The Cycle is Broken

The old workplace giving cycle was that people started giving early in their careers, gave more as they became more established in their jobs, and finally became strong givers later in their careers and into retirement.

This is broken. While we are not sure why, it is probably a combination of student debt, job changing, location mobility, and cost of living going up without parallel increases in wages. Whatever the reason, we are not seeing the giving seeds being planted by incoming employees into workplaces. Without these people starting to give, they are not maturing into better donors.

The need is not changing. People still need food and housing. Arts and culture need to inspire people. History must be preserved. Pets still need to be fed and placed. Soldiers need our support when they are deployed and when they return home. Cancer patients and their families need support. The environment needs protection. Mental illness continues to affect families and society. The poor still need legal services.

Obviously, you are such an important piece of the equation because of your giving.

There is a missing piece in this broken cycle. We need to go back to gardening, planting the seed donors. Even with the potential barriers like cost of living and debt, most anyone can donate a dollar per paycheck for a year. After that year, they can give two dollars per paycheck. In ten years, they can be significant donors.

We need mentors. We need peers to coach new, younger employees how to give.

Please talk to people you know, especially younger people about the value of philanthropy, both to the donor and the recipient nonprofit.

You are more important now than ever.
Choose Unity

A magicians job is misdirection - watch this waving hand,... so I can move something with the other hand. Our news media has adopted a similar role. They are no longer organizations that just report the news. They now have to make their channel pay with advertising. This is achieved by creating drama, often hatred for another aspect of society. This divisiveness is destroying our country and divides us as people.

We are more in common than we are different. Most Americans want good jobs, good salaries, quality education, strong economies, safe highways, access to healthcare, and the list goes on.

We are manipulated by politics and media to believe that we are two drastically different tribes. They are successful in this endeavor by using two or three very divisive issues like abortion and gun control.

By waving these FEW differences around they get us to ignore the 90 percent we share in common.

You have the choice to be divided or unified.

Here is a tip.

When you are talking with anyone, use wordier, conceptual, descriptions to describe what you believe in rather than short words and phrases that, while convenient, are often societally tainted.

One amazing example of word choice came out when there was talk repealing the Affordable Care Act. People were asked if they were in favor of ObamaCare or the Affordable Care Act. In a survey of 2000 people, 35% were unaware they were the same thing.

What would it have been like if the people had been asked if they believed in an insurance system where everyone was covered and no one could be penalized for pre-existing conditions? Wordier, yes, but probably a concept a majority of people would be in favor of.

Socialism is a word that millions of Americans have been trained to fear. Often people say we have socialist schools, police forces, military, education, libraries and highways. Those millions trained to fear socialism will not see beyond the word to understand that a majority are in favor of access to education. The majority of people like having a police force that protect all citizens in a town. People like having access to highways to travel across our country without paying a toll.

As you move through your day, ask yourself if you are letting yourself be manipulated and divided from your whole community. When you are talking with people who hold small differences of opinion, always remember to talk about how much we have in common.

Bill Crane, Executive Director
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)**
It is clear our world can no longer support practices that waste precious resources. AERO promotes sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and conservation, 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. 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”.

**Bike Walk Montana**
A person walking has a one in ten chance of surviving if they are struck by a motor vehicle traveling at speeds of 40mph or greater. Bicycling and walking are healthy activities that should be safe. Bike Walk Montana fights for your rights to have safe places to bike and walk. bikewalkmontana.org

**Bridgercare**
Bridgercare is Montana’s most accessed independent family planning clinic. Serving people of all genders and all ages, the clinic offers services including wellness exams, birth control consults, STI screening, reproductive infection assessment and treatment, pregnancy testing and counseling, and cancer screenings. Investment in family planning services is highly cost-effective. Nationally, for every $1 invested in helping women avoid unintended pregnancies, $7.09 in public expenditures is saved. bridgercare.org

