I request you stick with me for a while on this article.

Let’s get started.

When was the last time you used the Pythagorean theory? When was the last time you used the distributive property of algebra? When was the last time you diagramed a sentence? Dissected an earthworm or frog?

On the flip side, when was the last time you filed taxes? Balanced your checkbook? Applied for a loan? Checked your credit rating? Planned for retirement? Bought a car?

When I was in high school, they had just introduced a new program called Lifetime Sports. They taught golf, tennis, rappelling, bowling, running, etc. The goal was to give you activities that you would use throughout your life.

What if they had taught a course called Lifetime Skills teaching skills like I mentioned earlier, credit scores, loans, retirement, car buying, taxes...?

Am I saying we are being taught the wrong information?

Heck no!

We needed what we were taught for college classes.

What I am saying is, we were not taught ENOUGH.

Now we are getting to the heart of this article.

Another thing we were not taught is lifetime giving.

You see the help wanted signs at pretty much all businesses these days. The workforce is changing. People are mobile. If they don’t like one job, they can have another the next week. Payroll contribution is changing as employees retire and new employees are not making careers at one company.

With this in mind, I am asking you to take part in teaching a new generation about giving.

If you are getting this newsletter, you are a giver. Let’s teach giving.

Call or visit your children or grandchildren, age does not matter.

Tell them you are donating to Montana Shares and want to know what they care about. Do they want to feed people? Do they want to support people with illnesses like cancer? Do they want to save animals? Feel free to use page 5 of this newsletter to trigger questions. Some ideas like peace or social justice may take a little work to explain. When you are done, fill out the pledge form with their names and addresses and we will send them a letter. Then, let’s repeat this annually, and create new generations of givers!

WHAT WE WERE TAUGHT, & NOT TAUGHT

by Bill Crane

I have been evangelizing this for the last year within the nonprofit and for profit community (NP&FP). Congress passed a significant change in November 2021 that permitted NP&FP organizations to claim the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) even if they had claimed Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loans.

I know that this looks like a bunch of alphabet soup. Here is how you can be a hero.

Simply ask business owners and nonprofits you know if they claimed the ERTC. This can be a nonprofit whose board you sit on, your church, or your favorite restaurant.

The requirement for claiming ERTC is 50% drop in revenue on a quarterly basis from 2019 to 2020 or 20% from 2019 to 2021. Tell folks to talk to their CPA or I am happy to help people.

An example of ERTC is a small nonprofit with two employees will get back about $28,000. This makes a huge difference in operations. Another nonprofit with about ten employees received about $110,000.

HOW TO BE A HERO

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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)**

Born during the energy crisis of the 1970’s by imaginative pragmatists with a desire to create the world they want to live in, AERO is dedicated to building a more sustainable Montana for all. Grassroots and statewide, AERO educates, engages community and networks, building partnerships in the sustainable energy and agriculture and local food system sphere, creating spaces where leaders and inspired community models flourish. [aeromt.org](http://aeromt.org)

**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 BBBS are low-income and face challenges at home and at school. Local and national data suggest that 2-3 hours per week of thoughtful, caring, respectful mentoring increase self-confidence and trust in community members, while decreasing truancy and use of drugs and alcohol. We empower children.

**Bike Walk Montana**

With increasing population in Montana and increasing environmental concerns, it is more important than ever to make active transportation a natural part of our culture and included in any transportation related discussion. Bike Walk Montana is the only statewide organization actively pursuing these goals. [bikewalkmontana.org](http://bikewalkmontana.org)

**Bridgercare**

Bridgercare serves more patients than any other reproductive healthcare clinic in the state of Montana. Serving people of all genders, the clinic provides reproductive and sexual healthcare on a sliding fee scale. Bridgercare runs a sexual education program that offers medically accurate, culturally competent, and developmentally appropriate information. Throughout the pandemic, Bridgercare has provided and expanded services to ensure that everyone has access to compassionate care through this unprecedented time. [bridgercare.org](http://bridgercare.org)

