

A Gathering of People Helping People

The

ROUNDUP

Summer 2024

Sonny Comes named this year's Friend of the Foundation

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) presented its Friend of the Foundation award at its annual meeting May 28 to Sonny Comes, who served 25 years on the CMF Board of Directors.

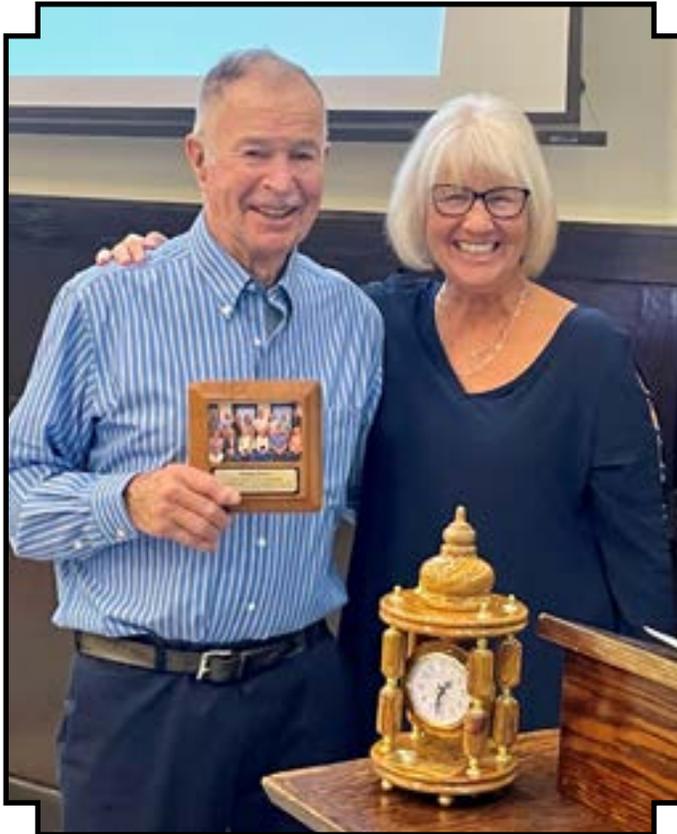
CMF Secretary/Treasurer Robyn Bakkedah presented the award in front of the crowd of about 120 people at the Annual Meeting and said, "Sonny has been one of the most dedicated and longest serving board members in the history of the Foundation." He was appointed as a representative of Fergus County in 1999 and served for 25 years.

"I was already on the Foundation board when Sonny came on, so I have some experience working with him," Robyn said. "He wasn't the most vocal director at our board meetings, but I will tell you that when he spoke, we all knew that he had something worth saying!"

Fergus County has two representatives on the CMF Board, and Fergus County Commissioner Carl Seilstad has served with Sonny since his own appointment in 2005. He said, "Sonny has done an excellent job representing Fergus County. He was always fair and thought things through. He was just a real asset to the Central Montana Foundation board."

It was noted that Sonny was especially well-suited to serving with CMF as he has lived in Central Montana all of his life with the exception of a year away at college and time in the military.

Clarence – nicknamed Sonny – was born March 19, 1935, in Lewistown, and was one of 11 children. He lived on the family farm at Danvers until his parents purchased the ranch on East Fork south of Lewistown in 1948. He attended Stone School near Denton through the 8th grade and graduated from St. Leo's High School in 1953. Sonny attended a year at Colorado State University following graduation,



Sonny Comes was presented the Friend of the Foundation award by fellow board member Robyn Bakkedah.

then served in the Army from 1954-1956 during the Korean War.

He moved to Great Falls in 1958 and worked as a parts man at an auto dealership. He said he was on top of the world because he was making \$400 a month! He gave up the "big money" and returned to Lewistown in 1960.

Sonny married his wife, Mary Lee, on Sept. 1, 1962. The couple had two sons, Kevan and Dean. They were blessed to not only raise their sons on the ranch, but then to have another generation close by as the boys married and started families of their own. Kevan and Annette have two children who are now in high school, Rhet and Regan; and Dean and Julie have three grown children, Madison, Mikayla and Collin. Sonny and Mary Lee were married 54 years before she died in 2017.

Sonny turned 89 in March, and still gets up every morning to work on the ranch. He fed cows with a team of horses for 20 years, but according to his family, now he has a "pretty cushy job feeding from a heated tractor!"

Robyn said Sonny's agricultural background has been a real asset on the Foundation board. Lillian Cervenka Kolar gifted CMF with a farm west of Lewistown in 1999, and through the years Sonny has been instrumental in helping direct the farming lease and all that comes with that. Lillian's bequest to the Foundation stipulated that this property remain in ag production and the payments to the Foundation are used for the tennis court and track maintenance at Fergus High School.

"I speak on behalf of our entire board and staff when I say that Sonny's sage wisdom will be missed more than words can convey," Robyn concluded. ❖

First Bank of Montana is the sponsor for this edition's full-color!