**Camp Mak-A-Dream**
What started out as one camp in 1995 for 46 campers has turned into 16 different camps and retreats in 2018. 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. 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. disabilityrightsmnt.org

**Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula**
At the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, we understand the power of place. We live in a hub of five valleys where history has unfolded over the centuries leaving us all a rich legacy of stories. These stories inform our community and give us a foundation for understanding our present. Here at the Museum we advocate for our local history and promote civic engagement through our educational programs and events. History provides inspiration and enables people to discover their own connection to the stories of our community and nation. fortmissoulamuseum.org

**Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument**
The Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument (FMB) protects and preserves the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument through advocacy, education and stewardship. FMB has been involved with the monument every step of the way from designation to today. 2019, will bring new growth in the organization, we will be expanding our education programming to give more youth and adults opportunities to engage with the monument. FMB will continue its Cottonwood Restoration program which has now planted over 600 new Prairie Cottonwood trees in the past 5 years. missouribreaks.org

**Great Falls Community Food Bank, Inc.**
Our partnership with more than 60 agencies has allowed Great Falls Community Food Bank to distribute 650 tons of food in the last two years alone. This means underprivileged children can learn in school on a full stomach; recently laid off workers can feed their families while they seek work; and seniors on a fixed income won’t have to make the difficult decision of choosing between vital medicine & food. greatfallsfoodbank.org

**Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter**
Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter (HOV) provides service to nearly 3,700 animals through all HOV programs (including SNAP Clinic). 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 trained as service animals. heartofthevalleysHELPER.org

montanashares.org
Holter Museum of Art, Inc.
The center for art-based, community-focused education in Helena and surrounding areas is now extending its reach into the community with deeper impact. In 2016, the Holter, as a leader in the arts created Art for Survival (AFS) to help teens use arts to work through serious personal and social issues such as teen suicide, recognized as a significant problem by the school District. In early 2019, the museum is introducing the Holter Art Cart program to St. Peter’s Health with Blue Cross Blue Shield as a third partner. 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 assisted 63 families through our programs and services. 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 2018, shelter staff and volunteers provided care to over 1,600 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 4,150 dogs and cats statewide preventing 37,000 births. lchsmontana.org

Mai Wah Society, Inc.
The Mai Wah has been awarded brick and mortar grants to the stabilization, repair and rehabilitation of the buildings—our largest artifacts. The Superfund Advisory and Redevelopment Trust Authority grant funded repair of windows in the Mai Wah building. The Mai Wah in conjunction with Mainstreet Uptown Butte was chosen to participate in a nationwide contest through the National Trust for Preservation’s 2018 Partners in Preservation project. This year’s focus was on communities with a Mainstreet chapter as well as sites that played a role in the development of a diverse nation or the struggle for equal rights. maiwah.org

Missoula Medical Aid*
Since 1998, Missoula Medical Aid has brought highly skilled medical teams to Honduras and supported local, sustainable projects to improve health. We work with local partners to identify critical needs and share expertise so that people living in extreme poverty can have basic medical care and we bring specialized surgical teams to local hospitals. Each year, MMA serves approximately 3,000 individuals. missoulamedicalaid.org

Montana 4-H Foundation, Inc.
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. Focusing on the strengths and talents of youth, 4-H engages them in a structured system of learning, by setting goals and measuring success. By challenging kids and providing them with the tools and resources needed, 4-H helps them learn, grow and prosper. 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 blind Montanans to carry the message of hope and self-determination to every blind Montanan and their families and friends. mabsop.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. mtcchildcare.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 eight Montanans, and 1 in 6 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 Generational 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. In addition, hundreds of Montanans suffer from dementia. We have created a comprehensive structure through our partner organizations to serve all the legal needs of Montana’s seniors. mtgenjustice.org