**Camp Mak-A-Dream**

What started out as one camp in 1995 for 46 campers has turned into 17 different camps and retreats for over 800 participants each year. 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 (children and teens who aren’t sick themselves but someone in their family has or has passed away from cancer) and long weekend retreats for women with cancer. In 2018, we added a Family Camp (we had 3 in 2019) and in 2019 we added a Caregiver Retreat. 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](http://campdream.org)

**Cancer Support Community Montana**

Hundreds of Montanans’ are served annually through the programs and services CSCMT provides, all free-of-charge to our participants. All programs offered by CSCMT are research-based and provide tools and connection to live well with, through, and beyond cancer. We serve anyone impacted by cancer – survivors, family, caregivers, friends, if you have been impacted, we are here for you. [cancersupportmontana.org](http://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](http://disabilityrightsmt.org)

**Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula**

We advocate for local history and promote civic engagement. History provides inspiration and enables people to discover their connection to the past. As we look to the future, we will continue to preserve our meaningful places, documents, artifacts, images, and stories. There is a place for everyone in history and we invite you to discover your place at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. [fortmissoulamuseum.org](http://fortmissoulamuseum.org)

**Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument**

Since our incorporation, the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument have stood strong as defenders of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument and as a voice for conservation in central Montana. We have fought against those who wanted the monument’s protections repealed and have successfully spoken out in support of impactful preservation of Montana’s unique & beautiful Breaks landscape. [missouribreaks.org](http://missouribreaks.org)

**Great Falls Community Food Bank**

Our partnership with more than 65 agencies has allowed Great Falls Community Food Bank to distribute 1.4 million pounds of food in the last two years alone. This means underprivileged children can learn on a full stomach; recently laid off workers can feed families while they seek work; and seniors won’t have to choose between vital medicine and food. The pandemic has brought food scarcity to the forefront of too many families lives. [greatfallsfoodbank.org](http://greatfallsfoodbank.org)

**Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter**

Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter (HOV) provides a service to nearly 3,900 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 and 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. [heartofthevalleyletcher.org](http://heartofthevalleyletcher.org)

**Holter Museum of Art, Inc.**

The Holter Museum of Art is focused on expanding its reach into the community through avenues that bringing the healing power of art to everyone. The Holter teen programs serve at-risk area youth to help combat the stresses and programs of our community’s teens through Art for Survival and ATAC. The Holter Healing Arts Program partners with St. Peter’s Health to bring free arts education, art supplies, and projects to the medical community to provide holistic healing while address the need for low cost, prescription free alternatives for treating anxiety, depression, and other illnesses. [holtermuseum.org](http://holtermuseum.org)
Montana Audubon

Native grasslands are declining throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. Unsurprisingly, research shows that 70% of grassland bird species are declining, including common species like meadowlarks. As habitat continues declining, Montana’s intact grasslands become increasingly critical to native species. Strategic land conservation, communication between conservation partners, and targeted research are needed to reverse this trend. Montana Audubon works to protect and conserve these native grassland habitats. mtaudubon.org

Montana CAN!

Founded and organized around the Lumina Foundation’s Goal 2025, which seeks to increase postsecondary completion by sixty percent in the year formerly mentioned, the mission of the Montana College Attainment Network (MCAN) seeks to increase college attainment and graduation rates in the state for all Montanans with specific focus on individuals from underserved communities. We do this by collaborating with our members and affiliates who tirelessly serve students. mtcollegeattainment.org

Montana College Attainment Network*

The Montana College Attainment Network is a collective impact effort created to ensure that every blind Montanan and their families and friends are aware of the services and resources needed, 4-H helps them learn, grow and prosper. 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 2019, shelter staff and volunteers provided care to over 1,600 animals. lchmsmontana.org

K9 Care Montana

Established in 2009, K9 Care Montana, Inc. provides service dogs at no cost to Montana wounded veterans, first responders, and children challenged by autism. During the service dog training, we incorporate customized outdoor activities to better understand some of the recipient’s day to day challenges. Our goals and objectives remain the same: bettering the lives of our recipients through the incorporation of a service dog. k9caremontana.org

Last Chance Community Pow Wow

Last Chance Community Pow Wow hosts an annual pow wow 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 always incorporate our youth and instills pride among our local Native population, especially our youth in helping them to choose healthy lifestyles. lastchancepowwow.com

Montana 4-H Foundation, Inc.

