

Billings Community Foundation 2015 Fall Newsletter



Message from Our President



Greetings,

It is hard to believe that 2015 is coming to an end! We have had a very busy year at BCF and continue to be proud to serve the needs of local nonprofit organizations. We are honored to provide many services, including endowment building and our granting program.

A Hike in John H. Dover Park by Suzanne McKiernan

It was a beautiful fall morning, calling for a hike. Former BCF Board Member Lisa Perry of Northwestern Energy invited me to join a group of Yellowstone River Parks Association (YRPA) board members on a hike in John H. Dover Park.

John H. Dover Park (Dover Park) is bounded by Mary Street, Dover Road, Five Mile Road and the Yellowstone River. This gorgeous area has been gifted to YRPA in parcels by the Jim Sindelar family. John H. Dover, Jim's grandfather, settled in the area in 1882. The park is not yet open to the public, but 170 acres of the site are being thoughtfully developed by YRPA and its many community volunteers.

In June, we gave 16 grants for a total of \$19,600 to very worthy charities in our region. We also sponsored three very well-received grant writing seminars. The third seminar included a panel of local foundation funders who gave their perspective on choosing organizations they support.

We are very thankful for the support of our panelists, which included

*GIVE
thanks*

Dan Carter from ExxonMobil, Kelly Bruggeman from First Interstate BancSystem Foundation, and Barbara Sample from the Sample Foundation. This was so well received we hope to continue with a similar program next year.

We were pleased to add Jim Foley to our Board of Directors, and were thankful for the services provided by Colleen Weast, Karin Lucas, and Sara Becker, who all completed their commitment to the Billings Community Foundation Board of Directors. These three individuals will truly be missed as they gave of their time and talent and were stellar board members.

As you plan for your year-end giving opportunities, please remember you can give to one or many of the funds held by the Billings Community Foundation, which are held in trust for the many nonprofit organizations we serve who provide much needed services in our community. We are so blessed to be a part of such a generous community. As we enter this holiday season and count our blessings, we thank you for your continued support of this great region.

Sincerely,

Doris T. Barta

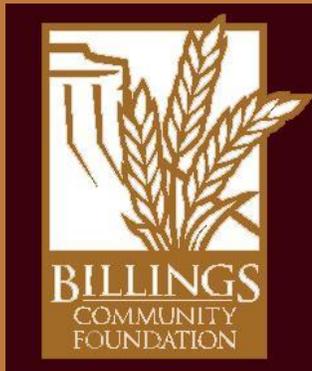


We hiked all over the area and heard plans for the beautiful property from YRPA board members Roger Williams, John Spencer, and Alan Parker. The many trails are amazing! Up hills, through valley areas, around Five Mile Creek, over bridges and out to the Yellowstone River.

A work day hosted by Harvest Church provided a large number of volunteers to assist with many important improvements to the park. The limestone on the trails was a new addition, as was fencing for a proposed dog park as well as lots of tree cleanup. We hiked along the bank of the Yellowstone across the river from the site of Trailhead Commerce Park (a proposed industrial park), enjoying vistas vibrant with fall's golden leaves.

From the river, we hiked up to Lois' Point, named for Jim Sindelar's sister. From this elevation, the original Dover family Home Place site could be seen. The beauty and history of the Dover Park acreage will enhance a major Billings resource for all who will use it.

Billings Community Foundation has assisted with the gifting of the land and also holds two endowment funds, the income from which will



Let your good work begin with us

REMINDER: End of Year Giving

At Billings Community Foundation, our mission is to help individuals and charitable organizations in the greater Billings region meet the needs of their communities. We do this in a number of ways:



- **For individuals** - BCF facilitates tax advantaged giving and serves as your private foundation, managing the distribution of gifts in the manner you choose.
- **For charitable organizations** - BCF serves as a trustee and investment committee, overseeing assets for your organization.
- **For estates** - BCF accepts endowment bequests and facilitates the long-term distribution of gifts to charitable organizations.

help fund YRPA and its John H. Dover Park. Gifts are invited for both current projects and the endowment.

This collaboration between the Sindelar family, public, YRPA, and the Billings Community Foundation is a stunning example of what can be done by working together. The dream of YRPA is to preserve and share the natural beauty of John H. Dover Park with the community. That dream is fast becoming a reality thanks to the help given in kind and contributions by many in the community.

Anyone wishing to volunteer help, contribute in kind gifts, or tax deductible gifts for current use developing Dover Park should call YRPA at 248-1400. Gifts qualifying for the 40% MT income tax credit for planned gifts benefitting YRPA endowment fund gifts can be directed to Billings Community Foundation at 406-839-3334 or by [e-mail](#).

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Whether you are an individual, a nonprofit organization, or a corporation, there is a fund at BCF that will fit your needs as a donor. Donations of any amount can be made--small or large, restricted or through a planned gift--that will have a positive impact on our community.

This is also a perfect opportunity to donate to Billings Community Foundation. The income from gifts to BCF's Endowment Fund help ensure the important work of BCF remains viable throughout the six regions we serve in perpetuity-supporting BCF's grants program, planned giving services, and the organization endowment building.

Let BCF help you with your charitable donations and planned giving. As the end of the year approaches, give us a call at 839-3334 to set up an appointment with one of BCF's planned giving officers.

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Please contact us!

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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.