Montana History Foundation
The Montana History Foundation (MHF) grants funds to communities and organizations to preserve and protect Montana 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. MHF has granted over $700,000 for 182 projects covering 81 communities across the state of Montana. mthistory.org
**Montana Legal Services Association**
Financial barriers to the legal system erode America’s promise of equal justice for all. MLSA helps ensure access to justice by providing free non-criminal legal aid for people struggling to make ends meet. Donations like yours supported MLSA in providing legal information and legal forms, legal advice, and full legal representation throughout our state. MLSA helped over 9,000 clients & their family members navigate the justice system. [mtlsa.org](http://mtlsa.org)

**Montana Meth Project**
Our prevention message is reaching teens and we are the leading, most trusted resource on Meth prevention. For the first time, we called upon aspiring teen and established filmmakers from around the United States and gathered 140 submissions for a national 30-second commercial competition centered on the theme “Life or Meth”, garnering 25.6 million impressions in only three months. [montanameth.org](http://montanameth.org)

**Montana Natural History Center**
The Montana Natural History Center takes kids and adults outside, and teaches them about the natural history of Montana through science based nature education. Science teaches kids and adults how to think creatively, solve problems, and interpret information. We are helping foster a connection to the outdoors so people will develop a sense of stewardship and appreciation for Montana’s incredible landscapes for generations to come. [montananaturalist.org](http://montananaturalist.org)

**Montana Restoration Foundation**
The Montana Restoration Foundation exists to promote the restoration of, and education regarding, public historic buildings in Montana. [mtogm.org](http://mtogm.org)

**Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force**
The Task Force teaches respect for life. Its mission is to reverse the universal acceptance of killing as a solution to pet overpopulation by using education, low-cost spay and neuter, and community involvement. [montanaspayneutertaskforce.org](http://montanaspayneutertaskforce.org)

**Montana Supporting Military**
Many deployed troops, wounded warriors, and veterans do not receive support for needed items. We send approximately 9,000 pounds of goods to over 1,000 deployed troops each year. We also actively support our Montana wounded warriors and veterans in various ways whenever a need arises. [mtsupportingmilitary.org](http://mtsupportingmilitary.org)

**Montana Trout Unlimited**
Montana Trout Unlimited conserves and protects Montana’s coldwater fisheries, which helps wild and native trout. The presence of abundant, healthy trout produces a positive environmental and economic benefit for humans too. Native trout impact entire ecosystems, from grizzly bears to eagles. Angling contributes more than $237,000,000 to the economy in Montana every year... another reason to work for robust trout populations. [montanatu.org](http://montanatu.org)

**Montana Watershed Coordination Council**
Montana’s water resources are precious, as Montana’s waters not only serve Montanans, but also much of the western and central United States. However, this vital resource is increasingly fragile, due to droughts, severe climate fluctuations, pollution, and increased demands. The Montana Watershed Coordination Council organizes statewide watershed symposia, trainings, and provided financial and technical services to more than 60 local watershed organizations, empowering hundreds of water resource stewards to ensure clean, plentiful water for all 1 million Montanans - and for everyone downstream. [mtwatersheds.org](http://mtwatersheds.org)

**Montana Wildlife Federation**
The Montana Wildlife Federation gives a voice to hunters, anglers, and other conservationists in order to safeguard our fish and wildlife, land and water, and public access. MWF works to support the rights of everyone who hunts, fishes, or just enjoys the opportunity to see and experience wildlife in our state. [montanawildlife.org](http://montanawildlife.org)

**NAMI Montana**
One in five families are affected by serious mental illness. NAMI Montana is dedicated to improving the lives of all of those affected with serious mental illness. We have education classes and ongoing support groups for people with mental illness and their families. The ongoing support groups help them discover they are not alone in the fight against mental illness. [namimt.org](http://namimt.org)

**NeighborWorks Montana**
Montanans continue to struggle to get strong financial footing. The high cost of housing, coupled with low wages and high debt from student loans and other sources makes it difficult for many in our state to find affordable, stable housing. NWMT provides a range of housing-related support individuals and families need to help overcome these challenges. [nwmt.org](http://nwmt.org)