With nearly 3,200 adult volunteers working with over 19,000 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. 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 blinded Montanans to carry the message of hope and self-determination to every blind Montanan and their families and friends. mabsop.org

Montana Food Bank Network, Inc.

One in nine Montanans, and 1 in 6 Montana children, struggle with hunger today. The Montana Food Bank Network reduces hunger by acquiring and distributing food to 346 network partners, educating the public, and advocating on behalf of people in need. mfbn.org

Montana Free Press

Montana Free Press fills the investigative reporting gap created by the decline of statehouse news bureaus and diminished corporate investment in watchdog journalism. We do this by cultivating well-informed sources, studying arcane bureaucratic processes, seeking out dark corners of major institutions, digging deep into data, and holding those in power accountable to the people. Our journalism appears in newspapers throughout Montana. montanafreepress.org

Montana History Foundation

The History Foundation leads the state in making grants to local organizations interested in saving and interpreting Montana’s heritage. We help save historic buildings and cemeteries from disappearing. We help make artifacts accessible to the public and assist communities in preserving the legacy of their elders. We do this through grant making, educational programs, and by partnering with other organizations to preserve our history. mthistory.org

Montana Legal Services Association

MLSA helps ensure access to justice by providing free non-criminal legal aid for people struggling to make ends meet. Donations like yours support MLSA in providing legal information, forms, legal advice, and full legal representation throughout our state. In 2020 alone, Montanans downloaded 17,329 legal forms and MLSA handled 4,736 cases, helping low income Montanans to achieve greater financial stability, and safer, healthier homes. 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. Montana counties are reporting increased Meth usage in drug testing and violent crimes. With schools and activities shuttered, Montana teens are vulnerable to Meth use and we have a captive audience consuming our content now more than ever. montanameth.org

Montana Natural History Center

The Montana Natural History Center engages people of all ages with science and nature-based education. Over 20 unique programs for children and adults allow participants to think creatively, solve problems and interpret information. The goal is to foster a connection to nature so people will develop a sense of stewardship and appreciation for Montana’s incredible flora, fauna and landscapes for generations to come. montananaturalist.org

Montana shares.org

There are many 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

Jeanette Rankin Peace Center

Montana College Attainment Network*
Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force

Since 1996, and after four years of careful planning since 1992, Task Force has helped spay and neuter 65,000 dogs and cats for people who couldn’t afford the procedure. This is accomplished in a respectful dialogue with each pet owner or person trying to help reduce animal overpopulation. A $50 certificate program has been created in lieu of in person spay/neuter events during the Pandemic. montanaspayneutertaskforce.org

Montana Supporting Military

Many of our deployed troops receive few, if any, care packages. That is devastating to their morale. Other troops do not have access to needed supplies. MT Supporting Military fills that need with personalized care packages and cards of support. We receive care package items and cards from caring individuals and groups across Montana. We also provide guidance and support for families of deployed troops. mtsupportingmilitary.org

Montana Trout Unlimited

Montana Trout Unlimited conserves and protects Montana’s coldwater fisheries. Abundant healthy trout populations produce positive environmental and economic benefits, and impact entire ecosystems, from grizzly bears to eagles. Angling also contributes nearly $300 billion to the economy in Montana every year. Through education, conservation and advocacy, MTU is protecting our treasured rivers and streams for the next generation of grizzly bears and anglers. montanatu.org

Montana Watershed Coordination Council

Our land and water resources are vital to Montana communities, providing rural and urban areas with drinking water, food and fiber, recreation opportunities, fish and wildlife, and economic development. Across the state, however, we are challenged with complicated issues that threaten these resources. The Montana Watershed Coordination Council provides resources and support that ensure our watersheds and our communities thrive for present and future generations. 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

NAMI Montana

NAMI Montana is dedicated to improving the lives of all those affected with serious mental illness. We have education classes and ongoing support groups for people with mental illness and their families. The classes provide information on mental illness, treatments, and resources for families and people with mental illness. Support groups help them discover they are not alone in the fight against mental illness. namimt.org

