Partners in Business

We have recently started interviewing businesses on our Helena Civic TV program called Montana Shares. Why? That’s an easy one.

So many of the businesses in our state are major funders of the nonprofit community. Certain segments of the business landscape are donating major dollars to our communities.

Rather than using them for a filler article, we are going to highlight them on the front page of this issue of the shares report.

Breweries- Breweries are leading the charge for supporting nonprofits. Whether it is pint nights, community nights, or community partners, over a million dollars has gone out to community nonprofits.

One example is our friends at Blackfoot River Brewing Company. Their Community Monday program has generated over $207,475 to dozens of nonprofits. This generosity has earned them the Helena Celebrate Community Philanthropy Award.

Grocery Stores- Grocery stores donate both money and product. They often serve as ticket purchasing venue.

Here is the rest of the story of the Save or Donate program at the Real Food Store in Helena. Laughing Water wanted to eliminate the use of plastic bags in the store. He did not want to promote paper bag use either. Bringing your own bag is the solution. Yet he did not want customers to think this was simply a cost cutting measure.

The Save or Donate program was born. You get ten cents for each shopping bag you reuse. Or you can donate the dime to Montana Shares. That program has brought in over $36,800 for Shares and kept over 368,000 plastic bags out of our waste stream.

Restaurants- So many restaurants donate portions of their proceeds to the nonprofit community. This can be a large national chain like Panda Express, a regional chain like MacKenzie River Pizza or a local restaurant like On Broadway.

The Windbag Saloon implemented the Windbag Cares program where they donate 20% of proceeds from Monday nights to a chosen nonprofit. Since its inception this program has raised and given away $80,140.

Seven out of ten Americans do not have a will! If you are one of the seven, please make a commitment to setting up a will. While doing that, please consider a bequest to Montana Shares.
Montana Shares 25th Annual Raffle!
Ticket sheet included—don’t miss out on these awesome prizes!

It keeps getting better! Last year’s raffle brought in $25,476.65 for Montana Shares core budget!

Money collected from the raffle helps Montana Shares’ program services budget, which in turn, helps us support our members in the ongoing work to invest in Montana’s human, animal, cultural and natural resources.

Mail in your raffle tickets with your check to get a chance at these prize packages and help support Montana Shares.

The drawing will be held Friday, September 13, 2019. You need not be present to win. Winners will be notified by mail and will be posted two weeks after the drawing on our web site, www.montanashares.org.

This year’s raffle continues the 25 year tradition of fine prizes sure to please their winners.

Some of this year’s prizes include:
• Experiential trips and dinner packages in Helena, Bozeman & Billings.
• Food baskets
• Outdoor gear
• Sculpture and artwork
• Patagonia pullovers
• Jewelry
• Concert gift certificate
• Fly rods
• Over $1500 in gift cards.

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Check out the 39 incredible prizes of terrific items donated by generous businesses and friends in support of our work and our members.
Thanks To These Montana Employers

The following employers included Montana Shares in their giving campaigns last year for their employees and/or were special event sponsors. We appreciate their willingness to give expanded choices in giving to their employees. Employees appreciate the convenience of payroll deduction for their charitable donations and the convenience of learning about a wide array of nonprofits at their office. Our campaign isn’t complete without the huge generosity of individuals outside of workplaces who also donate through Montana Shares to our members. Those individuals, employees and the employers who generously match the individual contributions have helped Montana Shares during our 2018/2019 campaign. We were thrilled to be able to provide funds supporting our members totaling over $226,000. If your workplace is not on this list and you want the convenience of “giving at the office” don’t hesitate to contact the Shares office or any of the members to discuss how we can make that a reality this fall.

1st Liberty Federal Credit Union, Great Falls
Benefits, Great Falls
Bison Engineering, Inc., Helena
Blue Cross Blue Shield, Statewide
Boyle, Dewey & Meyer, Missoula
Bozeman Public Schools
Butte Public Schools
Butte/Silver Bow County
Carroll College, Helena
Child Care Connections, Bozeman
Child Care Resources, Missoula
City of Billings
City of Bozeman
City of Helena
City of Missoula
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
Community Food Co-op, Bozeman
DA Davidson Companies, Statewide
Disabilities Rights Montana, Helena
Four C’s, Butte
Great Falls Orthopedic Associates
Great Falls School District No. 1
Guthals, Hunnes & Reuss, P.C., Billings
Intrepid Credit Union
Helena School District No. 1
Holter Museum of Art
Jefferson County
Lewis & Clark County
MEA-MFT, Statewide
Missoula County
Missoula Public Schools
Montana Credit Union Network, Helena
Montana History Foundation, Helena
Montana Interactive, Helena
Montana Shares, Helena
Montana State University – Bozeman
Montana Wilderness Association, Statewide
National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), Butte
National Institute on Money in State Politics, Helena
NeighborWorks Montana
Northrop Grumman, Helena
NorthWestern Energy, Butte
On Site Management, Statewide
Opportunity Bank of Montana, Helena
Real Food Market & Deli, Helena
Rocky Mountain Development Council, Helena
Rural Employment Opportunities (REO), Statewide
St. Peter’s Hospital & Clinics, Helena
State Bar of Montana, Helena
State Employees’ Charitable Giving Campaign (SECGC), Statewide
Stockman’s Bank, Helena
University of Montana – Helena
University of Montana – Montana Tech, Butte
University of Montana, Missoula
University of Montana, Western
Valley Bank of Helena
Van’s Thriftway, Helena

