

Billings Community Foundation 2015 Winter Newsletter



Message from Our President



Greetings,

It is with great honor that I serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Billings Community Foundation this year. We are excited about the great opportunities to serve the Billings area non-profit organizations again this year.

2015 Grant Applications Now Available

BCF is now accepting grant applications for 2015 funding. Applications are available [online](#) or by calling the BCF office at 406-839-3334. Applications are due March 20.

Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization in Yellowstone, Big Horn, Carbon, Musselshell, Stillwater, or Treasure County. BCF awards grants for a wide variety of charitable purposes in the following focus areas:

- animal welfare

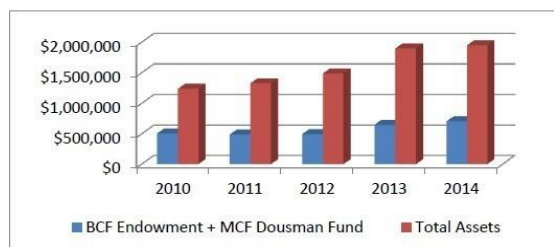
However, I would like to take pause and recognize the great work done by Colleen Weast as the President of the Board during 2014. Under Colleen's leadership, we were able to continue to grant over \$18,000 in grant dollars to local charities, we welcomed several new organizations to our permanent endowment fund program and we served as a fiscal agent for a local recognition/fundraising project. It is through her great leadership and the tireless efforts of the volunteer board of directors that this service was provided to the communities we serve.

We look forward to continued opportunities to carry on the mission of the Billings Community Foundation in 2015. We look forward to continued collaborative relationships with other Community Foundations, such as the Montana Community Foundation, which has played a significant role in the establishment and success of the Billings Community Foundation. We also look forward to continuing to serve local charities through educational programs and helping them grow their permanent endowments so that they can continue to serve their community for years to come. Thank you for this great opportunity to be part of such a wonderful organization.

Doris Barta



Billings Community Foundation Clients and Funds



Endowment Funds and Assets

- education
- basic human needs
- arts and culture
- natural resources and conservation
- bricks and mortar improvements
- economic development
- endowment building

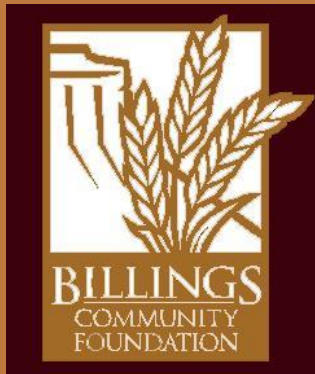
Grants awarded typically range between \$500 - \$2,000. In addition, one or more grants of up to \$5,000 will also be awarded for permanent community improvements of charitable organizations. This is funded by the Wilkins Trust, established by Tom and Amo Wilkins, long-time Billings residents.

BCF: Then and Now

The roots of the Billings Community Foundation were formed in 1988 by a group of volunteers who comprised one of a number of regional committees serving the Montana Community Foundation. This region was known as the Greater Yellowstone Region.

The committee saw the need to enhance the capacity of donors and charitable organizations in this part of the state via a local grassroots organization that offers services that are otherwise not available to small nonprofits and donors in the area. In 2005, the committee began transitioning to a stand-alone, tax exempt 501(c)(3), to be known as the Billings Community Foundation (BCF).

Incorporated in 2006, BCF began offering limited programs and services in 2007. We owe a great deal to Judith Matthews Dousman, a Billings native and active community supporter. Her foresight and well-thought estate planning, as well as her desire to leave a legacy in the community through her establishment of the Matthews-Dousman Memorial Endowment of the Montana Community Foundation, created the financial foundation for our organization. The



Let your good work begin with us

Great Community Work: 2014 Grant Recipient Updates

In June 2014, BCF awarded over \$18,000 in grants to 14 deserving organizations. Since then, the work done by these grant recipients has been nothing short of amazing! With limited resources, these fabulous nonprofits have touched the lives of many. Here are a few updates from some of our grant recipients:



Community Hope Inc:

"Thank you so much for awarding Community Hope this \$1,000 grant. Thanks to BCF, we were able to purchase 12 colored, stackable bins and 25 food storage and transfer totes to be used in our food bank. This has made the storage and distribution of our food boxes much easier for the volunteers."

-- Lisa Foreman,

Director

earnings from her gift continue to help fund our efforts today.

That founding notion of enhancing the capacity of donors remains a guiding principle for BCF today. Our Board of Directors is a volunteer group of community leaders who understands that community foundations give people of both great and modest means a way to contribute to the betterment of the community in perpetuity. With vision and a passion for philanthropy, BCF will continue to serve the individual and the greater community for years to come.

Community Sponsorships Promote Your Business

Billings Community Foundation is seeking community-minded individuals and organizations to support our efforts to provide grants to nonprofits in our region. We are specifically seeking support at the \$1,000 level through advertising funds, an outright gift, or donation of in-kind services of that value. Your sponsorship turns into additional granting dollars for BCF!

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

This is a great opportunity for you or your business to be connected with BCF, a nonprofit, tax-exempt, innovative community fund. Your sponsorship would give BCF an increased ability to fund grants to more nonprofits, doing important work in our community. For more information, please call Suzanne at 839-3334.

Beartooth Humane Alliance: "We are grateful to the Billings Community Foundation for your generous support of this important community effort. With your help, we prevented many pets from going hungry and/or from being abandoned because a struggling family could no longer care for their pet." Beartooth Humane Alliance has distributed 8,987 pounds of dog food and 4,714 pounds of cat food to three Carbon County food banks to assist families in need with feeding their pets.

-- Diane Zook, President

Big Horn County Library: "Throughout our eight-week Summer Reading Program, the Big Horn County Library served 560 children from preschool through 6th grade. It's because of Billings Community Foundation's generosity that we are able to offer our programs to the children of Hardin and Big Horn County at no cost to the families and help them experience reading and teach them a few life-skills."

-- Donelle Boyer, Children's Librarian



Students were able to enjoy a wide variety of activities thanks in part to BCF's \$1,000 gift to Big Horn County Library.

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Take advantage of our
HELPING HANDS
program and we'll donate \$2 from
each order to Billings Community
Foundation.

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Did You Know...

Another tax saving incentive is to fund a qualifying gift with highly appreciated securities or land and avoid the federal and state long term capital gains taxes which can be as much as 22% of the gain. That can save big dollars in taxes and increase the amounts permanently benefiting favorite Montana charities. Such gifts can also qualify for the 40% Montana income tax credit.

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Lifetime Endowment Contributions

\$75,000 - Above: Billings Region Visionary
Cynthia Foster

\$10,000 - \$24,999: Billings Region Patron
Spence Family Foundation

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billingscommunityfoundation@gmail.com

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

Billings Community
Foundation
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Billings, MT 59103
406-839-3334

www.billingscommunityfoundation.org

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About BCF

Billings Community Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt community foundation 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. Visit our [website](#) to learn more.