 NeighborWorks Montana

NWMT provides a range of housing-related support to individuals and families who need help overcoming the issues of high housing costs, coupled with low wages that are prevalent in our state. Housing that Montanans can afford is an important economic engine, bringing stability to communities and the workforce – home is where jobs go to sleep at night. nwmt.org

Pride Foundation

Every 2 out of 5 youth experiencing homelessness identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ+). Approximately 80% of all youth experiencing homelessness are youth of color. Pride Foundation funding supports local strategies and responses to Youth Homelessness, as well as other critical issues facing our community, including: School Safety, Food & Housing Security, Healthcare Access, and Race Equity. pridefoundation.org

Queen City Ballet Company

Queen City Ballet Company affords students and the public the experience of high-quality, professional ballets with guest artists, lighting, costumes and sets. QCBC contributes to a vibrant cultural community. A dancer that aspires to a career in ballet can receive the experience and education in the arts to prepare for a career in dance. The Company offers scholarships for performance fees and summer incentives with QCBC. queencityballet.com

Raise Montana

Raise Montana is actively engaged in statewide advocacy efforts focused on early childhood education and supportive resources for Montana’s children and families. Raise Montana offers statewide training for early care and education professionals in an effort to build a quality early care and education system that is accessible to all Montana families. mtchildcare.org

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

Spay Montana

2021 was an extremely busy year with a little over 3,500 spay neuter procedures done in 25 communities. We traveled a little over 4000 miles between mid April through mid November. In our wellness clinic we treated hundreds of animals for a variety of issues ranging from broken teeth to broken bones. We vaccinated over 4000 dogs and cats. 2022 is projected to be our busiest year even. We are celebrating our 13 year anniversary. spaymontana.org

Thrive

Helping families start and stay healthy is the most effective deterrent to child abuse and neglect, drug and alcohol abuse, delinquency, and numerous other issues facing society. All families need information, support, and resources at some point. Thrive works to communicate that need by meeting families where they are at and annually serves over 6,000 children and families through our five home grown preventative programs. allthrive.org

Wild Montana

Only 3% of Montana’s wilderness is protected under the Wilderness Preservation System. Through grassroots organizing, public education, and trail time, Wild Montana encourages citizens to become advocates for the protection of crucial wildlife habitat, clean watersheds, and the preservation of our state’s most unique and beautiful resources - our wild and public lands. wildmontana.org

Windhorse Equine Learning

Windhorse Equine Learning programs build confidence and alleviate anxiety in the youth we serve. In surveys of youth in our programs, 85% note significant increases in confidence and self-esteem. In our classes for teens with anxiety, on average 79% of the kids in the class experienced a significant decline in anxiety, and 92% showed reductions in depression after the sessions. Anxiety is the primary mental health disorder among teens and has been made worse by the stress of the Covid 19 pandemic. windhorseequinelearning.org

WorldMontana*

World Montana annually welcomes over 170 upcoming business and government leaders from Asia, Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe to study Montana-focused insights and approaches to agriculture, education, human rights, governance and the environment. U.S. Ambassadors describe the International Visitor Leadership Program as one of the most effective foreign policy tools of American diplomacy. Continuing relationships with Montana are built when these leaders return to their home countries. worldmontana.org
Please make the following gifts in honor/training of:

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Relationship ________________________________________

Name ___________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________
Relationship ________________________________________

montanashares.org
Send your donation to:
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PO Box 883
Helena, MT 59624

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

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!

WRITE IN NON PROFITS (must be a 501(c)3)
New member applications accepted this winter

If you know a nonprofit interested in applying to participate as a member of Montana Shares in the 2023-2024 campaign, have them contact the Shares office for the criteria, requirements and application packet. Deadline: March 1st, 2023.

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 2021 fiscal year, our IRS Form 990 reflects a low 5% 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.

Donors pledged $212,777 for campaign year 2022 and $229,606 for campaign year 2021. 100% of campaign contributions stay in Montana. Fifteen percent is withheld from collected contributions for program support. 5.42% 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 2022 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 34 fabulous prizes including 14 prize packages, raised $28,859. Thank you to our hard-working members, staff, our council and friends for your help and support. Thank you one and all! The winners of the 2022 raffle drawing were notified following the 9/16/22 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.