First Bank of Montana is the generous supporter of the full-color in this edition of *The Roundup*, a joint publication of Central Montana Foundation (CMF) and Medical Center Foundation (MCF).

First Bank is part of the Glacier Bank system and Dean Comes oversees the branch in Lewistown, as well as eight other banks in northcentral Montana. "We're part of our communities where we live and work so our philosophy is to give back both of our time and resources," Dean said.

In 2023, employees of these banks volunteered with 106 organizations and committed 1,886 hours! First Bank's Community Reinvestment Act Community Development Officer Amanda deRosier said they are currently on track to meet the same amount of volunteer hours this year. Dean, who has been a CMF director since 2003, practices what he preaches by volunteering countless hours to CMF and has served as its president since 2015. First Bank's Chief Administrative Office Megan Bartel is also on the CMF Board as an appointee of Central Montana Medical Center's (CMMC) Governing Board.

In addition to volunteerism, First Bank of Montana is a standout in its financial support of local projects. "Our bank's philosophy has always been to give a certain percentage of our income back

to the community," Dean said. Most recently, the bank facilitated a \$300,000 grant from Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Member Impact Fund, with \$225,000 earmarked for a new 4x4 ambulance and \$75,000 for the Cancer Center project. (See related story on Page 6.) Aside from this grant, First Bank of Montana has also committed funding directly to the Cancer Center campaign.

A great example of that spirit of giving is a program in which First Bank, along with Allied Steel and Central Montana Variety, annually donates school supplies for about 400 local students ages K-6th. Employees pack cinch sacks with the supplies, which are distributed at the bank during a giveaway in July. Employees also take part in a "Teach Kids to Save" program in April as they visit classrooms to read and work on financial education.

First Bank (formerly First National Bank) is also responsible for jump-starting nine of the 11 community foundations (see list on Page 7), and continues to support a growing list of projects in Central Montana communities.

"I'm so proud to be part of this community and to be affiliated with a community foundation that has done so much good," Dean said. "It's really something special." ❖

Rhonda Long brings wealth of experience to CMF Board of Directors

Rhonda Long has been appointed by Fergus County to replace Sonny Comes on the Central Montana Foundation (CMF) Board of Directors.

Rhonda is a fifth generation Central Montanan, having grown up on the Tucek family's farm/ranch in Danvers. Following her graduation from Denton High School she attended Carroll College and earned a bachelor's in elementary education in 2000. She married another local, Jeremy Long, in June 1999. The couple have two daughters. Shelby graduated from Fergus in 2020 and Ruthie will graduate next year.

"Central Montana is home to both of us. Giving our children the same environment to grow up in along with having family close by was important to us," Rhonda said. They returned to Lewistown in 2000 and Rhonda taught at King Colony for six years. She decided to run for Fergus County Superintendent of Schools when Shirley Barrick was retiring and has served in that position since January 2007. Rhonda continued her education and earned her master's in Educational Leadership from MSU-Bozeman in 2011.

Rhonda has been a volunteer with CMF's scholarship program since 2007 and is a valuable resource for continuing to improve that program. She finds a great deal of satisfaction in volunteering with this growing program. She said that back in 2007 there were just a few handfuls of scholarships to award.



Rhonda Long

"I'm awed by how many scholarships are awarded now thanks to the community's generosity and the foundation's stewardship. (Awards in this academic year will be well over \$425,000.)

"We hear so much negative in the news or online about the younger generation, but every year I get to read about the plans of our youth and watch them grow into amazing individuals that value our community, even if their first stop isn't coming home."

Fergus County Commissioner interviewed several candidates for the position on the CMF Board. CMF Director and Commissioner Carl Seilstad expressed great confidence in Rhonda and said her background and experience are a perfect fit for CMF.

"I feel very privileged to have been selected to serve on the Foundation Board, especially as I am stepping into Sonny's shoes," Rhonda said. "I see CMF as a reflection of our Central Montana community's values and priorities. The Foundation was started by insightful, business-minded men, and the legacy has continued past their tenure by other dedicated people. So much good for our community has been created from all the donors' gifts."

She added, "Being a CMF Board member is a responsibility that I take very seriously as it is so vital to use the limited grant funding in the best way to help the most people in our community." ❖

History-makers on hand for CMF's 40th Anniversary Celebration

Central Montana Foundation's (CMF) Annual Meeting and luncheon May 28 was a special event as the first community foundation in Montana celebrated its 40th anniversary.

A number of "history-makers" were at the meeting to mark the occasion and take part in a cake-cutting ceremony.

Especially poignant was having CMF's sole surviving founding member Don Pfau in attendance. Don turned 97 in April and is a long-time board member, advocate and unofficial advisor for CMF. Another founder and tireless supporter of CMF, Fred Schell, attended last year's CMF Annual Meeting and passed away Oct. 23, 2023.

