

FLATHEAD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Generous Legacy - March 2016 Newsletter

Greetings!

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

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS - THE FOUNDATION OF COMMUNITY

All across Montana, the United States, and around the world, local community foundations are working with friends and neighbors to address unique needs and opportunities in their own back yards. The story of community foundations began 100 years ago when the former mayor of Cleveland left a gift for his beloved city - a permanent endowment to be invested, grown and its income disbursed by dedicated community representatives for the good of Cleveland, forever.



The Flathead Community Foundation (FCF) was established 10 years ago by and for people who live here, as a tax-exempt public charity with IRS 501(c)(3) status. There are more than seventy local community foundations in Montana, each serving a specific region and its particular concerns.

A hallmark of community foundations is the ability to align a donor's interest with community need. Knowing that a donor is passionate about the environment, health care, education, animal welfare, or the arts allows foundation staff to be on the lookout for granting opportunities.

Charitable donations are vital financial gifts, and even greater than money. They are the hopes and dreams of those who care about their communities - gifts from the heart given to make an important impact. Grants from donor-advised and community funds directly impact people who live here, by supporting the work of local not-for-profit agencies, community organizations, and special projects led by committed citizens. Community foundations are dedicated stewards of the intent that donors communicate, a resource to help align a donor's interest with community need.

Why give through a community foundation? Your local foundation can help you organize and maximize the effectiveness of your charitable giving. A fund with a community foundation offers flexibility, access to the expertise of community foundation staff and relieves you of the administrative burden of receiving funding requests and making donations. It also saves significant cost and time compared with setting up and managing your own charitable foundation. Other services provided by local community foundations:

- Grant making due diligence
- Tax reporting and accounting
- Building endowments to ensure that funds are always available to support our community
- Ensuring that donors benefit from the highest available tax deductions and tax credits
- Accepting a variety of assets and facilitate complicated giving strategies

- Fostering greater giving and volunteering in our communities
- Serving as leaders with strong ties to their communities
- Convening diverse voices and groups to discuss and address local issues
- Ensuring that future generations learn the value of giving back by enabling individuals or families to establish a named fund creating a family legacy
- Pooling the assets of individual funds, giving us economies of scale to work with top investment managers
- Offering permanent recognition (or anonymity) for donors via named funds

Becoming involved with your local community foundation makes you an influential partner in the creation and direction of philanthropy right here at home. Community foundations are excellent vehicles for mobilizing the power of giving together, leveraging small and large gifts for greatest impact.

Case in point, the Flathead Valley's first Women's Giving Circle, known as Women Who Wine of the Flathead (WWWF). In 2013, the Flathead Community Foundation (FCF) sponsored three young business women's dream to create opportunities for women of all ages and backgrounds to meet for social and professional networking, all the while raising money for local nonprofits. Their bold vision took root quickly and flourished. WWWF and FCF disbursed \$12,000 in charitable grants at their first Giving Banquet, \$24,000 the second year, raised \$25,000 for the Flathead Endowment, and grew membership from a few dozen to a few hundred women!

Another demonstration of the good that happens when donors come together for a common charitable goal is the Kalispell Boulder Project - a Flathead Community Foundation volunteer effort to build a bouldering park near downtown Kalispell. Project volunteers met an audacious \$100,000 fundraising goal in just over one year by rallying the support of outdoor enthusiasts, families in search of new recreation options, philanthropic community members and organizations, and businesses interested in enhancing local attractions. Groundbreaking is anticipated in April 2016.

The Flathead Valley and all of Montana is abundantly beautiful, spacious, the keeper of many bright dreams for the future, and home to many who need our generosity. With gratitude for all that we have accomplished giving together as friends and neighbors, let us imagine and realize an even greater tomorrow - partnering in generosity for the good of our communities, forever.

Thanks to 406 Woman magazine for sharing this story in the current Feb/March 2016 story.

Give Local Flathead



On May 3rd, Give Local Flathead will be making history in a powerful 24-hour online celebration of giving that connects the good people of the Flathead Valley with causes they care about most right here at home.

Last year, Give Local Flathead raised 75,000 for 60 local nonprofits in just 24-hours! With your help, we will reach this year's goal to raise \$200,000 for 100 community nonprofits.

Give Local Flathead is designed to engage first-time donors and donors under 40, while raising the profile of charitable giving in the Flathead Valley. It is an opportunity for nonprofits to raise public awareness and inspire new donors, and for people in the Flathead Valley to come together in support of the organizations that keep our Valley safe,

FCF Board Member Spotlight Jeff Lewis



As one of the founders, could you please explain the impetus for creating the Flathead Community Foundation?

Alan Satterlee, Executive Director of Glacier Symphony and Chorale has a broad foundation in non-profits here in the valley. In 2005, he said he felt the need for a valley-wide community foundation. Something for the entire valley. Community foundations existed

for specific communities, like the Whitefish Community Foundation, but nothing for the entire valley. He saw a need for a foundation to serve the larger Flathead Valley area and the non-profits operating in the valley.

Who else was involved in the creation?

Those I remember in addition to Alan are Nancy Davis, Andrea Goff, Fred Kellogg, Sue Roling, Lex Blood, Joe Unterreiner - and there were several others on the original steering committee. They were the people who really drove the creation of the Foundation by contributing their expertise, their energy and their donations.

Does the Foundation look and function like you anticipated and hoped it would?

It does now. There were bumps along the way, but the Foundation is

healthy and thriving.

Community Partner Sponsorship Opportunities are available - please help us support our community! Please call 406-756-9047 or email Lucy@flatheadcommunityfoundaiton.org for more information.

Qualified 501c3 nonprofit organizations with offices in the Flathead Valley may register to participate in Give Local Flathead 2016 at www.givelocalflathead.org through Friday, April 8.

