

# Billings Community Foundation 2014 Winter Newsletter



## Message from Our President



Greetings,

Billings Community Foundation had a great 2013! We are pleased to welcome several new

organizations to our Permanent Endowment Programs. In addition, generous contributions to the BCF Endowment Fund have given us opportunity for exciting programs in the future. Thank you to our hard working, volunteer Board of Directors for helping make these things possible.

## Grant Applications Available

This spring, the Billings Community Foundation will once again award grants to nonprofit organizations. These grants will cover a wide variety of charitable purposes, with a focus in the following areas: animal welfare, education, basic human needs, arts and culture, natural resources and conservation, bricks and mortar improvements, economic development, and endowment building. Grants awarded typically range between \$500 and \$2,000.

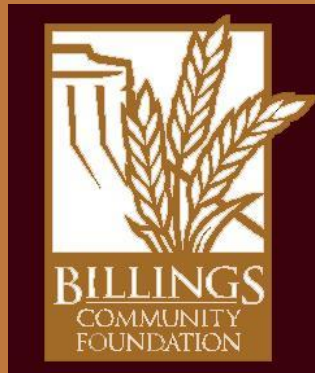
During this same granting period, one or more grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded for permanent community

Looking forward to 2014, I am excited to say we will be awarding more than \$15,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations in the Billings area. Thanks to the support of businesses and individuals, BCF will once again host a workshop and grant awards event in June.

I am honored to serve as BCF's President for 2014, and am anxious to help carry on the mission of our wonderful organization. By helping donors and organizations build financial foundations, we help insure the continuity and security of their programs and services for years to come.

Sincerely,

Colleen Weast



*Let your good work begin with us*

## 2013 Financial Contributors

Thanks to these generous supporters, BCF was able to significantly impact Billings and surrounding communities in 2013.

Donald W. Allen  
Sandra Anderson  
Arts without Boundaries  
Doris Barta  
Sara Becker  
Randy & Cheryl Bentley  
Big Brothers, Big Sisters Yellowstone County

improvements of charitable organizations. This is funded by the Wilkins Trust, established by Tom and Amo Wilkins, long-time Billings' residents.

Applications for the grants are available online at BCF's [website](#) or by calling 406-839-3334.

**Applications are due by March 28, 2014.**

## Introducing Our New Endowment Partners

Billings Community Foundation is honored to welcome several new endowments to our organization:

- Donald J. Seibert, University of Montana Wildlife Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Jane Shelhamer Endowment for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yellowstone County
- Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation Endowment Fund
- Tumbleweed Endowment Fund
- Project Hope of Columbus
- Friends of the Library for Stillwater County Endowment
- YMCA of Billings Endowment
- Billings Studio Theatre Endowment

It is a privilege to partner with these outstanding nonprofits. Planning for a stable, long-term financial outlook is important to these organizations. Teaming up with the Billings Community Foundation demonstrates a caring, thoughtful approach to their future. Welcome and thank you for choosing BCF to assist you!

Central Montana Community  
First Interstate Bank  
Cynthia Foster  
Gainan's  
Lisbeth A. Harris  
David A. Leuthold  
Bill & Karin Lucas  
Jason & Kathryn Maehl  
Joseph & Suzanne McKiernan  
Teresa and Mark Morse  
Jack Nickels  
Douglas Osborne  
Lisa Reid Perry  
PPL Montana  
Ray & Beverly Sandness  
Ralph and Tancy Spence  
Spence Family Foundation  
Obert and Virginia Udem  
Colleen Weast  
Tom & Carolyn Yampradit

## Client Feature: Steve Wahrlich

Billings Community Foundation constantly strives to develop partnerships that promote charitable giving and are a benefit to the community. Steve Wahrlich, owner of the Best Western Clocktower Inn, is a great example of charitable giving, specifically our four-legged friends!

Two years ago, Steve set up a donor advised fund, the Clocktower Inn Animal Fund, through BCF with the intention of supporting and promoting domestic pets in need, such as homeless and rescued pets and feral dogs and cats. Funds are used to support spay/neuter clinics, as well as any other event that may fit into the concept of helping dogs and cats find healthy and happy homes.

So how does Steve fund these efforts? Steve's hotel is pet friendly with a small fee charged to guests for this convenience. Steve then directs \$5 of that fee to the Clocktower Inn Animal Fund. That seemingly small amount adds up!

*Where are they now?*

## Grant Recipients Update

In June 2013, the Billings Community Foundation awarded 14 grants totaling \$15,500 to community nonprofits. Below is an update on three of our recipients. What a difference BCF makes in our communities!

### **Young Families Early Head Start**

received a grant to provide mental health services for pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in the YFEHS Teen Parent Class. Executive Director Debbie Richert notes that the dynamic between the students and the mental health provider has generated positive outcomes for the teens and their young children.

The **YWCA of Billings Employment and Training Center's** grant helped fund "Putting the Pieces Together: Empowering Clients to Move Forward with their Training Goals." With our grant, seven women received career-focused services. One woman was able to recertify as a CNA and another is attending the Pharmacy Tech program at Billings Community Education. Program Manager Sandy Feralio points out that by accessing training, these individuals are gaining skills that will greatly impact their lives for years to come.

