

August 2022

Dear Friends,

This month the [Women's Foundation of Montana](#) (WFM) says farewell to Kelly Curtis, who has been an incredible [AmeriCorps VISTA](#) volunteer for the past year. Kelly moved from Seattle to join our crew here at WFM amidst the pandemic. She quickly became a valuable community and team member, exemplifying flexibility, dedication, creative problem-solving, and patience in a time of uncertainty.

Here are just a few of the many thoughtful pieces Kelly wrote during her year of service at WFM:

- [How Your Workspace Has Gendered Effects on your Life](#)
- [Book Review of Stephanie Land's Memoir "Maid" and 6 Other Books Like It](#)
- [The History of International Women's Day](#)
- [Humbled to Listen: Lessons from Hood Feminism by Mikki Kendall](#)
- [Unequal Pay for Unequal Work](#)

We are so grateful to Kelly. She brought passion and commitment to her work and to our team. She strengthened our ability to advocate for change alongside our partners. We wish her the best of luck and success in her future.

Thank you, Kelly!

We also want to thank you, our supporters, for making our work possible. Kelly interviewed many of you over this past year. She talked with [PowerHouse](#) leaders and hosted virtual PowerHouse focus groups where you discussed the issues facing women in Montana and shared your ideas about how PowerHouse can support you. Your input is shaping the future of this program. We'll have more news to come in the fall and are excited for what the future holds.



Sincerely,



Kylie Gursky
WFM Program Officer
kylie@mtcf.org

Updates from Our Grantees

Red Ants Pants Music Festival

[Red Ants Pants](#) and [Thrive](#), both WFM grantees, teamed up during the Red Ants Pants Music Festival last month.

- “Thrive had lots of fun at the Red Ants Pants music festival! Visitors to Thrive's booth in the kids' tent got creative with lots of crafts and activities. We loved meeting all the families who stopped by!” - Thrive Staff



Montana Pride

“Hundreds show up to support Drag Story Hour in Helena”



Credit: Mara Silvers / Montana Free Press

After online threats, the [Montana Pride](#) event took place without disruption and with a show of support. Read more from the Montana Free Press [here](#).

"Montana Pride featured a week's worth of events that began July 17, including informational talks, happy hours,

cabaret shows, and a Saturday morning march down Last Chance Gulch that culminated in a midday political rally at Anchor Park. The crowd heard from several local and statewide Democratic officeholders and candidates who promised to protect and bolster LGBTQ civil rights, as well as Democratic congressional hopeful Penny Ronning and her independent opponent Gary Buchanan, both of whom are running against Rosendale to represent Montana's eastern congressional district."

Major Notes

Voter Information

Are you [registered](#) to vote? The 2022 election is a critical election for

Montana women. It is important to be informed about your candidates, ballot initiatives, and the upcoming Legislative session.

Here are a few voter resources to help get you started and keep you informed.

- [Montana Secretary of State – Elections & Voter Services](#)
- [Ballotpedia – Voting in Montana](#)
- [Montana Women Vote](#)
- [Montana Budget & Policy Center](#)

Friday, August 26th, is [Women's Equality Day](#). The 19th Amendment, ratified in 1920, ensures voting rights for everyone regardless of gender. Today, Women's Equality Day celebrates the achievements of women's rights activists and reminds us of the unique daily struggles that women face.

To remind us of the struggles of the past, present, and future, Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day in 1971.

Bozeman Professional Women's Small Business & Educational Grants

[Bozeman Professional Women](#) is pleased to award Small Business and Educational Grants to women for business or educational development in the state of Montana. The financial grants are intended to enable women in the development of their businesses or education as we continue to grow the number of women entrepreneurs in our state. The grants are available to Montana women who require support to purchase equipment or other materials for business start-ups, development, or further develop their education.

Awards historically range from \$500 to \$2,500. **Grant applications for the 2022 grant season must be submitted by August 31, 2022.**

Learn more and apply [here](#).

Developing Leaders for Montana's Future

WFM brought together leaders from around the state to discuss the state of women's leadership development in Montana. Hear from experts about how they educate, empower, and encourage women to take on leadership roles in politics; what tools and support they provide to help women establish, grow, and sustain businesses; and how they build upon the strength of girls from rural Montana to create highly competent and confident leaders.

Developing Leaders for Montana's Future



June 20, 2022
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Featuring:

- **Deena Mansour**, Executive Director, [Mansfield Center](#)
- **Suzi Berget White**, Director of Business Development, [Prospera Women's Business Center](#)
- **Shannon Stober**, Girls Leadership Program Lead Facilitator (Designer of [Red Ants Pants Foundation](#) Girls Leadership Program Curriculum)
- moderated by **Megan Torgerson**, founder of [Reframing Rural](#)

Article Highlight

Medical gaslighting: What it is—and how to address it



As we watch trigger laws go into effect around the nation while other states are passing new legislation to restrict abortion access, we decided to dig a bit deeper into the topic of women's experiences with

Recommended Reading:

While WFM has not read all the following books, here is some additional reading on women's experiences in the medical

the medical industry. What we learned is that there needs to be more research centered around women's health conditions instead of often leading women into believing they do not know enough about their own bodies to make decisions about them, also known as gaslighting.

In this article, [Medical gaslighting: What it is—and how to address it](#), “research suggests that diagnostic errors occur in up to one-in-seven interactions between doctors and patients—and female patients and people of color are even more likely to have their symptoms dismissed by medical providers, often resulting in a delayed or incorrect diagnosis.”

Read more [here](#).

industry in America.

- [Invisible Women: Exploring Data Bias in a World Designed for Men by Caroline Criado Perez](#)
- [Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology by Deidre Cooper Owens](#)
- [Doing Harm: The Truth about How Bad Medicine and Lazy Science Leave Women Dismissed, Misdiagnosed and Sick by Maya Dusenbery](#)
- [This is Your Brain on Birth Control: The Surprising Science of Women, Hormones, and the Law of Unintended Consequences by Sarah E. Hill](#)
- [The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot](#)

Have You Remembered To Update Your PowerHouse Profile?

Not sure when you last updated your PowerHouse profile or if you even have one set up? Click [here](#) to update or create a profile and start connecting with other women.

PowerHouse Montana, an initiative of the Women's Foundation of Montana, is an online platform designed to connect Montana women to the mentors and resources they need to succeed. Learn more and sign up at powerhousemt.org.



Support Montana Women and Girls!

Together we can empower Montana women and girls to pursue their dreams.

Give Now

About the Women's Foundation of Montana

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a program of Montana Community Foundation and on a mission to advance women's economic independence and create a brighter future for our girls. Learn more at wfmontana.org.



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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