

## Generous Legacy - August 2016 Newsletter

### Greetings!

We hope you are enjoying the summer season in the valley! Thank you for your support of the Flathead Community Foundation.

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### Giving For Ever

By Lucy Smith, Flathead Community Foundation



An oft-quoted Talmudic story tells of a traveler who once saw an old man planting a carob tree. He asked the man when he thought the tree would bear fruit.

"After seventy years" was the reply.

"And do you expect to live seventy years and eat the fruit of your labor?"

"I did not find the world desolate when I entered it," said the old man, "and as my ancestors planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me."

We lead such busy lives, it seems we hardly have time to keep up with the day, let alone pause to reflect upon our legacy - the gifts we will leave to those who come after us. And after our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

But if more of us would take that time and make a plan, our gifts of any size could dramatically change the world. Imagine how many families the old man's carob tree shaded and nourished for generations? How many people one man's simple gift helped long after his lifetime?

Americans give generously in the present tense. Statistics have remained fairly consistent for more than a decade, showing that roughly 80% of us contribute to nonprofit organizations of our choice throughout our lifetimes while only 8-9% of us leave a charitable bequest. What would the world look like if 80% of us planned and

gave charitably in the future tense?

Local community foundations and nonprofit organizations have been asking the question for years, and seeking to make planned giving as simple and rewarding as it is to give in real-time.

It is interesting to note that "thinking too hard" is cited as one of the biggest obstacles to making a charitable plan. What if your favorite nonprofit closes its doors or goes in a different direction than you intended to support?

One simple solution is to leave your bequest to a charitable fund at your local community foundation. Robert Thalheimer of the Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia explains in Bobby's Blog (paraphrased)

*There are many ways to leave your legacy, including bequests to nonprofits you have supported during your lifetime. I think, however, there is a strong argument to leave your bequest to a charitable fund at a community foundation and to give some flexibility to the community foundation's board.*

*Your fund at the community foundation can designate a percentage of spendable income to go to the charitable organizations you have supported during your lifetime. This is an effective way to maintain commitment to these charities. Community foundations are in the business of managing endowments,*

*which will provide a growing stream of income through time. Beyond these commitments, your fund at the community foundation can support other charitable organizations that serve the broad fields of interest that you want to support.*

Why leave discretion to the community foundation's board? It's simple. What if your grandparents had left you a foundation and required you to give only to the charities that were around in the 1930's? Your favorite museum, park, orchestra, shelter for women, homeless shelter, food bank and humane society probably didn't exist back then. Do you think if they were alive today they would have been supporting some of the charitable organizations that you feel strongly about?

It's the same principal when you consider your own bequest. After providing for those specific charities to which you feel a commitment, it's a good idea to give someone else the authority to make judgments -- just as you do -- within parameters that you set.

Why choose a community foundation board to make these decisions for you? While your children or grandchildren can serve in this capacity during their lifetimes, your descendants beyond then are not likely to know your charitable vision. A community foundation by definition has a board of leaders who are of your community and who are broadly representative of community interests. They know the community's needs. Their actions are audited and transparent. They have the fiduciary responsibility to adhere to your fund letter for all time, thus ensuring that your legacy performs in the manner you would hope and expect.

Montana is home to more than 70 local community foundations, each one dedicated to the permanent good of the hometown they serve - its values, vision, dreams and greatest needs.

You serve your community today by your participation as a caring citizen, neighbor, leader, and friend - and by your generous support of the causes that matter most to you.

With a simple plan, you can continue your service forever. Like the carob tree, providing for generations you will never meet, long into the future.

## Upcoming Events

Many of our funds at Flathead Community Foundation have wonderful events throughout the year that help build awareness and raise funds.

Here are a few upcoming events....

### [Child Bridge](#)

Benghazi Memorial Event & Dinner  
September 11

### [Glacier Symphony & Chorale](#)

Festival Amadeus  
August 8-14  
The Very Best of John Denver  
September 17 & 18

### [Hockaday Museum of Art](#)

A Premier Art & Event Sale  
August 13

### [Lighthouse Christian Home](#)

Annual Harvest Festival  
September 17

### [Paws to Play](#)

Pool Party for the Dogs  
August 21  
Doggie Dayz Family Event  
September 17

## What is a Community Foundation?

A community foundation is a charitable organization created by and for a community of people. It is supported by local donors and governed by a board of private citizens who work toward the greater good of the citizens in the community. Funds come from a variety of sources, including bequests and living trusts, and are invested in perpetuity. The investment earnings are then distributed to worthy organizations or causes.