Our grant to **Tumbleweed** helped them gather some much needed information about the seriousness of homeless youth in our community. With the help of two AmeriCorp VISTAs, Tumbleweed compiled a report based on a survey of 96 people in Billings between the ages of 13 and 21 who are homeless, couch surfing, or living away from home because of abuse or other issues. This information

Over the past two years, nearly \$3,500 has been awarded to animal welfare groups. These grants have been critical to the care, feeding, and health of many homeless and rescued pets.

The Clocktower Inn Animal Fund is a partnership based on a donor advice. If you would be interested in learning more about donor advised funds for your particular area of interest, please call the Billings Community Foundation office at 839-3334 or [email](#) us!

## Save the Date: June 4, 2014 Annual Awards Dinner



Mark your calendars for June 4, 2014 and be sure to attend our Annual Awards Dinner. Held at Prescott Hall on the campus of Rocky Mountain College, we'll honor this year's grant recipients. If you're

passionate about supporting BCF and our good work, please consider sponsoring this year's event. Contact Suzanne for more information.

## Seeking Sponsors

BCF is seeking community-minded individuals and organizations to support our efforts to provide grants to nonprofits in the Billings region. We are specifically seeking support at the \$1,000 level through advertising funds, an outright gift, or donation of in-kind services with that value.

### Community Sponsors Receive:

- Recognition as a Community Sponsor in all BCF Newsletters for one year
- Recognition as a Community Sponsor on the BCF website for one year
- Complimentary tickets to the BCF Annual Awards Dinner

gleaned from this report will be used in applications for grants aimed at meeting the needs of homeless youth in Billings. Tumbleweed works with about 600 young people a year who are homeless or in unstable housing situations. As Executive Director Sheri Boelter states, this report gives a deeper understanding about the homeless youth story.

## Bison For Bruce

Our first effort as a Fiscal Sponsor on the "Bison For Bruce" campaign has been very successful. In total, 36 large and 12 small bison sculptures were sold, thanks in part to BCF's involvement. Thanks to all who supported this worthy cause! If you are interested in purchasing a bison sculpture, please visit our [website](#).

## 2014 Community Sponsors

Anderson ZurMuehlen  
PPL Montana  
Rocky Mountain College  
St. Vincent Healthcare Foundation

## Board of Trustees

Colleen Weast  
**President**

Kathryn Maehl  
**Vice President**

Carolyn Yampradit  
**Treasurer**

Karin Lucas  
**Secretary**

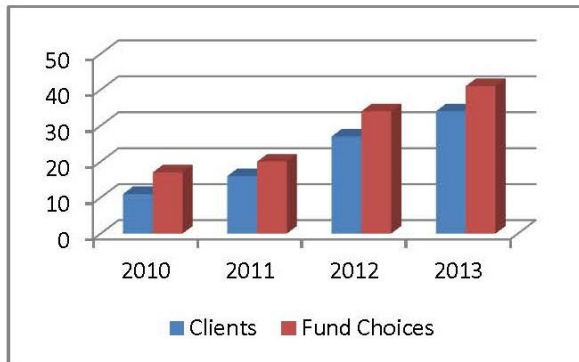
Ralph Spence  
**Immediate Past President**

- Recognition as a Community Sponsor at the BCF Annual Awards Dinner

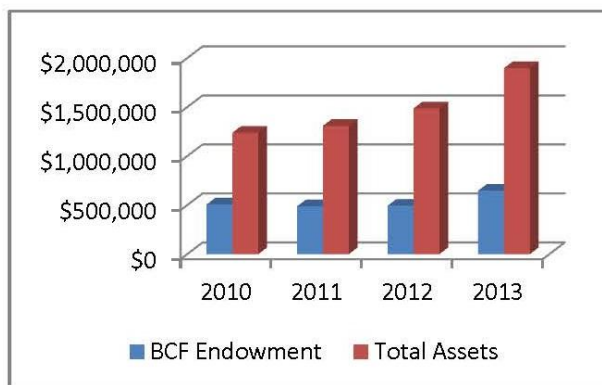
If you are interested in a Community Sponsorship, please contact the BCF office.

## We're Growing!

Thanks to the support of many organizations and individuals throughout our service area, BCF is beginning to thrive! Our clients, fund choices, and overall assets under management are the largest they've ever been! What a great way to start a new year!



**Billings Community Foundation Clients and Funds**



**Billings Community Foundation Assets**

Obert Undem  
**Vice President, Planned Giving**

Teresa Darnielle  
**Assistant Vice President, Planned Giving**

Don Allen  
Doris Barta  
Sara Becker  
Jack Nickels  
Doug Osborne

### Advisory Board

Jessica Fehr  
Bill Milton  
Sarie Mackay  
Lynda Moss  
Lisa Reid Perry  
Melanie Schwarz

### Development Associate

Suzanne McKiernan  
[billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com)

Are you interested in more information?  
Do you want to get involved with BCF?  
Please contact us!

Billings Community Foundation  
P O Box 1255  
Billings, MT 59103  
406-839-3334  
[www.billingscommunityfoundation.org](http://www.billingscommunityfoundation.org)

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About BCF

Billings Community Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt community fund governed by local citizens promoting philanthropy and charitable giving. Our mission is to enhance the capacity of donors and charitable organizations to meet the needs of the greater Billings community.