Upcoming Events

Hockaday Museum of Art

March 5, 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Paper Marbling Workshop with Dr. Erin Tapley, \$40
March 15, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Book signing & reading with local author Kelly Potter and 10-year old illustrator Ava Hall, Free

Child Bridge

"Groovin' on a Sunday Afternoon"
featuring Andre Floyd
March 6, doors open at 2:00 pm
\$10 tickets in advance with each ticket benefiting Child Bridge

Glacier Symphony & Chorale with Guests Artists from Alpine Theatre Project

Sweeney Todd at the Whitefish Performing Arts Center
March 11 & 12, 7:30 pm
March 13, 3:00 pm

Women Who Wine Bigfork

March 15, 5:30 -7:00 pm
\$30 Donation

Women Who Wine, Kalispell

April 5, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
\$30 donation

Coming Soon!

Give Local Flathead - It Takes a Valley

Hosted by Flathead Community Foundation and Northwest Montana United Way
May 3, see details above

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.

new operating as it was intended. The greatest challenge was educating the public about what the foundation is and what it can do, that it doesn't compete with existing charities, that it can be used to enhance the charities in their respective areas of the valley.

How has it evolved since the creation?

At the outset the all-volunteer steering committee segued into an all-volunteer board. Now in addition to the volunteer board, there are two part-time employees who handle the day-to-day operations and spearhead the fundraising efforts. Also, in the beginning the Foundation was able to make small grants to local charities, but now we are able to make a larger number of grants with some ones significant in size.

How would you like to see it evolve in the future?

Well, in addition to growing in size, to support more and larger grants for local charities, it would be great to get our endowment to the size where the foundation is self-perpetuating. The benefit is that the principal remains with the foundation in perpetuity with the income going to support foundation grants.

What is happening to grow the endowment?

A lot of it is public education. Many people don't know what an endowment is. We are showing people how they can make donations now and as part of their estate plan. A lot of public education is word of mouth and one-on-one. This year we are hosting small parties for friends and acquaintances of board members, in the hope it leads to their participation in the Foundation as volunteers or as donors.

Would you like to say something about Give Local, which will be held May 3rd?

I think it's a great opportunity for both donors and charities in the valley to try to raise funds for charities they have a particular interest in.

How long have you lived in the Flathead?

My wife and I have been spending summers here for 27 years and we bought a place in Lakeside about 18 years ago. My wife has been full-time here for about 15 years and I've been here as much as possible when I wasn't traveling for work. I was an estate and trust attorney both in California and Montana until I retired last year.

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

Fund of the Month *The Flathead Food Bank*

The Flathead Food Bank Helps Feed Families, Children and Seniors

The Flathead Food Bank is a non-profit community organization that provides temporary, emergency food assistance to those in need. It is a final safety net for people with urgent needs who fall outside the guidelines of other social service agencies.



"Our average customer makes \$15,000 or less per family, and 59% of our households are headed by single females," Executive Director Lori Botkin said. "A lot of our customers work one or more jobs just to try to keep up with their monthly bills."

Many customers are disabled and seniors comprise 18% of customers, Bodkin said, adding "the average senior makes \$630 a month, which is disgusting in my book."

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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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)

The Flathead Food Bank last year distributed a total of 1,506,368 pounds of food, averaging about 20 pounds of food per person. That provided 21,269 boxes of food to 8,160 individual customers, comprised of 3,633 households, according to Botkin.

The number of customers has been fairly flat over the last two years, but the number of senior customers has increased from 8-18%, while the children population, not including the Backpack Program, decreased from 39% to 30%.

The Board of Directors, staff members and volunteers are committed to consistently serve high quality nutritious foods while maintaining the dignity of all food recipients. Pantries are created to provide customers a similar experience to a grocery store where they shop and choose the items they would like. Pantries are stocked with nonperishable goods, meat, produce, dairy, bread, and more. When available, hygiene products, pet food, baby formula, and diapers are distributed.

There are Food Bank distribution pantries in Kalispell, Coram, Hungry Horse, Martin City, Kila, Marion, and Evergreen. The pantries distribute a three day supply of food free of charge. To be eligible, a family's income must fall within 150% of the poverty level or less.

Customers are allowed 12 visits a year in Kalispell, and 24 visits a year at satellite pantries, due to the limited resources available at those locations.

Special Programs for Seniors and Kids

In addition to the pantries, the organization also offers Senior Commodities and Backpacks for Kids.

Senior Commodities is a special delivery program for people 60 years or older with a monthly income that is 135% of the poverty level or less. In 2015, The Flathead Food Bank and its volunteers delivered 8,500 bags of food to 708 seniors once a month throughout the year.

The Backpack For Kids Program operates in schools during the school year. The program sends bags of food home with children on Fridays to help them get food during the weekend. The bags consist of nutritious food that children as young as 5 can prepare themselves. Last year 463 children in 18 schools were in the Backpack Program.

Cash Donations Down

Special Fundraiser Planned for April

Botkin said 2015 is the first time cash donations were down drastically. She doesn't know the reason, but said the drop was almost entirely in private individual donations. About 70% of cash donations come in November and December, but summer months "are horrible for us, so we're always looking to have a fundraiser about that time."

This April, the Flathead Food Bank is kicking off a brand new fundraiser called Disconnect to Reconnect. Participants will have a pledge sheet where they pledge to turn all their electronics off from 5:00 pm Friday to 5:00 pm Sunday. They will then get pledges from their friends on whether they can do it or not.

"We're super excited about that and would love people to call Bob at 752-3663 if they have any questions about it," Botkin said.

When asked what she would like FCF members to know, Botkin stressed, "We always need help! We always need more

[Donate](#)



volunteers and we're such a happy, great place that everybody should come and volunteer for us."



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