



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
all about Montana's future



May 2021

Mary's Letter

Dear Friends,

As the number of COVID cases decline and people become fully vaccinated, we're all finding what *normal* looks like. At MCF, our team is returning to work in the office, and our offices will soon reopen to the public.



While our work environment has been anything but normal this year, the work we do remains consistent with what we've done for more than thirty years – *Creating a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish. We are working to inspire giving for the good of Montana forever.*

One way we do that is by working with people who establish Donor Advised Funds. In recent months, Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) have come under a lot of fire from critics saying they are sitting on too much money and need additional time requirements for grantmaking. You may have read our guest editorial in a [local paper](#) earlier this month. In it, we highlight how grantmaking from these funds, specifically during the pandemic, tells a different story.

The Montana Community Foundation (MCF) currently has approximately \$36 million in 150 permanently endowed Donor Advised Funds. Because these funds are endowed, Montana benefits from this generosity forever. Annually, MCF awards approximately \$1.6 million to charities from DAFs. In the first quarter of 2020 alone, DAFs awarded \$250,000 more than the previous year during the same period to help charities struggling through the pandemic.

This speaks to the effectiveness of DAFs as not only a charitable giving tool but also as a way to deliver financial support to our communities in a

great time of need.

I am grateful for our DAF partners. Their generosity matters. It also ensures the work we do at MCF will give for the good of Montana forever.

Thank you for making Montana the great state that it is and for helping to *cultivate a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish*.

Sincerely,



Mary K. Rutherford
President & CEO

Local Electrical Engineer Leaves 1.2 Million Dollar Legacy for Lincoln County

Lifetime resident of Libby, Robert (Bob) Pedersen, was the man to call when you had an electrical issue to be solved. Now he leaves a lasting impact in the place he loved through a legacy gift that will forever benefit Lincoln County.

Mr. Pederson's \$1.2 million estate gift to the Montana Community Foundation creates the Robert G. Pedersen Endowment, a permanent fund that will provide approximately \$50,000 annually for the Libby area by 2024. [Read more.](#)



Photo Credit: Gonzaga University

Annual Report 2020



Our [2020 Annual Report](#) is here! See highlights of our work in 2020, read stories of generosity, and discover the different ways philanthropy is supporting resilient communities in Montana now and forever.

Honoring Those We Have Lost

We would like to take a moment to recognize the upcoming Memorial Day holiday, a day to remember and honor those we have lost in service to our country. Thank you to these

brave men and women. In observance of the holiday, MCF offices will be closed on Monday, May 31.

If you are looking for a way to memorialize a loved one, consider supporting a local veterans or military organization or making a gift to the [Montana Veterans Fund](#) to support education, mental health, and employment support for Montana veterans.



Grants Awarded to Benefit Darby Community

The Montana Community Foundation awarded \$8,400 in grants to benefit three organizations in Darby.

Grants were made from the Darby Town Endowment Fund, established at MCF by Richard and Barbara Ackerman in 1999 and enhanced through generous contributions from community members.

Grant recipients include the Darby Town Community Public Library, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ravalli County, and the Town of Darby Parks and Recreation Committee. [Read more.](#)

AT&T Public Hero Scholarship Funding Available



The AT&T Public Hero Scholarship supports training for those pursuing careers and long-term volunteer work as first responders. Those eligible to apply for funding include volunteer fire departments and emergency services organizations. Grant requests can be up to \$2,000. [Apply here.](#)

General Update and Investment Presentation

In case you missed our investment presentation earlier this month, the recording is now available. Hear a general update from MCF President & CEO followed by an investment update from MCF's outsourced investment advisor at Cambridge Associates.



Generosity at Work

In April, MCF awarded over \$703,250 in grants to benefit Montana communities, thanks to the generosity of our state.

THANK YOU!

ABOUT MONTANA

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We're all about Montana's future. Through the power of permanently endowed funds, we help people achieve their philanthropic goals and nonprofit organizations establish stable incomes to support their efforts. Our mission is to cultivate a culture of giving so Montana communities can flourish.



**Give
Now**

