Everyday Heros and One Day Heros

It has been a tough end of the year. Montana faced its worst fire season in what could be the worst fire season in the West. At the opposite end of the spectrum, two major hurricanes have ripped through several US Cities, causing massive flooding, leaving millions without power and housing. The Las Vegas mass shooting claimed 58 lives, wounding over 480, and shattering the lives of thousands. Heroes rose to these occasions; saving stranded people, carrying wounded to safety, and providing housing to those who lost their homes. “Mattress Mack” is a national hero, inviting victims of Hurricane Harvey to eat and sleep in his mattress stores. Donors lined up for blocks to donate blood in Vegas.

Montana Shares givers understand this constant need. Workplace giving is such a wonderful way to give throughout the year. As an exercise in giving, take a little time each month to reflect on your giving. This could be as simple as looking at your payroll stub and pondering your payroll contribution. If you are good at giving blood, giving blood every 56 days would cover this activity for 6 of the 12 months. How about volunteering at the food bank putting together backpack food packs so children will know they have food over the weekend? Monthly proactive giving throughout the year will help keep our communities strong and always ready to deal with emergencies. While heroes will rise reactively to disasters, the true, unsung heroes are those people that keep our communities strong every day of the year, the everyday heros.
SOME IMPACTS OF $281,797 ON OUR COMMUNITIES IN 2016

- 192 CARE PACKAGES MAILED TO DEPLOYED TROOPS
- 578 PETS VACCINATED
- 52 SENIORS RECEIVED LEGAL HELP TO OBTAIN MEDICATION
- 1,291 MEALS PROVIDED
- 669 UNDER-PRIVILEGED STUDENTS TAKEN ON OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
- 34 KIDS ENJOYED FREE CANCER CAMP
- 30,000 POUNDS OF GROCERIES DISTRIBUTED
- 2,098 PETS NEUTERED

 Montana Shares
Impact statements give you a quick look at an issue and a solution. The following impact statements from our members demonstrate their work throughout the state. * (denotes new member groups)

**Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO)**
If every Montana household spent $10 per week on locally grown food, $186 million would be contributed back into Montana communities. AERO promotes sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and conservation, environmental quality, and community self-reliance. aeromt.org

**AniMeals**
In the United States an estimated ten million animals are abandoned to shelters every year. Many of the shelters & rescue groups who house & feed these animals are struggling daily. The purpose of AniMeals work is to supplement the food needs of organizations so they can focus their money on medical needs & operational costs. Food delivery service helps to keep companion animals in their homes when their caregivers can’t afford to feed them. So instead of giving them up to already over-populated shelters, they can keep them home where they belong. animeals.com

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana**
We believe that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. Most children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters live in single-parent and low-income families, or households where a parent is incarcerated. As the nation’s largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, monitored matches between adult volunteers “Bigs” and children “Littles”. montanabbb.org

**Bike Walk Montana**
Two-thirds of Montanans are overweight or obese, resulting in escalating health-care costs. By providing opportunities and safe places for more people to walk and bicycle on a daily basis, we can improve the health, economy and environment of Montana. bikewalkmontana.org

**Bridgercare**
In the U.S., a poor woman is FOUR TIMES as likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy as a higher-income woman, an estimated 44% of pregnancies in Montana are unintended, and 1 in 4 teen girls will get pregnant at least once by age 20. Investment in family planning services is highly cost-effective. Nationally, for every $1 invested in helping women avoid pregnancies they did not want to have saved $5.68 in public expenditures that otherwise would have been needed. bridgercare.org

**Camp Mak-A-Dream**
What started out as one camp in 1995 for 46 campers has turned into 11 different camps and retreats in 2015. Over the years, as specific needs were identified, we created programming to meet those unique needs, such as our sessions for brain tumor survivors, sessions for siblings, and long weekend retreats for women with cancer. We partner with medical professionals across the country to help identify gaps in services and how Camp Mak-A-Dream might be able to help fill those gaps. campdream.org

**Cancer Support Community Montana**
The daily demands of living with a life-threatening disease are a constant struggle. Cancer Support Community Montana’s free programs and services help individuals & families rediscover a healthy balance and celebrate hope. Cancer Support Community Montana helps families live well with, through, and beyond cancer. cancersupportmontana.org

**Disability Rights Montana**
Montanans living with disabilities want to be included in everyday living and need access to appropriate support and services. DRM actively works to make local communities more physically accessible. DRM also advocates to bring support and services to your community and to protect your right to live, receive an education, work, and recreate in your local community. disabilityrightsmt.org

**Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument**
The Missouri Breaks Monument contains one of the few remaining fully functioning cottonwood gallery forest ecosystems on the Northern Great Plains. Flood control, cattle grazing along the banks, and now climate change are taking a toll on what many call the historic tree of the American prairie. We’re leading a public-private partnership (with BLM and landowners along the river) with the long-term goal of shifting this demography so that more than half of the trees are younger than 50 years old. missouribreaks.org

