

Generous Legacy - February 2016 Newsletter

Greetings!

Hello! We hope your new year is off to a wonderful start! Thank you for your support of the Flathead Community Foundation.

LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY? MAKE IT PART OF YOUR LEGACY.

February, the month of love, is a fitting time to think about your community and what it means to you. Including your "hometown" in your will or estate plan is a powerful way to express your gratitude - forever! And as you will read in this article, the time to do that is now.

Five years ago, the Montana Community Foundation released results of its 2011 Transfer of Wealth Update. The 2011 Study updated the county-by-county analysis originally conducted in 2006.

Results of the 2011 Study indicate that over the next 50 years, **\$123 billion will transfer** from one generation to the next in Montana. If 5% of that \$123 billion were captured in permanent endowments to benefit Montana nonprofits, schools and communities, our state would have a **collective endowment worth \$6.1 billion**. That \$6.1 billion endowment could generate **\$307 million per year to Montana's charitable institutions** using a standard 5% payout assumption.



Many of the children who will inherit that \$123 billion over the next 50 years no longer live in our state. Montana's rural counties are experiencing their peak years of wealth transfer during this decade due to outmigration. Our state has a rapidly aging population. By 2030, 15-25% of Montana's population will be 65 or older, placing Montana among the top five states with the most elderly populations. The aging population is driving the transfer of wealth opportunity and the urgency to begin preserving wealth now.

There has never been a wealth transfer this large in all of human history. Montana's unique circumstances - children moving out of state and a rapidly aging population - makes capturing some of this wealth transfer absolutely critical if our communities are to remain places where people want to live, work and raise children.

Bringing it home and focusing on just this decade, the Transfer of Wealth study projection for Flathead County shows a 10-year transfer of more than \$1 billion!

Flathead County 2010-2020 transfer: \$1,123,838,859
If 5% endowed: \$56,191, 943
If 5% granted (per year): \$2,809,597

The Transfer of Wealth analysis provides a picture of the incredible opportunity for Montana communities, but taking advantage of the opportunity is up to each of us. Here are five things you can do to get started:

1. Think about what makes Montana special to you, and commit to give to your passion.
2. Call the Flathead Community Foundation to learn about leaving a legacy for Montana's future.
3. Create an estate plan, or adapt it to help a cause that is important to you.
4. Talk to others about the importance of remembering the community in their plans.

5. Give at least 5% to the causes that matter to you, now and for the future

February - the perfect month to remember why we live here, why we moved here, why we stayed here, and why we moved back. To honor those who built the communities that enrich our lives today. To plan the gift we will leave for the next generations. To be part of Montana's legacy.

Upcoming Events

February 4

Hockaday Museum of Art
Traveling Medicine Show Presentation
6:30 pm
Free to Members/\$5 Non-members

February 11

Hockaday Museum of Art
A Confluence of Cultures Presentation
6:30 pm
Free to Members/\$5 Non-members

February 13

The Abbie Shelter
1996-2016: 20 Years of Vagina
Monologues!
KM Theatre, Kalispell
Free - [See Fund of the Month](#)

February 16

Women Who Wine, Bigfork
5:30 -7:00 pm
\$30 Donation plus 1 bottle of wine

February 19

Hockaday Museum of Art
A Jesuit Window into Western Montana
Life Presentation by Sally Thompson
Noon
People Before the Park Book Signing
with Sally Thompson and Members of
the Blackfeet and Kootenai Tribes
6:30 pm
Free

February 20 & 21

Glacier Symphony & Chorale
Rach 1 & Gaelic Symphony
Flathead High School Performance Hall
7:30 pm and 3:00 pm

February 25

Hockaday Museum of Art
Lines of All Kinds Reception
5:00 - 7:00 pm

February 29

Crown of the Continent Choir and A Plus
Health Care/ Lifeside Farm Program
- Leap Out of the Doldrums Community
Sing Along
7:00 - 8:00 pm
FVCC Arts and Technology Building
Free

FCF Board Member Spotlight Melinda Morton



How long have you lived in the Flathead?

