Whatever the future holds, let's continue to work together and Give Local for the benefit of our Yellowstone valley Region!



throughout the region a better place. Two sponsorship levels are available:

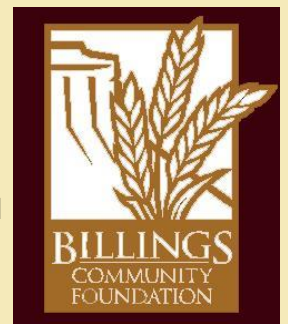
- \* Gold - \$500 (includes 4 complimentary event tickets)
- \* Silver - \$250 (includes 2 complimentary event tickets)

Sponsors will be included in the event program and recognized from the podium. Please consider sponsoring this celebration. Through grants from the Billings Community Foundation, nonprofit organizations are making a difference in the lives of many in our communities. To become a sponsor please email to

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

## 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.



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# Thanks so much to our "Give Local" Sponsors!



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

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## Building the Future of BCF

As we visit with prospective client partners at Billings Community Foundation, we often stress the importance of planning for the future. For an organization to thrive and grow, the notion of long-term financial security is critical.

And so it is with Billings Community Foundation.

As we continue to serve our community's philanthropic needs, the BCF Endowment must continue to grow. We are very proud of the services we provide to client



partners, the funds we grant to such worthy organizations, and the expertise and assistance we lend to a number of organizations throughout our service area. However, we want to do even more!

With your help, we can do more. A donation to the BCF Endowment makes our outreach and future growth possible. Please consider helping us grow our endowment so that we may continue to be a philanthropic center for our region. For more information about a gift to the BCF Endowment, please call our office at 839-3334 or email us.



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