**Pride Foundation**
Nearly ninety percent of LGBTQ students experience harassment and/or bullying at school. Approximately forty percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ and of those forty percent, approximately seventy percent report being rejected by their families when they came out. Pride Foundation is poised to invest and help build the capacity of local non-profits dedicated to addressing these issues as well as other critical issues facing the LGBTQ community in Montana. [pridefoundation.org](http://pridefoundation.org)

**Queen City Ballet Company**
Queen City Ballet Company affords dance students and the general public the experience of high-quality, professional full-length ballets with professional guest artists, lighting, costumes and sets. QCBC contributes to a vibrant cultural community by offering at least two performances a year, the Nutcracker Ballet and a full-length spring classical ballet production and/or a contemporary work. [queencityballet.com](http://queencityballet.com)

**Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc. (REO)**
Rural families who work seasonally have limited income and resources and struggle to maintain economic stability. Rural Employment Opportunities helps limited-income Montanans and their children with emergency assistance and access to education, employment, and job-training activities that lead to year-round employment, improved family income, and greater economic security. [reomontana.org](http://reomontana.org)

**Susan G. Komen Idaho Montana**
Komen Idaho Montana has funded over $7.1 million in grants to assist men and women in Idaho and Montana with breast health screenings, diagnostic services and patient assistance. In 2016-2017 Komen Idaho Montana funded 1,194 mammograms, 127 diagnostic procedures and detected 44 breast cancers. Komen Idaho Montana also provide 92 women with financial assistance during their breast cancer battle. [komenidahomontana.org](http://komenidahomontana.org)
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
___Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula
___Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
___Great Falls Community Food Bank, Inc.
___Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter
___Holter Museum of Art, Inc.
___Jeannette Rankin Peace Center
___K9 Care Montana
___Last Chance Community Pow Wow
___Lewis and Clark Humane Society
___Mai Wah Society, Inc.
___Missoula Medical Aid
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___Montana Restoration Foundation
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___Montana Supporting Military
___Montana Trout Unlimited
___Montana Watershed Coordination Council
___Montana Wilderness Association
___Montana Wildlife Federation
___NAMI Montana
___NeighborWorks Montana
___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 2020-2021 campaign, have them contact the Shares office for the criteria, requirements and application packet. Deadline: March 1st, 2020.

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 2018 fiscal year, our IRS Form 990 reflects a low 4.8% 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 $229,708 for campaign year 2019 and $242,595 for campaign year 2018. 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. 4.7% 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.

Montana Shares is an alliance 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-Vacant
Secretary- Darbie Hess
Treasurer- Katherine Dalton
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
Mary Wright, Helena, 5/21

Council members Individual (representation) (term ends)
Katie Biggs (NeighborWorks Montana) (5/21)
Dave Chadwick (MT Wildlife Federation) (5/21)
Dave Cooper (At-large member)(5/21)
Katherine Dalton (REO) (5/20)
Darbie Hess (At-large member) (5/20)
Bill Mathews (MT Food Bank Network) (9/21)
Jerry McCarthy (MT Discovery Foundation) (9/21)
Ann Rupert (BridgeCARE) (5/21)
Kelley Willett (Montana Trout Unlimited) (5/21)
Mary Wright (At-large member) (5/21)

Montana Shares Staff
Bill Crane, Executive Director
Kristi Paulsen, Office Manager
Jami Welsh, Accountant

Member of:
Community Shares USA
communitysharesusa.org

Montana Nonprofit Association
mtnonprofit.org

montanashares.org
Thank you to Montana Shares 2019 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 39 fabulous prizes including 9 prize packages, raised $27,327. 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 2019 raffle drawing were notified following the 9/13/19 drawing and their names are posted on our web site. Visit montanashares.org home page, go to Fundraising then Annual Raffle for the raffle results.