Montana Shares is a partnership of Montana-based nonprofit groups devoted to improving the quality of life in communities throughout the state. Our members promote, protect and preserve our state’s human, animal, cultural and natural resources. They work on issues concerning women, children, families and seniors, health and hunger, the environment, arts and culture, education, domestic and wild animals, social justice and human rights. The purpose of Shares is to work with and on behalf of our members to promote and support their programs, provide training, technical assistance, consultation and financial support on a year-round basis and, thereby, to help them expand and diversify their programs that serve Montanans. Contributions received at Montana Shares further serve to accomplish these purposes.

Council Officers - 2018-2020
President-Dave Chadwick
Vice President- Melinda Barnes
Secretary- Darbie Hess
Treasurer- Katherine Dalton Murfitt
Past President- Stephanie McDowell

Montana Shares at-large members and term ends Working on behalf of all members of Shares:
Dave Cooper, Helena, 5/21
Darbie Hess, Helena, 5/20
Debbie Spranget, 9/19
Mary Wright, Helena, 5/21

Council members Individual (representation) (term ends)
Melinda Barnes (Bike Walk MT) (5/20)
Katie Biggs (NeighborWorks MT) (5/21)
Dave Chadwick (MT Wildlife Federation) (5/21)
Dave Cooper (At-large member)(5/21)
Katherine Dalton Murfitt (Rural Employment Opportunities) (5/20)
Darbie Hess (At-large member) (5/20)
Bill Mathews (MT Food Bank Network) (9/19)
Jerry McCarthy (MT Discovery Foundation) (9/19)
Ann Rupert (Bridgercare) (5/21)
Debbie Spranget (At-large member) (9/19)
Kailley Willett (MT Trout Unlimited) (5/21)
Mary Wright (At-large member) (5/21)

Plus the many individuals throughout the state who are giving outside a workplace and businesses that support Shares and our members through special events including our annual raffle. All are appreciated and welcome.
Thanks to our funders 😊

This newsletter is made possible in part thanks to a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana grant for our communication plan. Thank you BCBSMT for helping us reach donors across the state. The Real Food Store gives customers the choice of getting ten cents for reusing a bag or donating it to Montana Shares. Since its inception this program has generated $36,824.10 in donations to Shares. Thanks to Laughing Water, all the staff and all the customers who re-use their bags and donate the savings to Montana Shares. Van’s Thriftway customers have donated over $24,450 through the on-going Round Up for Montana Shares program. The few cents generated from rounding your bill up to the next whole dollar adds up quickly.

43 member groups serving the people of Montana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO)</th>
<th>Montana Child Care Resource &amp; Referral Network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AniMeals</td>
<td>Montana Discovery Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana</td>
<td>Montana Food Bank Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Walk Montana</td>
<td>Montana Generational Justice Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgercare</td>
<td>Montana History Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Mak-A-Dream</td>
<td>Montana Legal Services Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Support Community Montana</td>
<td>Montana Meth Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Rights Montana</td>
<td>Montana Natural History Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula</td>
<td>Montana Restoration Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument</td>
<td>Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force</td>
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<td>Great Falls Community Food Bank, Inc.</td>
<td>Montana Supporting Military</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter</td>
<td>Montana Trout Unlimited</td>
</tr>
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<td>Holter Museum of Art</td>
<td>Montana Watershed Coordination Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeannette Rankin Peace Resource Center</td>
<td>Montana Wilderness Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>K9 Care Montana</td>
<td>Montana Wildlife Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Chance Community Pow Wow</td>
<td>NAMI Montana</td>
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<td>Lewis &amp; Clark Humane Society</td>
<td>NeighborWorks Montana</td>
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<td>Mai Wah Society</td>
<td>Pride Foundation</td>
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<td>Missoula Medical Aid*</td>
<td>Queen City Ballet Company</td>
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<td>Montana Association for the Blind</td>
<td>Susan G Komen Idaho Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montana Audubon</td>
<td>* New Members</td>
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* Please open because your Montana Shares Raffle Ticket sheet is enclosed.