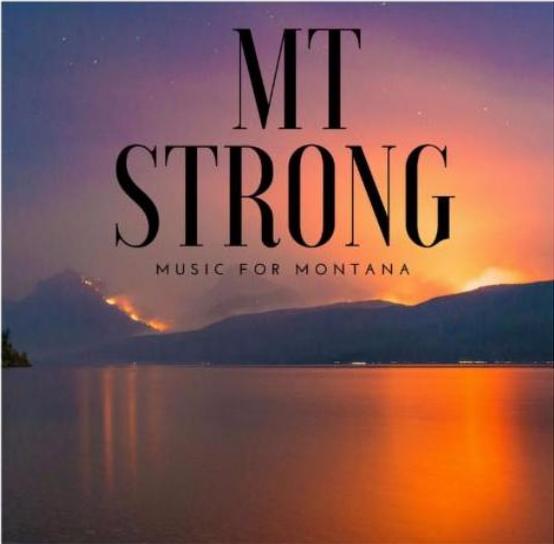


FLATHEAD  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

Generous Legacy - October 2017 Newsletter  
*You Make the Difference. We Make it Happen.*

From Judy's Desk...



Please help support the Montana Wildfire Relief Fund by donating \$20 or more and receive some terrific music from some very talented Montana recording artists including Tom Catmull, John Dunnigan, Jameson & the Sordid Seeds, Jael Johnson, Kate McLaughlin, Mike Murray, Nick Spear, and Krysten Winter.

100% of the sales and additional donations will go to the Montana Wildfire Relief Fund (a fund of the Montana Community Foundation) to help those affected by the 1000+ wildfires that have burned through Montana this year.

[Visit this link for more information and to get your MT Strong CD today.](#)

**Meet Board Member  
Margit Baake**



Flathead Community Foundation board member Margit Baake is a

**Nonprofit Development Partnership**

*The Flathead Nonprofit Development Partnership (NpDP) - a service of the Flathead Community Foundation - provides educational programs, information resources, and networking opportunities that support and strengthen nonprofit organizations in Northwest Montana.*



**NpDP EVENTS**

Brown Bag Lunch Education & Networking Series at the Museum at Central School

familiar face among Valley business leaders. Responsible for membership engagement, retention and recruitment, as well as advertising, at Kalispell's 735-business-strong Chamber of Commerce, Margit is committed to making her community welcoming and engaging for residents and visitors alike.

Some might view her dance card as full, but working for the largest business organization in Northwest Montana only seems to energize Margit. She volunteers at all major Flathead Valley events, including the Dragon Boat Festival, Spartan Race, and Whitefish Oktoberfest. To our benefit, this past spring she added Flathead Community Foundation board membership to her endeavors.

In addition to experience gained working at the Chamber, Margit brings a wealth of knowledge and helpful insight. While studying abroad, she earned a Master's degree in Political Science-International Relations, and led business seminars for companies throughout Germany.

Margit also stays busy enjoying the many recreational offerings of our Valley. With boyfriend Todd, she takes in concerts and enjoys road trips. She makes the most of every season, going skiing in the winter and swimming and playing tennis in the warmer months.

With her feet firmly rooted in the here and now, Margit continues to eye opportunities for future growth, hoping to further develop her role as a business mentor and deepen her impact within Flathead Valley's nonprofit community.

## **FCF Staff & Board**

### Staff

[Judy Sommers](#), Executive Director

[Mary Wallace](#), Administrative Assistant

### Board of Directors

October 12: "Financial Statement Fundamentals for Nonprofit Directors," with Jeremy Presta & Josh Kroll, Park Side Credit Union

November 9: "Rebuilding Trust," with Diana Damron, Author

For details visit:

[www.flatheadcommunityfoundation.org/npdp-events.html](http://www.flatheadcommunityfoundation.org/npdp-events.html)

## **NpDP JOB BOARD**

Send us your job postings

to [info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:info@flatheadcommunityfoundation.org).

## ***Giving Circle***

### **Women Who Wine of the Flathead**

WWWF, a Giving Circle and charitable fund of the Flathead Community Foundation, empowers women to engage in collective philanthropy. Members give their time, talents, and financial

resources to serve their community - and through monthly gatherings, educate themselves and others about local needs and services. New members are always welcome! Monthly meetings take place in Kalispell on the first Tuesday of the month. Bigfork meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month (not every month).

To learn more about WWWF, or to sign up for monthly announcements, [please visit our Women Who Wine Flathead web page.](#)

## **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

October 3 - WWWF - Kalispell

Hostess - Shawna Steele

Location - Desota Grill (227 1st St W, Kalispell)

Benefiting - V.E.T.S. Valor Equine Therapy Service, Inc.



Women Who Wine of the Flathead  
A Charitable Fund of the Flathead Community Foundation

Mike Smith, President  
Katy Croft, Vice President  
Clint Ekern, Treasurer  
Jim Rafferty, Secretary

Margit Baake  
Josh Boyce  
Brett Damaskos  
Heidi Escalante  
Krista Lammers  
Jeffrey Lewis  
Ed Myers  
Marcia Spano  
Ty Weber  
Crystal Wendt

## Contact Us



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**Mailing Address:**  
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Kalispell, MT 59903

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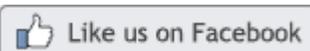
[www.flatheadcommunityfoundation.org](http://www.flatheadcommunityfoundation.org)