**Great Falls Community Food Bank, Inc.**
More than 300,000 Montanans are considered at risk of food insecurity. The Great Falls Community Food Bank is one of only three true food bank warehouse/distribution facilities in Montana. Serving four counties and 63 emergency food sites, the Food Bank distributed over 475 tons of food which provided over 755,250 meals for children, seniors, and adults. greatfallsfoodbank.org

**Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter**
In 2016, Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter (HOV) cared for more than 2,800 cats and dogs, helping reunite lost pets with their grateful owners and finding new homes for homeless animals. In addition, HOV offers a host of programs and services to the community to help connect people and pets. Special adoption programs include fee waived adoptions for military veterans and seniors through the Pets for Vets and Companion Cats for Senior People programs. The Warriors with Heart program matches disabled veterans with shelter dogs who will be trained as service animals. heartofthevalleyshelter.org

**Holter Museum of Art, Inc.**
The Holter Museum, the center for art-based, community-focused education in Helena and surrounding areas has been bringing world class exhibitions & teaching artists-in-residence here for 30 years. Recognizing that community needs have evolved; the museum is now extending its reach into the community with a more relevant approach and a deeper and wider impact by offering unique
and valuable resources. The museum has shifted focus and is committed to projects like OHA (Operation Healing Arts) and its expansion into the community through new partnerships and a fresh perspective on the value of art and creative thinking in everyday life, ensuring that the Holter is pertinent to a wider and larger audience. holtermuseum.org

**Jeannette Rankin Peace Center**

Our world is complex, and we face serious long-term challenges to the building of a just, non-violent, and sustainable global culture. But each challenge is also an opportunity for each of us personally and all of us collectively. The Jeannette Rankin Peace Center offers us the tools of education, reflection, dialogue, relationship and action to meet that challenge both in times of crisis and in the ongoing work of peacemaking. jrpc.org

**K9 Care Montana**

At K9 Care Montana, we are devoted to providing the highest quality service dogs at no cost to our nations wounded warriors and children facing autism. We also provide customized outdoor activities for wounded warriors as well as special needs children and their families in a relaxing therapeutic setting. Since 2009 we have accepted 37 families into our programs. k9caremontana.org

**Last Chance Community Pow Wow**

Last Chance Community Pow Wow hosts an annual celebration to empower and honor our youth by preserving our distinct Native American cultural and spiritual traditions. The pow wow and other cultural activities that take place throughout the year instill pride among our local Native population, especially our youth, helping them choose healthy lifestyles. lastchancepowwow.com

**Lewis & Clark Humane Society**

The Lewis & Clark Humane Society is the tri-county area’s only animal shelter. We provide care for the homeless, abandoned and surrendered animals who need a temporary place, caring people, food, water and medical care on their pathway to a new home. In 2016, shelter staff and volunteers provided care to over 1,400 animals. The Spay Montana program continues to travel throughout Montana, offering low or no cost spay/neuter services to reduce overpopulation. Spay Montana spayed/neutered 3,190 dogs and cats statewide preventing 22,330 births. mtchhs.org

**Mai Wah Society, Inc.**

Butte’s Chinese population and its impressive Chinatown have been a hidden gem in this historic community. The Mai Wah Museum is preserving the heart of Chinatown by restoring the Wah Chong Tai and Mai Wah Noodle Parlor buildings, exhibiting artifacts, retelling stories and presenting educational and cultural events. mawaih.org

**Montana 4-H Foundation, Inc.**

With over 4,000 adult volunteers working with over 23,000 4-H youth in Montana, these volunteers donate well over 200,000 hours in planning and conducting exciting activities. Economic impact of this volunteer service equals approximately 3 million dollars and is equivalent to over 105 full time staff positions.

While many organizations concentrate on problems of youth or seek to change their behavior, 4-H embraces positive youth development. 4-H youth are able to identify their interests, set goals, and work with positive adult role models and other young people who share their passion and interests. montana4h.org

**Montana Association for the Blind, Inc.**

An estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Montanans are blind or “visually impaired.” The Montana Association for the Blind actively advocates on behalf of equality and opportunity for all blind and low vision Montanans statewide. The MAB also provides programs that teach and develop skills critical to maintaining independence and employment or to pursue educational and vocational goals. In addition, the MAB’s eleven local chapters across the state reach out to newly blinded Montanans to carry the message of hope and self-determination to every blind Montanan and their families and friends. mtblind.org