A little over 4 years, but have been coming here to visit family for 10 years before moving here. We fell in love with it and decided to move. We were in Northern California-the wine country. (Melinda moved to the Flathead Valley with her husband and two step sons. She has two grown girls who now reside in San Francisco and Los Angeles.)

Where do you live?

In Kalispell, up near Bibler Gardens

What do you do?

I am a Licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty NW MT. I also manage our Vacation Rental at the Meadow Lake Golf Resort in Columbia Falls. I am also starting a new business with the Broker Owner of Keller Williams called Flathead Home Services, it is a referral based business for homeowners to find trusted, pre-screened home service providers anywhere from handyman services to window washing to remodels etc. The business launched in January 2016. (Prior to her Real Estate career she was a manager for more than 10 years for a major grocery chain in Northern California.)

What does the Flathead Community Foundation mean to you?

To me it's about community, bringing the community together along with other non-profits to make the Flathead Valley a better place for future generations.

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 serve on the board because I want to be a part of growing this community. I currently serve on the board as secretary and I actively participate in bringing awareness to the community as to who we are as a foundation and how we can help our community benefit from those who donate. Dragonboats and Give Local are two examples of the ways we are bringing awareness. Also we are providing information to the community about how individuals can benefit from donating.

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

To hold and grow funds from donors and bridge those funds with the non-profits in the community in order to give to our community.

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

I see that we are growing and the community is more aware of us than ever. I would love to see us continue to grow as a strong community foundation that is known as the number one go-to for donors and non-profits to use as a tool to help them manage their funds and grants to the community.

What would you like the public to know about the Flathead

March 1

Women Who Wine, Kalispell
5:30 - 7:00 pm
\$30 donation plus 1 bottle of wine

March 6

"Groovin' on a Sunday Afternoon" with
Andre Floyd - See Below

Coming Soon

CASA 101 Training to become a CASA
Advocate - Visit the website at
www.flatheadcasa.org or call 755-7208

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.



Join us this Sunday, March 6th for the
final Groovin' on a Sunday Afternoon of
the season benefiting Child Bridge.

Featuring Andre Floyd

Tickets \$10 in Advance - at Electric
Avenue Gifts or Great Northern Gourmet
in Bigfork or purchase online at
www.bigforkcenter.org.

What's Groovin' on a Sunday Afternoon?

- * An intimate musical experience with the valley's best musicians at the beautiful lobby at the Bigfork Center.
- * Socialize with friends and listen to great music, only 100 tickets per event.
- * Food & Beverage are available for purchase during event.
- * Support non-profit beneficiary that receives a percentage of proceeds at each show.

Groovin' Partners for ALL Shows: 406
Woman Magazine; Bigfork Center for the
Performing Arts; Flathead Community
Foundation; and Northwest Artist
Syndicate

Community Foundation?

That we are an organization that truly cares about our community by helping other non-profits grow. If you have a philanthropic heart and do not know where to give, FCF can show you how you can give to your community and how you can benefit by giving through the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.

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

Fund of the Month *The Abbie Shelter*

The Abbie Shelter is the primary service provider for victims of domestic and sexual violence in the Flathead Valley. Programs and services include the 24-hour Violence Free Crisis Line, the Abbie emergency shelter, court advocacy, therapeutic services, and community education.



The Violence Free Crisis Line receives 1,200 calls per year," Hilary Shaw, Executive Director said. "After the hotline, court advocacy is our biggest serving program with about 120 women. We serve 500 victims of crime every year through all of our services and the shelter serves about 100 women and kids."

The organization began in 1976 with the 24-hour hotline. The Abbie Shelter, named for Flathead Valley peace activist Abigail Fredericks, opened in 1994. The shelter is a "confidentially located supportive residential service for people fleeing or in hiding from an abusive partner," per Shaw.

Since becoming Executive Director four years ago, Shaw has made notable changes in the organization's philosophy, physical appearance and staffing structure.

