

FLATHEAD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Generous Legacy - April 2016 Newsletter

Greetings!

Happy Spring! Thank you for your support of the Flathead Community Foundation.

A GREAT DAY TO GIVE!



Flathead Community Foundation and Northwest Montana United Way team up to host GIVE LOCAL FLATHEAD on May 3, 2016

IT TAKES A VALLEY to raise \$150,000 in a single day!

On May 3, 2016 the Flathead Community Foundation and Northwest Montana United Way will host "Give Local Flathead - It Takes a Valley" as part of Give Local America, a national crowdfunding event with local impact.

Gateway Community Center in Kalispell will serve as headquarters for the Flathead's Giving Day celebration with a showcase of participating nonprofits, entertainment, and secure facilities to make donations.

Give Local Flathead 2016 will be held on Tuesday May 3rd from Midnight to Midnight. For that 24 hours, everyone in our community is encouraged to donate \$10 or more in support of local nonprofit organizations that serve our Flathead Valley every day. Last year, Give Local Flathead benefited 60 nonprofits, raising \$75,000 in online gifts and sponsor contributions from nearly 600 donors - in just 24 hours!

Our goal for 2016 is to increase nonprofit participation and raise \$150,000

Qualified 501c3 nonprofit organizations with offices in the Flathead Valley may now register to participate in Give Local Flathead 2016 at www.givelocalflathead.org through Wednesday, April 13.

- Give Local Flathead will provide training and technical support for participating charities
- A specialty team of trained volunteers from Leadership Flathead will advise and assist individual nonprofits in their social media promotional efforts
- Give Local Flathead will drive traffic to the giving day site, using available marketing/outreach/media opportunities.
- Donors will choose the charitable causes most important to them and make a secure online donation.
- Give Local Flathead Sponsors will provide cash prize donations for participating nonprofits, as a way to build excitement and maximize impact for donors.

Flathead Community Foundation and Northwest Montana United Way urge everyone to be a Flathead Philanthropist on May 3rd. "Our nonprofit organizations are there for us 24/7. On 5/3 we have 24 hours to thank them in a BIG way!"

For more information please visit www.givelocalflathead.org or email givelocalflathead@gmail.com

Generous sponsors are stepping up to make this Giving Day possible. Many thanks to our very first sponsors: *Women Who Wine of Flathead Valley, 406 Woman Magazine, and Immanuel Lutheran Communities!*

To support local nonprofits as a SPONSOR, please call 756-9047 or email givelocalflathead@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

April 5

Women Who Wine, Kalispell

Red Lion Hotel Courtyard

5:30 - 7:00 pm

\$30 Donation

April 7

Hockaday Museum of Art

Opening reception for New Artists

2016 - High School Students Art

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Free

April 9

Lighthouse Christian Home & Services

Annual Swing Dance & Auction

Red Lion Hotel Grand Ballroom

7:00 pm

\$50 per person/\$350 for table of 8

April 12

Sunburst Community Service Foundation

Presentation by Montana Arts Council explaining programs and grants they offer

Glacier Bank meeting room

6:30 pm

April 17

Crown of the Continent Choir

Central Christian/Congregational Church,

10:00 am

April 19

Women Who Wine, Bigfork

Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts Foundation

5:30 -7:00 pm

\$30 Donation

April 23

Sunburst Community Service Foundation

Clean up Eureka Day!

Free lunch provided by Glacier Bank

FCF Board Member Spotlight Tyler (Ty) Weber



How long have you lived in the Flathead?

We've been back for 10 years, but I'm from Kalispell originally. I went to grade school and high school and then left to go to college. I went to Notre Dame in Indiana and then worked in Minneapolis for quite a while. I came back because an opportunity to work here came up, and I've always wanted to return and raise my family here.

Where do you live?

We live in Kalispell.

What do you do?

