



## BILLINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*"Serving the Greater Yellowstone Region of Montana"*

### Summer Newsletter 2017

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#### From the Desk of the President

Welcome to the Billings Community Foundation's (BCF) late summer newsletter.

I just returned from a short trip to the bustling city of New York- an interesting and fun place to visit. As I stepped off the crowded plane and walked out into the starfilled night skies of Montana, I was reminded again of what a special place this is and why we work as hard as we do to maintain the less hurried, let's call it "spacious" lifestyle we enjoy here in Southeastern Montana. In June, BCF hosted its 11th

annual grants awards ceremony involving more new grant makers via our donor advised fund program.

After taking a short break, we turned our attention to the search process for our first executive director. This position is made possible by a generous grant from the **M.J. Murdock Trust**. We will have exciting news to announce in the very near future.

Please enjoy the rest of your summer and thank you for your support of the BCF.

Teresa Darnielle-Morse

Board of Directors

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## Billings Community Foundation Awarded Grant

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Washington, recently awarded the Billings Community foundation (BCF) a grant in the amount of \$134,000.00 for the hiring of its first ever Executive Director. This is a three year grant for which BCF will need to raise matching funds in years two and three.



### **ABOUT M. J. MURDOCK CHARITABLE TRUST**

M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock, provides grants to organizations in five states of the Pacific Northwest-Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington-that seek to strengthen the region's educational and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways.

**[murdocktrust.org](http://murdocktrust.org)**

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## 2017 Grants Awards Dinner and Workshop



The annual BCF non-profit workshop and grants award dinner were held on Wednesday June 7th on the campus of Rocky Mountain College. Prior to the dinner, Jean A. Fidone-Schroer, Regional Vice President of Anchor Capital Advisors LLC presented a workshop discussing fiduciary responsibilities for non-profit staff, boards & advisors. The workshop was well attended and Jean presented many real world examples of how to stay in compliance with Montana law.

Following the workshop, Prescott Hall provided an exciting venue for the evening's awards dinner. Great food and drink were followed by the presentation of grants to 28 non-profit organizations. The highlight of the evening was hearing each grant recipient share their organization's story. Their work is truly inspiring!

BCF would also like to express our sincere appreciation to our 2017 grant funders:

- The Matthews-Dousman Memorial Endowment Fund in partnership with the Montana Community Foundation
- The Rose Family Endowment
- Tom & Amo Wilkins Endowment for Billings Bricks and Mortar Projects
- The Billings Community Foundation Endowment
- The Joseph and Katherine Rude Family Endowment
- Steve Wahrlich's Clocktower Inn Fund for Animal Welfare
- Tancy & Ralph Spence Endowment
- The Billings Community Foundation Arts & Culture Fund

And to Our Event Sponsors!

- Lori & Rob Byron
- Eide Bailly- Joy Culver
- Jim Foley & Cindy Walter
- Mark & Teresa Darnielle-Morse
- Bernard Rose
- Ralph & Tancy Spence

Please note that the 2018 grant submittal process will commence on January 1, 2018. [Visit our webpage to learn more about our 2018 Grants](#)

BCF considers it a privilege to be able to award grants to well-deserving nonprofits and the work being done by the dedicated staff and volunteers of these organizations is amazing. This year BCF gifted \$42,607 to the organizations

## Why I Sponsor Yellowstone Valley Gives.....

As a Lead Sponsor of the 2017 "Yellowstone Valley Gives" 24 hour giving day, I am pleased to have the opportunity to share my reasons for providing this support.

First, I am a strong believer in efforts to respond to local needs and challenges through the work of nonprofits. Often the "hands-on" efforts of volunteers and nonprofit professionals is the most efficient way to address many concerns.

Second, I strongly support the efforts of the Billings Community Foundation in serving individuals and nonprofits in our region. BCF provides workshops and consultations promoting philanthropic giving and, through our client accounts and grants, regional nonprofits receive around \$80,000 per year in "pass through" income and more than \$40,000 is awarded through the BCF Grant Program. In 2017, "Yellowstone Valley Gives" provided a platform which allowed regional nonprofits to raise an additional \$80,000! These efforts will have a total regional impact of close to \$200,000 in 2017!

Third, my involvement in BCF and Yellowstone Valley Gives has allowed me to meet and work with an amazing group of individuals who volunteer their time and talent toward making Billings and communities in Southeast Montana better places to live. Networking and building partnerships throughout this region allows us to combine our efforts in responding to local needs and helps us in being advocates for one another.

Thanks Billings Community Foundation, thanks to other YVG Sponsors, thanks to participating nonprofits and, most of all, thanks to the many regional volunteers and supporters of local nonprofits!

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Ralph Spence, BCF Board Member

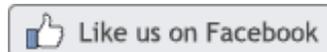


## BCF Fiscal Sponsorships - Building a Better Community

A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of charitable projects.

Currently BCF is partnered with the Wyola School District on their Art, Culture and Community Center Project, Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture on their Annual Conference, Billings ArtSpace Project and Yellowstone Valley Woman Magazine's 100 Strong Initiative.

We are proud to be the fiscal sponsor of these organizations, and we will be posting progress of these projects on our Facebook Page.



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**BILLINGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
Annual Report 2016

[2016 Annual Report](#)

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## Become a Billings Community Foundation Sponsor

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.

[Read More](#)

## Thanks to our 2017 Community Sponsors



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