### The World's First Community Foundation

Banker and lawyer Frederick H. Goff hatched the idea of a "community trust." His vision was to pool the charitable resources of Cleveland's philanthropists, living and dead, into a single, great, and permanent endowment for the betterment of the city. Community leaders would then forever distribute the interest that the trust's resources would accrue to fund "such charitable purposes as will best make for the mental, moral, and physical improvement of the inhabitants of Cleveland."

The Cleveland Foundation was born on Jan. 2, 1914. Within weeks, the foundation began reshaping the way community members care for one another not just in Greater Cleveland, but around the nation and the world. Within five years, community foundations had sprung up in Chicago, Boston, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Buffalo, N.Y.

Now, more than 750 community foundations in the United States collectively manage more than \$48 billion in assets and distribute some \$4.3 billion a year to community needs. Moreover, the idea has emigrated: Some 1,700 community foundations now exist worldwide. Since its inception in 1914, Cleveland Community Foundation has distributed grants totaling \$1,882,101,959 and touched millions of lives.

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[Sunburst Community Foundation](#)  
Eureka Farmers Market  
Every Wednesday in August

[Women Who Wine Flathead](#)

Kalispell - Monthly Meeting  
1st Tuesday of the Month  
Bigfork - Monthly Meeting  
3rd Tuesday of the Month  
Annual Banquet - October 4

If you have an upcoming event, please email to [info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org).

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## FCF Staff & Board

### Staff

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[Lisa Schnee](#), Director of Operations

### Board of Directors

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

## Fund of the Month Glacier Symphony & Chorale

Glacier Symphony and Chorale (GSC) is heating up summer in the Flathead Valley with Festival Amadeus this week!



Festival Amadeus, which runs August 8-14 with venues in Whitefish and Bigfork, centers on the music of Mozart and other classical era composers. Festival performances feature either a chamber or orchestra concert, with guest artists. Guest artists generally perform in both a chamber concert and as a soloist with the Festival Amadeus orchestra. The Festival Amadeus Orchestra is a classical chamber orchestra comprised of select musicians from the Glacier Symphony with invited musicians from Montana and the northwest.

The Festival also offers special educational events and receptions.

In its 9th year, Festival Amadeus expanded to include a three-concert series in Bigfork two years ago on the suggestion of Maestro John Zoltek.

Satterlee stated, "People are busy in the summer with visitors, outdoor activities, yard work and gardening. We felt that it would be smart to bring concerts to the southern part of the Flathead Valley during Festival Amadeus. Bigfork has always been a strong supporter of the Glacier Symphony and is deserving of a concert Series during the summer associated with Festival Amadeus."

Although it is difficult to determine exact numbers, "there are certainly people that come to Whitefish each summer just to attend Festival Amadeus, the only week long classical music festival in Montana. We also get many calls during the winter from people who are coming to visit family or planning a trip already and want to make sure they do it when Festival Amadeus is in session," Satterlee said.

### 2016-2017 Season Continues

The GSC continues its 2016-2017 regular season's "Cosmic Vibrations" theme with five Masterwork Concerts scheduled through February, two 'Popular Singles' concerts and, new this season, an Easter Festival.

Masterwork Concerts include "The Planet and Prokofiev" featuring Ilya Yakushev on piano in October, "Flights of Imagination" with the Glacier Chorale in November, "Cosmic Windows" featuring Giora Schmidt on violin in November, "Holiday Pops" in December and "Star Wars, Dark Matter and Dvorak" in February featuring Ben Kirby on tuba.

September brings Symphony Pops with Mike Eldred singing "The Very Best of John Denver." The popular and 'sacred' holiday tradition "Messiah" with the Glacier Chorale and Messiah Orchestra is set for December.

The premiere Easter Festival offers three distinct concerts in April: "Solo Piano" with Ketevan Kartvelishveli, "Eternal Light" with the symphony and chorale performing works by Maestro John Zoltek, Brahms and Lauridsen, and "Choral Fantasy Finale" with Ketevan Kartvelishvili.

### GSC Roots in 1970s

The Glacier Symphony and Chorale's roots are in the 1970's when

- 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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the Performing Arts Council was formed from a core of music lovers in the Flathead. The Council sponsored recitals and summer concerts in the Valley and later formed The Hockaday Chamber Orchestra, which performed a series of concerts.

The musicians coalesced in June, 1981 when Rebecca duBois brought a small group of musicians together to play for her wedding. The group continued to rehearse and perform together as the Flathead Valley Chamber Orchestra and Chorale. By 1982, the group had expanded to the size that larger works could be performed. The first was Faure's Requiem.

To reflect the expanding geographical diversity of the musicians, a few years later the name of the group was changed to The Glacier Orchestra and Chorale. Its substantial growth and artistic quality fueled the evolution of the name change to the Glacier Symphony and Chorale in July 2003.

Maestro John Zoltek was selected as the GSC's first full-time Music Director in 1997.

You make the difference. We make it happen.