

# Billings Community Foundation 2013 Summer Newsletter



## President's Letter

Earlier this summer the Billings Community Foundation held its Annual Awards Dinner where grants were given to support the work of non-profits in the Billings region. This event recognizes some of the great work being done by non-profit organizations responding to local needs. It is inspiring to hear how each group has identified an opportunity to help others and developed a way to provide assistance. Each group has found its niche where the specialized talents of its members can do the most good.

The Billings area is blessed with many generous

## Billings Community Foundation Annual Awards Dinner

The annual Billings Community Foundation's Awards Dinner was held on Wednesday, June 5, at Prescott Hall on the campus of Rocky Mountain College. The evening honored the 2013 grant recipients and gave them a chance to share information about their mission and programs.

people who dedicate much of their time, talent and treasure toward helping others. The commitment of individuals in these groups helps in maintaining vibrant, healthy communities in our region. The Billings Community Foundation exists to help groups like these by providing grants, financial assistance and forums to share information and encourage networking between individuals and groups.

Non-profit groups are even more important today as we test the limits of what services government can afford to provide. Contributions to the general welfare by these non-government organizations can respond to needs that would otherwise be ignored. Rather than waiting for someone else to help, individuals in these groups roll up their sleeves and get things done. Their "hands on" approach enables them to focus on the most creative and efficient ways to apply available resources.

It is groups like these that the Billings Community Foundation works to assist and serve. Please join us in supporting their efforts and, if you see a need and have an idea on how to respond, "Let your good work begin with us".

## Bison for Bruce Project

In May of this year, Mark Kennedy, a member of the Bruce Putnam Memorial Committee contacted Teresa Darnielle at BCF after local CPA, Dan Miller, suggested they might enhance the effectiveness of their fundraising efforts by partnering with a local community foundation. Subsequently, a "fiscal sponsorship" arrangement was formed between the Billings Community Foundation and the committee whereby BCF provides administrative services for the project.

The Bruce Putnam Memorial Committee is



The 14 grant recipients this year are Bridger Community Food Bank, Big Horn County Library Services, Big Sky Senior Services, Billings Family YMCA Writer's Voice, Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Tumbleweed, Yellowstone Art Museum, Yellowstone CASA, Yellowstone River Research @ RMC, Young Families Early Head Start, YWCA Employment and Training, ZooMontana, Help for Homeless Pets and Parmlly Billings Library Foundation.

(Jeff Ewelt receives a BCF Grant from Jack Nickels and Colleen Weast on behalf of Zoo Montana -  
The BCF website has a link to more pictures)

raising funds to help offset costs for a proposed memorial at the Billings Airport recognizing the career of Bruce Putnam who was the Director of Aviation & Transit for the City of Billings for over 28 years. The concept being proposed is the placement of three steel bison sculptures on the Billings Airport grounds. The sculptures are designed and constructed by Charles Ringer, a nationally recognized artist from Joliet, Montana. The bison theme was selected due to Bruce's long held desire to create such a display at the airport for visitors to enjoy.

Mr. Ringer has designed two small bison sculptures, a 19 -inch model and an 11-inch model going for \$500 and \$400 respectively (shipping is extra). \$200 of the purchase price will go towards the project and is tax deductible under most circumstances. The Billings Gazette featured a nice article about the project in August.

The goal is for this project to be completed before year end so if you have interest in ordering one of the small Bison sculptures, please contact Billings Community Foundation and/or go to the BCF Website and click on the "Building Bison for Bruce" link on the home page to obtain more information.



The evening was graciously sponsored by Northwestern Energy, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, Anderson Zurmuehlen & Co. P.C., Best Western Clocktower Inn, Mass Mutual Financial Group, Moulton Bellingham PC, Avitus Group, PPL Montana LLC, RBC Wealth Management/Darnielle Murphy Team, Stockman Bank, Tancy and Ralph Spence, Virginia and Obert Udem, St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation and First Interstate Bank.

Preceding the dinner was a seminar led by Kurt Alme, President, Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation. The topic discussed was the recent revisions to the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.