I'm the administrator for two physician groups in Kalispell. I volunteer on several boards; FCF is one of the boards I'm on. Some are non-profits, some are for profit companies.

What does the Flathead Community Foundation mean to you?

It's an opportunity for me to help make the Flathead more sustainable. I've been involved with non-profits here in town since I've been back. Just after I returned from Minneapolis I joined the United Way board. I was on that board for five years working directly with non-profits. FCF does something very similar except we are thinking more long-term instead of trying to fund those non-profits on a short-term basis every year. I think it's an opportunity to give back. I was raised that way and I think it's important in view of the gifts we're given, to help others. I'm grateful for everything we have in our lives, my wife and our kids; we live a pretty good life and I think there are a lot of people who could use a little help.

Why have you committed to serving on this board? What do you see as your special gift or contribution to the Foundation? To the community?

I have a finance background with certifications in financing, so being a CPA, I bring that specifically to the board. I'm the treasurer for the Flathead Community Foundation. I have a leadership position here at the hospital and I've been in leadership positions elsewhere where I've worked, so I bring leadership and with that I think goes strategy.

What do you see as the Foundation's role in the community?

I see us as being strong supporters of non-profits. We've done that in the past and will continue to do that. I personally think the Flathead gives us a

April 30

CASA for Kids

An evening with Oscar-winning producer Jerry Molen and the film Rain Man

Doors open at 6:30 pm and movie starts 7:00 pm.

\$25 per couple and \$15 per person

April 30 & May 1

Glacier Symphony & Chorale

American Cello Master, Ravel & Borodin

Flathead High School Performance Hall
7:30 pm (April 30) and 3:00 pm (May 1)

May 3

Give Local Flathead - It Takes a Valley!

Hosted by Flathead Community Foundation and Northwest Montana United Way

Please see feature story at the beginning of this newsletter.

If you have an Upcoming Event or news about your organization, please send it to the newsletter editor Mona Charles at mcharles@centurylink.net or call 261-9163.

FCF Staff & Board

Staff

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FLATHEAD
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

345 First Avenue East

Kalispell, MT 59901

406.756.9047

info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org

www.flatheadcommunityfoundation.org

Your donation to the Flathead Community Foundation supports our mission to ensure

very high quality of life. I've been interviewing here to fill several new positions we're going to have. Candidates sit in my office and look out at Big Mountain and are just shocked by the high quality of life we have here. I want to maintain that for everyone. I don't think everyone is as blessed as my family and I want to help those who are less fortunate. I think this is a great way to do that.

What do you see (or would you like to see) as the future of the Foundation?

I would like us to continue to develop partnerships with non-profits and other foundations, like the Whitefish Foundation and the Kalispell Regional Foundation. We all should be working together. We're all trying to do the right thing and good communication among us helps our donors. Financially I'd like to see the funds grow. I'd like to see more in the endowment so that we're supporting the general operations of the Foundation without having to ask for money for operations every year. That would be a huge win. We have to build the general endowment funds quite a bit more to get to that place-build it so it's sustainable.

What would you like the public to know about the Flathead Community Foundation?

A few things come to mind. The passion and integrity of the board members. I think it is a very strong board and I enjoy going to our meetings because I enjoy the people on the board. I think there are challenges in our community and there are some very bright and talented people on the board to address those challenges. Not just the board, our staff Lucy Smith and Lisa Schnee, are very, very talented and we would not be where we are without those two. Their commitment and passion for this Valley surpasses the board. We are very lucky to have them and I love working with them. The other thing is the support-not just the financial support we give to non-profits, but also the back office support we give to non-profits. A great example is the Kalispell Boulder Project. I was at a meeting a couple of weeks ago and Jandy Cox spoke about how important the Foundation was to help get him off the ground and give him confidence to move forward in his project, which is going to be really cool here in the Valley for kids to have a climbing wall in Lawrence Park. He had a vision and he was almost tearing up talking about how important the Foundation was to him, helping execute that vision.

