

October 2021

It Takes a Village

Hello Everyone,

I'm excited to introduce myself as the new 2021/2022 Women's Foundation AmeriCorps VISTA! You can learn more about me [here](#). I was drawn to service with the Women's Foundation because of its mission to "advance women's economic independence and create a brighter future for girls."

Our world has dramatically shifted over the last 18 months. We've suffered incredible losses, seen inequities that existed before the pandemic deepen, and attempted to cope with new challenges.

As we have collectively re-evaluated what work and support look like under a pandemic, the Women's Foundation has renewed its commitment to listening and advocating on behalf of the women of Montana who hold the multi-faceted roles of mother, daughter, partner, sister, friend, worker, caregiver, and person.

We've asked you to share your stories, complete surveys, and talk with us about how we can be responsive to your needs in this new landscape. Because we want to know how COVID-19 has affected you and your life.

Your stories and responses illustrate your incredible capacity to care for others, your exhaustion with the expectation to carry on as if everything is business as usual, and your desire to find hope and connection with people across Montana. That desire for community is why we want to hear from more of you.

Over the next several weeks we'll be hosting 8 virtual **PowerHouse focus groups** where we will come together with PowerHouse members from your communities to reconnect, discuss the issues facing women in Montana, and hear your thoughts and ideas on how PowerHouse can support you. Your input will help us determine the future of our program.

**Sign up for one of our upcoming virtual focus groups
here**

Please fill out this brief **survey** to help WFM understand your experiences. In addition, we are still collecting stories to share anonymously on social media if you feel comfortable. Please email all stories to kelly@mtcf.org with permission to share.

I am thrilled to serve at AmeriCorps VISTA for WFM and look forward to

connecting with many of you over the coming months.

Sincerely,



Kelly Curtis
WFM AmeriCorpVISTA
kelly@mtcf.org

Donor Highlight

Mardele Maryott



Mardele Maryott was born and raised in Red Lodge. Upon graduating high school, she moved to the Midwest to pursue her love of music and earn a bachelor's degree in piano performance and later a master's degree. "She did a teaching stint in Mississippi after her education but her beloved Montana was beckoning her back. She loved the Montana mountains."

Last year, we were informed by Sol Lovas, Mardele's Billings attorney, that Mardele left her entire estate to the Montana Community Foundation, for the benefit of the Women's Foundation of Montana. Mardele's gift will total more than \$1.1 million. **Mardele Maryott's gift was a fabulous surprise**

Mardele shared her love of music with hundreds of students. And she "will be remembered as a soft-spoken, genteel, kind Christian who loved her Lord and loved people." Through this generous gift, she also leaves a lasting legacy that will benefit Montana women and girls forever.

Sol has been a longstanding advocate of the Women's Foundation of Montana. Mardele's estate included real estate in Red Lodge, as well as other assets. Read more about Mardele [here](#).

What we're paying attention to ... October is Disability Employment Awareness Month

30 Years Later, The American Dream Is Still Not ADA-Compliant

There are roughly 61 million people who live with disabilities, and they exist in 1/3 of all households. The number of Americans with disabilities will likely go up

because of the pandemic and effects from “long Covid.” October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and we encourage you to read this article by, Rebecca Cokley, the Director of the Disability Justice Initiative at the **Center for American Progress** and a lifelong disability rights activist, on how the American Dream continues to be inaccessible for so many disabled people. [Read more.](#)

Workplace Accessibility: “Normal” Never Worked for Disabled People — Why Would We Want To Return To It?