The work of the awarded nonprofits is remarkable. As the evening progressed, hearing each recipient's story reminded everyone of the important work being done on limited budgets, with dedicated staff and volunteers. Billings Community Foundation is honored to host such an evening.

## Karin Lucas joins the BCF Board



Karin Lucas will join the BCF Board at its August meeting. Karin worked as a fundraising professional for more than 20 years prior to retiring from St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation in 2012. Throughout her tenure in North Dakota and Billings, she served the Minot Home Builders Association, Fargo Chamber of Commerce, North Dakota State University Foundation, the Yellowstone Art Museum, the Billings Area Catholic Education Trust and St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation.

Karin has volunteered for numerous organizations including the Minot YWCA, Habitat for Humanity, MSU-B Wine Festival, Billings Area Hockey League, Celebrate Billings, Arrowhead Elementary PTA, Broadwater Elementary and is currently a member of the St. Vincent Healthcare volunteer program.

"I believe in the importance of the Billings Community Foundation - strengthening and improving our regional communities through private philanthropy," states Karin. Throughout my career, I have witnessed over and over the incredible impact private philanthropy can have on individuals, organizations, and communities. To continue this work as a board member of BCF is incredibly exciting to me," she added.

## We Want Your Feedback!

At Billings Community Foundation, we take our mission very seriously. As such, we're always looking for ways to improve our services and do more good throughout the communities we serve. That's where you come in.

In early September, we'll be emailing a survey to past grant recipients, donors, and potential donors to get feedback on how we're doing and how we can do even better. We appreciate you taking the time to fill out this short survey-it will take five minutes at most-and we greatly appreciate your honest feedback.

The more we know our strengths and weaknesses, the greater impact we can have on Billings and the surrounding area.



"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, follow up stories on our grant recipients and links to our website and newsletter. Like us and share the good work that we do with your friends and family.

## Billings - in Kiplinger's Top 10 Cities

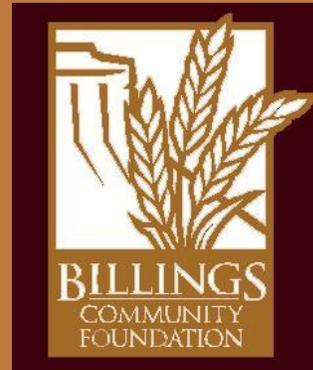
In the September, 2013 Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine, Billings is included in the top ten "Great Cities that have it all". In the number 6 position, Billings is noted for being much more than a tourist destination.

Billings is described as a regional economic hub with low unemployment and affordable housing. The medical corridor, the energy business, banking, and institution of higher education are also mentioned. The article describes the revitalization of the downtown area, regional shopping, and local outdoor attractions.

The rest of the cities listed were; #1 Little Rock, Arkansas, #2 Burlington, Vermont, #3 Bryan-College Station, Texas, #4 Sante Fe, New Mexico, #5 Columbia, South Carolina, #7 Morgantown, West Virginia, #8 Ithaca, New York, #9 Anchorage, Alaska and #10 Dubuque, Iowa.



Billings Community Foundation Clients and Funds



*Let your good work  
begin with us*

## BCF Endowment Funds

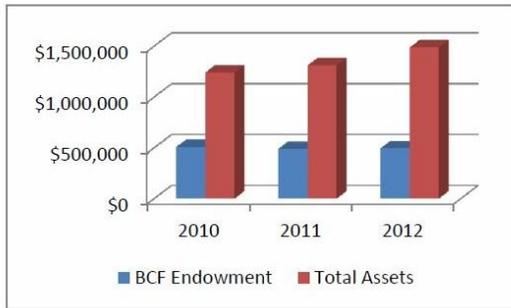
You can make a substantial gift to a charitable organization in the Billings region for just pennies on the dollar. We can show you how.

A federal charitable deduction for your gift is available for those who itemize. 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 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)

Billings Community Foundation



Billings Community Foundation Assets

### **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 along with links to their web pages.

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

### 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

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