## Agency Funds at FCF

Abbie Shelter Endowment  
The Brews Brothers  
CASA for Kids Endowment  
Care Farm Challenge  
Center for Restorative Youth Justice  
Endowment  
Child Bridge Endowment  
Crown of the Continent Choir  
Flathead Basin Commission  
Flathead Community Foundation  
Endowment  
Flathead Food Bank Endowment  
Friends of Flathead Law Enforcement  
Foys-Herron Park Endowment  
Glacier Symphony & Chorale  
Endowment  
Hockaday Museum of Art Endowment  
Humane Society of NW MT  
Endowment  
Kalispell Boulder Project  
Kalispell Golf Association  
Lighthouse Christian Home



October 24 - WWWF - 4th Annual Giving Banquet  
Location - Red Lion Hotel (20 N Main, Kalispell)



**Please visit this link for information on becoming a sponsor or purchasing tickets for this wonderful event!**

## The Brews Brothers

Coming soon ~ the official launch of The Brews Brothers, a new fund of the Flathead Community Foundation. Inspired by WWWF, The Brews Brothers is a gathering of gentlemen concerned with furthering efforts to raise money and awareness about our local nonprofit community. Look for its launch in November 2017!



To learn more about The Brews Brothers or sign up for monthly announcements, [please visit our FCF Website Page.](#)

## Fund of the Month Paws to Play

Inspired by their own four-legged friends, a small group of Kalispell dog-lovers set to work on a big goal: establishing an off-leash dog park to serve the Flathead Valley's thousands of pet owners and their canine family members. This has proved to be a much larger undertaking than simply fencing in an open field.



In January of 2015, a handful of community members set out to "become the people our dogs think we are" by

Montana Alpine Race School  
NpDP Endowment  
Paws to Play Dog Park Project  
Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center  
Sunburst Community Foundation  
Endowment  
Women Who Wine of the Flathead

## Donate to FCF

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.



holding their first meeting in the basement of Imagine IF Library to introduce the idea of establishing a grassroots organization to bring an off-leash dog park to Kalispell.

Paws to Play was formally established and in February 2015, Flathead Community Foundation answered their call to partnership. "FCF has helped us connect with other groups and nonprofits, along with helping us showcase our mission to the community on a scale we could not do by ourselves," said Alison Megahan. She continues: "Being a project under FCF makes it easy for donors to find us, and allows them to be certain their money is going to a legitimate group."

The first year, Paws to Play focused on spreading the word about the mission of having an off-leash dog park. Since the plan has always been for the dog park to be a city park, the organization has been grateful to have Kalispell Parks and Recreation as a great partner from the start. The second year, Paws to Play focused on trying to find land - crossing off places on their own lists, receiving many, many leads from enthusiastic community members, and help from the Flathead Land Trust. Paws to Play eventually found a great location on city owned land that had been under-utilized park land.

In March 2017, the City Council unanimously agreed to turn 3.5 acres of Begg Park, which is located south of town near the Laker's ball fields, into Kalispell's first dog park. It was estimated to cost \$50,000 for fence installation and to address some irrigation issues at the park. Kalispell City Parks and Recreation allotted \$40,000 from their budget and Paws to Play committed to \$10,000.

Nearly three very busy and productive years have passed since the Paws to Play founders toyed with the idea of creating a off-leash dog park in Kalispell. Over this time, Paws to Play has had 25 community fundraisers and Phase one is complete due to these fundraisers and other donations and grants

The grand opening of the Begg Dog Park was held on September 17, 2017, and a very playful group of pets and their people joined Paws to Play, the Flathead Community Foundation, and Kalispell Parks & Recreation to celebrate.

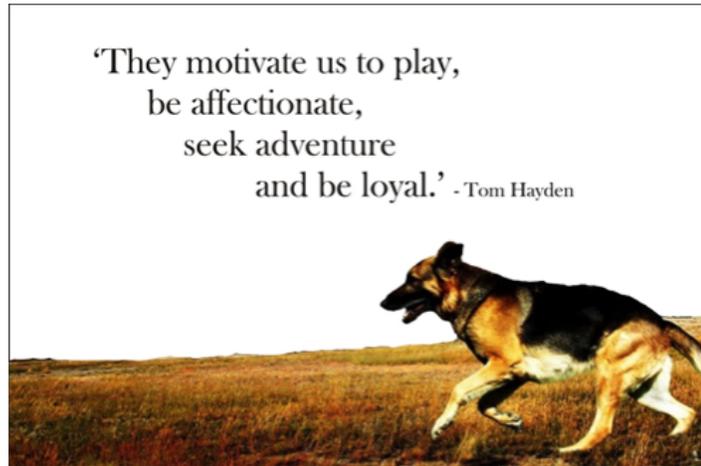
A ribbon cutting ceremony by Paws to Play, Kalispell Parks and Recreation, and a member of the Begg Family that originally donated the land in 1985, marked the occasion. Throughout the day, more than 100 dogs played together and ran free at the Begg Park location, with happy owners visiting and relaxing on benches.

There are currently six benches in the park, two of which are have been adopted through the "Adopt a Bench Program." (Anyone interested in adopting any of the remaining four benches should contact Paws to Play.)

Northwest Montana Association of Realtors presented Paws to Play with a grant of \$3,500 that will go toward

foot-bridges at the two entrances to the park. Paws to Play has also been selected as a 2017 Parkside Partner, so much gratitude goes to Parkside Credit Union for sponsoring poop bags for not only Begg Park, but also the rest of the city clean up stations.

Phase One is completed and the Begg Park is open, but there is still lots of work to be done. A great dog park is more than just a fence. Paws to Play already has plans for the next phase for the park, which includes ADA paved paths so that everyone in the community can enjoy the park. The price tag for this phase is \$30,000+. Other amenities such as gazebo, message board, agility equipment, restrooms, and water fountains are in the master plan.



Flathead Community Foundation, PO Box 1422,  
44 Second Ave West #103, Kalispell, MT 59903

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