

Women Who Wine of Kalispell

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What is Women Who Wine of Kalispell?**

Women Who Wine of Kalispell (WWWK) is a women's networking and community benefit group. The group is also known as a "Giving Circle".

- **When and where do we meet and how long is each get together?**

We meet the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 5:30pm. The location changes each month and it is up to you how long you stay though many people leave at 7 or 7:30pm.

- **What is the mission?**

We have two goals. The first is to network with other women who care about community and giving back. The second is to raise \$1,000 or more each month for a different nonprofit.

- **What is expected of me as a member?**

Each month our members bring a \$30 check made out to "Flathead Community Foundation" and a bottle of wine. Sustaining Members can sign up to be a "hostess" for a month. When you are hostess, you get to choose the nonprofit to receive the \$1,000 contribution. You are responsible for inviting a representative from the nonprofit and you provide the meeting location, snacks, and bottle openers for the wine (wine glasses can be provided upon request). If you have guests that come specifically to support your chosen nonprofit they are welcome to write checks for additional donations directly to the group above their \$30/wine donations.

- **I'm not sure I can commit to \$30 a month. Is there still a way for me to participate?**

In 2015, we implemented a two-tier membership system. **Sustaining Members** commit to donating \$30 along with a delicious bottle of wine every month for the entire year whether or not they can attend the monthly meeting. Sustaining Members have permanent name badges and after one full year of membership, are eligible to sign up to host a monthly meeting inclusive of selecting the non-profit organization to be featured in their month. Sustaining Members may serve on the Advisory Committee making decisions governing WWWK. **Regular Members** attend when they are able and bring a check for \$30 along with a delicious bottle of wine. We are delighted to have you and want you to know your gifts and presence add immeasurably to the success of WWWK and our ability to commit support to 12 local non-profit organizations every year.

- **What is a monthly get together like?**

Each month is different. Sometimes it is at the nonprofit's headquarters, sometimes it is a member's house or an event space. Sometimes the group is smaller and we get more time to network and connect with each other. Sometimes it is more formal and structured. It is up to the hostess how she wants her event to run. We do our best to start right at 5:30 and hear from our nonprofit

representative typically by 6:00pm. Around 6:30 we will auction off the wine that hasn't been opened to our member group in 2-3 lots. A couple lucky ladies take home wine to stock the wine cabinet and the auction proceeds help ensure we meet our \$1,000 target each month.

- **Can I bring a guest?**

Absolutely! It would be lovely if they came with a \$30 check and bottle of wine but if you want to bring a guest once to check it out before they start contributing that is OK too.

- **What is Flathead Community Foundation's involvement?**

Flathead Community Foundation is a wonderful organization that made WWWK possible by agreeing to be WWWK's "Fiscal Sponsor". FCF packages our \$30 contributions each month and deposits those contributions into a designated WWWK fund. Once a year at the banquet they cut the checks to our nonprofit beneficiaries. FCF also voted to contribute \$250 for the first \$750 raised each month to help ensure we can meet the \$1,000 per month goal for the 2013-2014 year. (Our WWWK year runs from Nov-Oct). Because FCF is a 501(c)(3) organization, our donations are tax deductible.

- **I am a Sustaining Member and would like to host, what do I do?**

Contact the Flathead Community Foundation at info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org (406) 756-9047, speak directly to an Advisory Board Member, or make your request when you sign in at a monthly meeting. Your request will be considered at a monthly meeting. Consideration will include frequency and timeframe from past hosting against other women wanting to host. Hosting is becoming competitive and guidelines will be communicated as they are formulated.

- **What sort of nonprofit should I choose when I get to host?**

We prefer Kalispell area nonprofits. The nonprofit must provide a *community benefit* in order for FCF to be able to package the funds. If you stay away from something that benefits just one individual that is best and you can't have a "help send my son to college" type fund. The Flathead Community Foundation can help you select an organization if you are having trouble deciding. Please remember when it is your month to host that we are a *family* of women. If there is low attendance, do not worry; we will use funds from other months to make sure your nonprofit receives their \$1,000. If you have a great turnout and raise well above our target, then you have helped ensure support of other member's nonprofits and you can feel really good about that.

- **What is the annual banquet like?**

Our first Giving Banquet was held October 2014 and we awarded \$12,000 to worthy causes! Excess monies raised ensured each organization's non-profit representative and one guest were able to attend the Banquet at our expense. We began with 12 members, grew to 45 members in May 2014, and a year later have close to 200 members. For the Banquet, we ask members to sell tickets at a cost of \$40 for an individual ticket or \$75 for a pair of tickets. Our attendance goal is around 300 people. The Banquet is a big media event providing a lot of exposure for our 12 nonprofits which may be of even more importance than the \$1,000. Organizing the Banquet is a lot of fun as many hands make light work. Please sign up to volunteer for our Banquet planning or some other

volunteer role within the group such as procuring sponsorships, putting together silent auction baskets, alerting the media, or inviting politicians or other important community stakeholders.

- **How does my non-profit get chosen to be featured at a monthly meeting?**

Non-profit selection is entirely up to the hostess who typically chooses a non-profit organization in which she is involved. Non-profits selected must be recognized as 501(c)3 organizations by the IRS or fall under a parent organization such as the Flathead Community Foundation. A non-profit organization may only be invited to present once every three years to ensure that we expose members to as many worthy organizations as possible. A complete list of organizations and the date they were featured is listed at the end of this page. However, this does not lessen our passion for your organization and for this reason, we sponsor Give Local Flathead (www.givelocalflathead.org), a 24-hour day of online giving with a goal of raising \$100,000 for local non-profit organizations. Please participate in this event so we can pool our efforts and resources and help raise money for the good work you do on this day.

- **Anything else I need to know?**

The founders of Women Who Wine of Kalispell are Laura O'Connor, Katy Croft and Darla Harmon. Lucy Smith is the Director of Flathead Community Foundation as well as a member of WWWWK and an integral part of the group. Gina Benesh joined the group at the start of the second year and has stepped in as the new "face" and "heart" of the organization. Even though we try to remain as low-key and fun as possible, nothing is ever completely simple. We run 100% on volunteer efforts. We also are learning and evolving so we encourage constructive input but don't be surprised if you are asked to help out if you want to see things changed or improved in some way!

<u>2014</u>	<u>BENEFICIARY</u>
January	Sparrow's Nest NW Montana
February	The Enduring Waves Foundation
March	WINGS
April	Discovery Development Center
May	Operation Finally Home
June	Alpine Theater Project
July	Shepherd's Hand Health & Dental Clinic
August	Community Action Partnership
September	NW Montana Veterans Stand Down
October	CRYJ Center for Restorative Youth Justice
November	Heart Locker
December	Non-Profit Development Partnership (NpDP)

<u>2015</u>	<u>BENEFICIARY</u>
January	Abbie Shelter
February	NW Montana Head Start
March	Samaritan House
April	Dream Adaptive
May	Give Local Flathead
June	Tamarack Grief Resource Center & Share Your Voice Foundation
July	Family Friendly Flathead
August	Cancer Support Community
September	Child Bridge
October	Giving Banquet – distribution of grants