**Montana Audubon**

Montana has lost more than 50% of its historic wetlands, and more than one-third of the birds that nest in the state are declining rangewide. Accelerating development along Montana’s streams and rivers is damaging water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Montana Audubon works to ensure that all native wildlife populations are healthy and sustainable by protecting and conserving their natural habitats. mtaudubon.org

**Montana Child Care Resource & Referral Network**

MCCRRN links parents to available childcare and afterschool programs and helps low-income working families pay for these important services. By training early education and afterschool workers, MCCRRN builds a quality care and education system and helps makes it accessible to all Montana families. mtchildcare.org

**Montana Discovery Foundation**

We believe that education and recreation opportunities on National Forest Lands should be accessible. We provide opportunities in all seasons for people of all ages to learn about and enjoy YOUR public lands. montanadiscoveryfoundation.org

**Montana Food Bank Network, Inc.**

One in seven Montanans, and 1 in 5 Montana children, struggle with hunger today. The Montana Food Bank Network reduces hunger by acquiring and distributing food, educating the public, and advocating on behalf of people in need. mfbn.org

**Montana General Educational Justice Foundation**

Many Montana seniors are victims of fraud and exploitation, many more have not completed their end-of-life documents nor have the documents necessary to protect them should they become mentally or physically disabled. We have created a comprehensive structure through our partner organizations to serve all the legal needs of Montana’s seniors. Our organization focuses on funding the estate planning process and serving the legal needs of Montanans who suffer from dementia.

At our on-site legal documents clinics, phone clinics and Indian wills clinics we completed 2421 legal documents for 533 seniors saving these low-income Montanans and estimated $1,237,950.00 from 2013-2016. mtgenjustice.org

**Montana History Foundation**

The Montana History Foundation is the only charitable foundation in the state solely dedicated to funding projects preserving Montana’s unique and important history. Without our help, historic buildings disappear, collections and artifacts become inaccessible to the public, and the memories and life experiences of our elders are lost forever. Since 2012 the Foundation has raised and granted over $457,000 for 119 projects in 58 communities in 33 counties across the state from Libby to Lima to Sidney. mthistory.org

**Montana Legal Services Association**

Financial barriers to the legal system erode the promise of equal justice for all created by our founding fathers. MLSA helps ensure access to justice for low-income Montanans by providing free civil legal aid for people with incomes at or below the 125% of the federal poverty rate. In 2015 MLSA helped 7,858 Montanans, including 3,600 children, through easy-to-understand forms and legal self-help and by providing assistance in 3,114 cases. mtslsa.org

**Montana Meth Project**

Our engagement has never been stronger. Our prevention message is reaching teens and we are the leading, most trusted resource on Meth prevention with Montana leading states like Georgia and Colorado in teaching the Meth Prevention Lesson while their population is 5.5 and 10 times that of ours. For the first time, we called upon aspiring teen and established filmmakers from around the United States as we gathered 140 submissions for a national 30-second commercial competition centered on the theme “Life or Meth”. This engaging competition garnered 25.6 million impressions in only three months through social media, shares, and a small mix of traditional advertising. montanameth.org
Montana Natural History Center*

Montana Natural History Center* is an educational organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Montana's natural history. Through their exhibits, educational programs, and publications, they aim to foster a deeper understanding of the state's biodiversity. For more information, visit montanahistorycenter.org.

Montana Restoration Foundation*

The Montana Restoration Foundation exists to support the ongoing preservation and restoration of Montana's natural landscapes and wildlife habitats. Through their efforts, they aim to ensure that these unique ecosystems remain intact for future generations. Visit montanarestoration.org for more information.

Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force

The Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force works to reduce the number of stray animals in Montana by promoting spay and neuter programs. They partner with local veterinarians and animal shelters to provide affordable spay and neuter services. For more information, visit montanaspayneuterforce.org.

Montana Supporting Soldiers

Montana Supporting Soldiers is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the families of Montana's deployed troops. They provide essential resources and support to ensure that family members can focus on their loved ones. For more information, visit mtsupportingsoldiers.com.

Montana Trout Unlimited

Montana Trout Unlimited is a conservation group dedicated to protecting and enhancing Montana's coldwater fisheries. They work to ensure that Montana's trout populations remain healthy and abundant. Visit montanatu.org for more information.

Montana Watershed Coordination Council

Montana Watershed Coordination Council works to protect and improve Montana's watersheds. They work with communities, landowners, and agencies to develop and implement watershed management plans. Visit mtwatersheds.org for more information.

Montana Wilderness Association

Montana Wilderness Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Montana's wilderness lands. They support the National Wilderness Preservation System and work to ensure that these lands remain in their natural state. For more information, visit wildmontana.org.

Montana Wildlife Federation

The Montana Wildlife Federation is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the state's wildlife populations. They work to ensure that Montana's wildlife resources remain healthy and abundant for future generations. For more information, visit montanawildlife.org.