"The philosophy and practices of trauma informed care are the backbone of our work. Trauma informed care is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma."

Shaw said many policies were changed recognizing that people who have experienced major trauma need completely different services than the rest of the population. "For example we used to have women sign in and out of the shelter so we would know where they were in case of emergency. We realized that was like keeping track of women's whereabouts as their abusers used to do and that's not appropriate. We developed other ways to help women stay safe without keeping tabs on them. We gave them more control over that process of their own safety planning, rather than supervising it for them. We don't protect women, we teach them how to protect themselves," Shaw stressed.

Free individual counseling has been added to services offered, and "That has really exploded. It's such an important service," Shaw said. "Victims of trauma really need an opportunity to process that trauma in a therapeutic atmosphere and the fact that we're offering that service for free is amazing."

Abbie Shelter has made a significant investment in staff, and seen turnover drop from "every couple of months" to a core staff of four who have been with the shelter more than two years.

Staff receives additional training to help expand services offered

FCF Staff & Board

Staff

[Lucy Smith](#), Executive Director
[Lisa Schnee](#), Director of Operations

Board of Directors

Mike Smith, President
Gina Benesh, Vice President
Ty Weber, Treasurer
Melinda Morton, Secretary
Marc Lorenzen
Jeffrey Lewis
Heidi Escalante
Jim Rafferty
Clint Ekern



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FOUNDATION

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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
- Child Bridge Endowment
- Crown of the Continent Community Choir
- Flathead Community Foundation Endowment
- Flathead Food Bank Endowment
- Glacier Symphony & Chorale Endowment
- Foy-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)

to clients, such as safety planning.

"We've made pretty drastic changes to our employee policies to make our organization more employee friendly, more family friendly. We've acknowledged the strain that working with survivors of trauma places on staff and we've made some policy changes that really accommodate that. For example, we have a self-care policy where every staff member gets two free hours per week. We work 38 hours a week, get paid for 40 and can do whatever we want with those 2 hours." Abbie Shelter was also one of the first non-profits to provide health benefits prior to the Affordable Care Act, Shaw said.

The physical appearance of the shelter facility has evolved greatly. "You almost wouldn't recognize it since I began," Shaw said. "We have new siding, renovated three out of five bedrooms, and added a new furnace, two new water heaters, one new bathtub, two new toilets, two new refrigerators and three new stoves."

Shaw said "violence and controlling behavior toward your partner doesn't really change that much. It certainly has not decreased, which is sad. But one thing I have seen in the field is embracing trauma informed care and changing the philosophy to be more trauma informed."

"The Kalispell Police Department (KPD) is amazing with response to domestic violence. One KPD detective handles all domestic violence cases and they collaborate with us the most. I have seen a decrease in the number of victims falling through the cracks and an increase in victims receiving a coordinated response. The KPD puts a lot of effort in collaborating with our agency and provides much more comprehensive care for victims."

How can people help?

"A financial contribution always goes the farthest, even just a little bit because the most important work we do is safety planning, research referral and relationship building with our staff. Paying for staff is the most important thing people can do to help our organization," Shaw stressed. "Without them nothing would happen. It's great to give shampoo and conditioner, but without our services there's no forward change. Our wish list is available on our website (www.abbieshelter.org)."

"What people can do to help the most is to help create a world without domestic violence, to not tolerate violence in your family, to interrupt violence when you see it in the world and to reach out to people you suspect are suffering and tell them that you see them and tell them that support is available for them."

Upcoming Events

In honor of the 20th anniversary of The Vagina Monologues, The Abbie Shelter is offering one performance of the play February 13 in the KM Theatre. The performance is free "to honor 20 years of the movement to end violence against women and girls."

"The Abbie Shelter is going back to the roots of the play and the roots of its history here in the Flathead Valley," Shaw explained. The play will be performed in its original format, no more than 90 minutes of monologues, no intermission, no bells and whistles. Just pure and original monologues.

2016 is the Abbie Shelter's 40th anniversary and a major event is in the works for later this year!

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You make the difference. We make it happen.