Black disabled activist, Imani Barbarin, and disabled activist, Kelly Dawson, point out that returning to normal means continuing to ignore the millions of disabled Americans who are the most economically and socially impacted group during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Disabled people are deeply concerned that all of the strides made in the past year will disappear now that many non-disabled people are moving on from the pandemic and “returning to normal.” The problem with that is “normal” doesn’t work for disabled folk, nor did it ever. When it comes to moving forward in a way that benefits all people, not just those who aren’t disabled, the greatest asset toward continued workplace accessibility will be collective memory. While it’s tempting to forget the horrors of the pandemic as mass vaccinations are underway, that can’t be allowed to happen- not at the expense of hundreds of thousands of lives. And the burden of remembering these tools of inclusion and implementing further changes accordingly can’t fall on disabled people.” [Read more.](#)

For Your End of Year Giving

2021 CARES Act Tax Incentives

Thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed into law in March 2020, individual and business donors have access to some unique and potentially impactful tax incentives for charitable giving that were extended to include tax year 2021. **Sections 2104 and 2105 of the CARES Act make temporary changes to the tax law to encourage the donation of charitable contributions.**

Specifically, during 2020 and now in 2021, the limitations on deductions for charitable cash contributions increases for individuals who itemize, as well as for corporations. For individuals, the 60%-of-adjusted-gross-income (AGI) limitation for cash gifts is suspended for 2020 and 2021 allowing donors to deduct qualified contributions of cash up to 100% of their AGI. Additionally, individuals will be permitted an above-the-line deduction, up to \$300, for cash contributions, even when claiming the standard deduction on their tax return. Married couples filing jointly are permitted an above-the-line deduction, up to \$600, for cash contributions in 2021. For corporations, the 10% limitation increases to 25% of taxable income for cash contributions. The limitation on deductions for contributions of food inventory also increases from 15% to 25%.



Tax-exempt organizations can use these provisions to encourage donors to provide additional support during tax years 2020 and 2021.

We can help you explore these and other options to maximize your tax benefits and charitable giving impact, including gifts to qualify for the Montana Endowment Tax Credit, provide income during your lifetime, offset capital gains, and support the nonprofits and essential services you value most. For more information, contact the Montana Community Foundation at (406) 443-8313. WFM is a program of the Montana Community Foundation.

September Webinar

Montana Women, Work, and COVID-19

In our latest webinar, WFM guest panelists discuss what working women in Montana experienced during the pandemic and what they need to thrive in the future. Watch it [here](#).

We want the webinar to be as helpful as possible. If you have additional questions for the panelists, please email kelly@mtcf.org and we will pass your questions along.



Upcoming Virtual Events and Webinars

Join the Women's Foundation and PowerHouse Montana November 2nd-9th as we conduct a Virtual PowerHouse program evaluation and tell us your thoughts and experiences with the PowerHouse Montana program.

For those unable to attend your location time or if your local group is not listed please attend the At Large group.

For those unable to attend completely we will be sending out a survey shortly after November 9th to gather your personal reflections.

- Great Falls Focus Group, Nov. 2nd, 12:00-1:30 PM Register [Here](#)
- Billings Focus Group, Nov. 3rd, 4:30-6:00 PM Register [Here](#)
- Helena Focus Group, Nov. 4th, 10:00-11:30 AM Register [Here](#)
- Bozeman Focus Group, Nov. 5th, 10:00-11:30 AM Register [Here](#)
- Hi-Line Focus Group, Nov. 5th, 12:00-1:30 PM Register [Here](#)
- At Large Focus Group, Nov. 10th, 10:00-11:30 AM Register [Here](#)

Stay up-to-date on our offerings as they're scheduled by liking or following our page on [Facebook](#)! To see our events page, click [here](#).

Have You Updated your PowerHouse Profile Lately?

One great feature of the [new Powerhouse Montana website](#) is the ability to edit your own profile. Make sure your information is up-to-date [here](#).

In case you missed it ...

From our PowerHouse Blog

- [Book Review of Stephanie Land's Memoir "Maid" and 6 Other Books Like It](#)
- [How Your Workspace Has Gendered Effects on your Life](#)

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](#).

Volunteer and Development Opportunities in Montana

There are many websites that can help you find the perfect volunteer opportunity for you. [Want to Give Your Time? Check These 20 Websites for Volunteer Opportunities](#) is a great article to narrow down the website that meets your needs.

Visit [MNA's Nonprofit Job Board](#) where nonprofit job searching is catered to meet your needs. The Nonprofit Job Board offers: the best nonprofit jobs in the region, email alerts, customized searches, resume posting.



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