Montana Shares

Montana Shares is a program that provides financial assistance to deployed Montana soldiers and their families. They work to ensure that Montana's wounded warriors and veterans receive the support they need during times of transition. For more information, visit montanashares.org.

Montana Wildlife Federation

Montana Wildlife Federation is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing Montana's wildlife populations. They work to ensure that Montana's wildlife resources remain healthy and abundant for future generations. For more information, visit montanawildlife.org.

NAMI Montana

NAMI Montana is dedicated to improving the lives of all those affected by serious mental illness. They provide education, classes, and support groups to help people cope with mental health challenges. Visit namimt.org for more information.

NeighborWorks Montana (Montana Homeownership Network, Inc.)

NeighborWorks Montana (Montana Homeownership Network, Inc.) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Montanans achieve homeownership. They provide education, coaching, and financial resources to help families become homeowners. For more information, visit montanahomeownership.org.

Pride Foundation

Pride Foundation is a non-profit organization focused on addressing critical issues facing the LGBTQ community in Montana. They work to ensure that the LGBTQ community receives the support and resources they need to thrive. For more information, visit pridefoundation.org.

Queen City Ballet Company

Queen City Ballet Company is a professional ballet company that performs in Montana. They provide high-quality, full-length ballets to communities across the state. Visit queencityballet.com for more information.

Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc. (REO)

Rural Employment Opportunities helps Montanans achieve economic stability. They provide employment and job-training services to rural families who work seasonally. For more information, visit reomontana.org.

Susan G. Komen Idaho Montana

Susan G. Komen Idaho Montana is a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting breast cancer. They provide support and resources to breast cancer patients and their families. For more information, visit komenidahomontana.org.

Your support of Montana Shares makes a difference because Montana Shares members make a difference.
Send your donation to:
Montana Shares
PO Box 883
Helena, MT  59624

Print name: ____________________________
Address: _______________________________________
City/Zip: ______________________________
E-mail: _______________________________
Phone: _______________________________

___ Enclosed is my check payable to
Montana Shares for $_________________.

To give by credit card, please use our
secure online giving tools at
www.montanashares.org.

We honor your choice. You may designate all or
part of your donation to go to one or more of our
member groups listed on the right; otherwise,
your tax deductible gift will be shared among
members.

Thank you!

___Montana Shares (for work with its members)
___Alternative Energy Resources Organization
   (AERO)
___AniMeals
___Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana
___Bike Walk Montana
___Bridgercare
___Camp Mak-A-Dream
___Cancer Support Community Montana
___Disability Rights Montana
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   (MT Homeownership Network, Inc.)
___Pride Foundation
___Queen City Ballet Company
___Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc. (REO)
___Susan G Komen Idaho Montana
___Undesignated
New member applications accepted this winter

If you know a nonprofit interested in applying to participate as a member of Montana Shares in the 2018-2019 campaign, have them contact the Shares office for the criteria, requirements and application packet. Deadline: March 1st, 2018.

Organizations must have a current 501(c)(3) IRS tax exemption and agree to work toward the Shares’ mission, vision and values. There is a list of requirements and an application process posted on our web site. This ensures our donors are supporting solid, accountable nonprofits working to make Montana a better place to live. If accepted, they will be able to participate in Montana Shares’ public and private workplace campaigns.

Accountability and Disclosures

Montana Shares is audited annually and meets the national standards for workplace giving federations set by Community Shares USA. For 2016 fiscal year, our IRS Form 990 reflects a low 4.4% fundraising/general management expense compared to revenue. Our IRS 990 and audited financial statements are posted on our web site. We hold our members to accountability standards as well, so the donors and employers can be confident that the contributions are supporting the causes intended and are being well managed.

Montana Shares raised $281,797 for campaign year 2017 and $301,989 for campaign year 2016. Distributions to members are 85% of actual collected pledges; 100% of campaign contributions stay in Montana. Fifteen percent is withheld from collected contributions for program support. 8.1% of our pledges were uncollectible. Member organizations pay annual dues based on a percentage of funds received. They commit to actively working with Shares to open and grow workplace giving campaigns. Members help Montana Shares with our work. Based on their involvement, they receive designated pledges plus a proportional share of undesignated pledges based on our member-approved policy.
Thank you to Montana Shares 2017 Raffle Donors

Every year Montanans and individuals beyond our borders donate to support the work of Montana Shares in a variety of ways. This year’s raffle, with 27 fabulous prizes including 4 prize packages, raised almost $24,800. Thank you to our hard working members’ staff and boards, our council and friends for your help and support. Thank you one and all! The winners of the 2017 raffle drawing were notified following the 9/9/17 drawing and their names are posted on our web site. Visit montanashares.org home page, go to MT Shares Annual Raffle for the raffle results.