

Which dog do you feed?

Bill Crane, Executive Director

I Inside of me there are two dogs. One is mean and evil and the other is good and they fight each other all the time. When asked which one wins, I answer, “The one I feed the most.”

This is what I have adopted as my basic mental health solution.

Here is what I see in our times. There is a specific dark, evil goal to divide our country. It seems the sole goal of “news” is to create hatred. People buy into this and fly flags of division and hate. There are mass shootings averaging more than one a day! Russia continues to invade the Ukraine. Inflation is going up and the stock market is going down. Companies cannot find people to work.

In my life, if asked what I have been doing, I will probably answer that I have been camping, bicycling, hiking, or kayaking. I will not say I have been losing sleep over the issues I mentioned above. I am aware of them, I just don’t choose to talk about them too much.

While we do need to be aware of the dark and evil going on in the world, it is better to focus on positives we control. Seriously, how much of the evil is in your sphere of influence? The truth is not much.

My plan is to save my energy, when there is an opening where I can make a difference, ENGAGE, and then get back out of the toxicity.

Oh, there is one other thing you can do every day. Stop letting other people divide us. All of us have more in common than we have in differences.

The media has permanently adopted about four issues to hammer on day and night to keep us apart.

I was just watching the devastating flooding along the Yellowstone River as it washed out homes in Red Lodge and north of Gardiner. I will guarantee you that no one asked a family’s party affiliation or beliefs before they started helping to sandbag the structures and streets they hoped to save.

I suspect this whole article could have been replaced with the Edward Abbey quote on page three, but as Mark Twain said, “I didn’t have the time to write a short one.”

We recently had our Montana Shares’ Spring Membership meeting. The first part of the meeting is introductions. It is my favorite part of the meeting. I get to hear about all of the great work our member groups are doing. This is the type of thing I focus on.

Speaking of which we have two new member groups this year. World Montana and Montana College Attainment Network.

WorldMontana annually welcomes over 170 international leaders in groups from diverse international backgrounds, ages, professions, and a wide array of interests.

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.

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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 2021/2022 campaign. We were thrilled to be able to provide funds supporting our members totaling over \$210,667. 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
Benefis, Great Falls
Bison Engineering, Inc., Helena
Blue Cross Blue Shield, Statewide
Bozeman Public Schools
Butte School District
Butte SilverBow County
Child Care Connections, Bozeman
Child Care Resources, Missoula
City of Billings
City of Helena
City of Missoula
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
Community Food Co-op, Bozeman
DA Davidson Companies, Statewide
Disabilities Rights Montana, Helena
Family Connections, Great Falls

Great Falls School District
Helena School District
Intrepid Credit Union
Jefferson County
Lewis & Clark County
Missoula County
Missoula Public Schools
Montana Federation of Public Employees
Montana Shares, Helena
Montana State University - Billings
Montana State University - Bozeman
NeighborWorks Great Falls
NeighborWorks Montana
Northrop Grumman, Helena
NorthWestern Energy, Statewide
On Site Management, Statewide
Opportunity Bank of Montana, Helena

Real Food Market & Deli, Helena
Rocky Mountain Development Council, Helena
Rural Employment Opportunities (REO)
St. Peter's Hospital & Clinics, Helena
State Employees' Charitable Giving Campaign (SECGC), Statewide
Stockman's Bank, Helena
University of Montana, Missoula
Valley Bank of Helena
Van's Thriftway, Helena

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.

"One final paragraph of advice: do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am, 'a reluctant enthusiast', a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it's still here.

So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, the lovely, mysterious, and awesome space.

Enjoy yourselves, keep your brain in your head and your head firmly attached to the body, the body active and alive, and I promise you this much; I promise you this one sweet victory over our enemies, ... I promise you this; You will outlive the bastards."

– Edward Abbey

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 - 2022-2024

President- Kim McKearnan
Vice President- Kelley Willett
Secretary- Michelle Rogers
Treasurer-Bernie Ongoy-Franks
Past President- Nikki Andersen

Montana Shares at-large members and term ends Working on behalf of all members of Shares:

Dave Cooper, Helena, 5/23

Council members Individual (representation) (term ends)

Nikki Andersen (WorldMontana) (5/24)
Dave Cooper (At-large member)(5/23)
Bernie Franks-Ongoy (Disability Rights MT) (5/24)
Bill Mathews (MT Food Bank Network) (5/24)
Kim McKearnan (Camp Mak-A-Dream) (5/23)
Michelle Rogers (NeighborWorks MT) (5/24)
Shaun Tatarka (Great Falls Community Food Bank) (5/23)
Kristin Tessman (MT Free Press) (5/24)
Kelsee Dalton Watts (L&C Humane Society) (5/24)
Kelley Willett (MT Trout Unlimited) (5/23)

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

Member of:
Community Shares USA
communitysharesusa.org



Montana Nonprofit Association
mtnonprofit.org



Montana Nonprofit Association



Please open! Your Montana Shares Raffle Ticket sheet is enclosed. Prize packages are valued between \$200-\$300 each!

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sharesreport
A newsletter from Montana Shares, a partnership of Montana-based nonprofit groups devoted to improving the quality of life in communities throughout Montana
www.montanashares.org

28th Annual Raffle
Inside are two options for tickets to our 28 annual raffle. We have 34 great prizes, of which 14 are prize packages. You have a chance to win gift cards, hotel stays, restaurant certificates, or great artwork. Support Montana Shares, have fun and hopefully win!

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 \$43,610 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 \$27,854 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 * New Members

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|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) | K9 Care Montana | Montana Trout Unlimited |
| Big Brothers Big Sisters of Montana | Last Chance Community Pow Wow | Montana Watershed Coordination Council |
| Bike Walk Montana | Lewis & Clark Humane Society | Montana Wildlife Federation |
| Bridgercare | Montana 4-H Foundation | NAMI Montana |
| Camp Mak-A-Dream | Montana Association for the Blind | NeighborWorks Montana |
| Cancer Support Community Montana | Montana Audubon | Pride Foundation |
| Disability Rights Montana | *Montana College Attainment Network | Queen City Ballet Company |
| Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula | Montana Discovery Foundation | Raise Montana |
| Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument | Montana Food Bank Network | Rural Employment Opportunities, Inc. (REO) |
| Great Falls Community Food Bank, Inc. | Montana Free Press | Spay Montana |
| Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter | Montana History Foundation | Thrive |
| Holter Museum of Art | Montana Legal Services Association | Wild Montana |
| Jeannette Rankin Peace Resource Center | Montana Meth Project | Windhorse Equine Learning |
| | Montana Natural History Foundation | *WorldMontana |
| | Montana Spay/Neuter Task Force | |
| | Montana Supporting Military | |