Thank you Ty for your dedication to the Flathead Community Foundation!

Fund of the Month **Sunburst Community Service Foundation**

Since its creation by a small group of community members in Eureka in 1995, the Sunburst Community Service Foundation has grown to provide mental health, family concepts, and arts and education services in five communities throughout western Montana.



"Human services, which include mental health and family concepts, are the largest part of what we do," said Rita Collins, Director of Arts and Education.

Services are open to anyone in need, regardless of income. "We certainly serve a large number of low income people, but we also take private insurance, people can pay for the services, and we accept Medicaid and Medicare," Collins stressed. "There are

the good of the Flathead forever, by strengthening local nonprofits and connecting generous donors with the causes they care about most. Make a difference.

Current Funds at the FCF:

- Abbie Shelter Endowment
- CASA for Kids Endowment
- Care Farm Challenge
- Center for Restorative Youth Justice Endowment
- Child Bridge Endowment
- Crown of the Continent Community Choir
- Flathead Community Foundation Endowment
- Flathead Food Bank Endowment
- Glacier Symphony & Chorale Endowment
- Foys-Herron Park Endowment
- Hockaday Museum of Art Endowment
- Humane Society of NW Montana Endowment
- Kalispell Boulder Project
- Kalispell Golf Association
- Lighthouse Christian Home
- NpDP Endowment
- NW MT Forest Fire Lookout Endowment
- Paws to Play Dog Park Project
- Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center
- Sunburst Community Foundation Endowment
- Women Who Wine of the Flathead (Giving Circle)

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aspects of what we do to reach out to support low income people, especially those with mental illness, but our mental health services are not limited to people with low incomes."

Mental health services are available in Kalispell, St. Ignatius, Polson, Eureka, and Libby. Kalispell is the largest site and Eureka is the smallest. Approximately 1,000 people a year are served by these offices, with more than 600 of those in Kalispell.

The Kalispell site has a drop-in center which assists people who need help finding housing, getting food stamps or navigating the process to get medical insurance.

Family concepts helps families referred to Sunburst either through the court or child protective services. "There's something that brings those families into our services and, again, some of those are low income and some of them are just people who, for whatever reason, have had their children removed from the home," Collins said. "We work for reunification doing supervised visitations so that the birth parents have time to spend with their children. We also do parent education."

Arts, Education and Community Outreach

Sunburst Community Service Foundation often brings in professional performers for many of its arts and education programs, including the annual winter concert series and musical guests at the Farmers Market.

"We do outreach to the schools. We'll take professional musicians and artists into the schools to do workshops or residencies," Collins said, adding, "We try really hard to make sure it's not just the larger schools, so we also work with Trego and Fortine schools. We look for schools that may not be able to bring in artists and musicians on their own, and we work to get funding through grants and donations to make that happen."

Concert prices are kept "incredibly reasonable" at just \$12 a ticket for adults. Anyone 18 years old and younger attends for free "because we really want to encourage them to attend. Charging only for adult tickets and letting everybody else in free helps families think about going to a concert as something to do."

The Valinor Quartet, which performed in February, reached about 100 children in programs at Trego and Fortine schools and drew an audience of 200 people to its evening concert.

Sunburst presents Shakespeare in the Park and Missoula Children's Theatre free to the Eureka community. About 300 people attend the Shakespeare in the Park performance and Missoula Children's Theatre brings in 300-400 at each of its two shows.

"The thing that surprises me most," Collins said, "is that we are a small town, but when we hold auditions for Missoula Children's Theatre, 100 kids will show up for the auditions. It amazes me how many kids come out for that, knowing they will have to commit to being at rehearsal every night for the entire week and the show on Saturday. It is truly amazing what those people are doing."

A community soup dinner which serves about 120 people is held in Eureka one night every three months.

"We do a lot of things to enhance the community and we do things that serve local people," Collins emphasized.

You make the difference. We make it happen.