A 40-year historical slideshow was presented to music and included a list of the 11 CMF Chairmen/Presidents since 1984, staff, and Friend



Helping celebrate Central Montana Foundation's 40th Anniversary in a cake-cutting ceremony at the May 28 Annual Meeting were (from left) former recording secretary Diane Lutz, CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth, former CMF President Bob Bjelland, founding member Don Pfau, and former board members and/or presidents, Dick Zier, Bill Miller, Bob Giese, Mike Zacher, and CMF President Dean Comes.

of the Foundation recipients through the years, newspaper clippings, the Roundup newsletter articles, photographs, and milestones reached.

"These two gentlemen and the other founders understood the positive impacts a community foundation could have. They passed the torch to subsequent board members, who also worked hard to educate and to be

good stewards of the funds entrusted to the Foundation by its donors," said CMF President Dean Comes.

A cake-cutting ceremony marking the 40th Anniversary milestone followed and included Don, former CMF directors and officers, Bob Bjelland, Dick Zier, Bill Miller, Bob Giese and Mike Zacher, former Recording Secretary Diane Lutz, along with current president Dean Comes and CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth. ❖

Central Montana Foundation Founding Members

The organizational meeting of Central Montana Foundation was held in Lewistown May 2, 1984, following several preliminary meetings. Visionaries who worked to form CMF were Don Pfau, Al McRae, Don Davison, Jim Wilkins, Leonard McKinney, Fred Schell and Don Romo. Others who served on the first board of directors were Jerome Peterschick, Don Campbell, George Peterson and Bob Barber.

Chairmen/Presidents 1984-Present

- 1984-1985: Al McCrae
- 1985-1986: Laynn Chase
- 1987-1988: Bob Phillips
- 1988-1990: Bruce Parker
- 1990-1993: Bill Miller
- 1993-1995: Bob Bjelland
- 1995-1999: Bob Giese
- 1999-2001: Jim Walker
- 2001-2005: Vern Petersen
- 2005-2015: Mike Zacher
- 2015-present: Dean Comes

CMF Friend of the Foundation History

- 2003: Fred Schell (Friend of the Foundation and Outstanding CPA) and Don Romo (posthumously)
- 2004: Bill Spoja
- 2005: Vern Petersen
- 2006: Lillian Cervenka Kolar and Margie Wilkins
- 2007: Don Pfau
- 2008: Rudy Hruska and Elliot Landheim
- 2009: George Mueller
- 2010: Carrie Mantooth
- 2011: Margie Wilkins (for second time) and Gladys Teigen (both posthumously)
- 2012: Wayne Edwards
- 2013: Diane Lutz
- 2014: Central Montana Community
- 2015: Mike Zacher, Debra Slagel and Robert Rutledge
- 2016: Stacie Arntzen
- 2017: John Carlson and Shirley Barrick
- 2018: Dave Sather
- 2019: Joan Murphy and Norman Asbjornson
- 2020: Rose Koffler and Sam and Kate Gary
- 2021: Mickey McMillan
- 2022: Larry Carrell
- 2023: Sandra Westhoff
- 2024: Sonny Comes

Nearly 120 in attendance at CMF's Annual Meeting May 28!

Nearly 120 people attended Central Montana Foundation's (CMF) Annual Meeting and luncheon May 28 at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown.

CMF President Dean Comes, CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth and Certified Public Accountant Stacie Arntzen gave reports on 2023 activities and highlights at the annual meeting.

CMF is the umbrella 501(c)(3) that holds 297 pass-through accounts and permanent endowments for local not-for-profit and tax-exempt organizations. The number of funds administered by

CMF has tripled in the last 20 years. By comparison, in 2003 there were 109 funds and in 2013, 173 funds.

By the end of 2023, CMF's unrestricted assets combined with the pass-through and permanent accounts held for other organizations totaled \$42,350,375, up about \$2 million from 2022. In the first 20 years of its existence, CMF grew to \$7.6 million from its inception to 2003, and in 2013, the total fund balance was \$19.4 million.

Contributions to all funds held with CMF totaled \$3,953,996 in 2023. This total included



CMF board and staff at the Annual Meeting May 28 included (back row, from left) Powell Becker, KellyAnne Terry, CMF Administrative Assistant Mariah Shammel, Robyn Bakkedahl, Cody Langbehn, Carl Seilstad, Jennifer Weeden, Scott Chauvet, CPA Stacie Arntzen, (front) CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth, CMF President Dean Comes, Brian Henderson, Josh Webber, Megan Bartel and Rhonda Long.

nearly \$1.6 million contributed to Central Montana Medical Center's (CMMC) Cancer Center campaign, along with other CMMC funds held with CMF, as well as contributions and bequests to CMF's unrestricted funds, permanent endowment and pass through accounts for tax-exempt and not-for-profit organizations, scholarship funds, Donor Advised Funds and deferred charitable gift annuities held with CMF.

Permanent endowments are pooled and invested and in 2023, those funds earned \$1,240,000 of investment income. There were unrealized gains in 2023 of nearly \$2.6 million, which reflects the increase in market value.

Operating expenses for the year were at just over \$210,000, and included expenses related to conversion to a new fund management, donor and grant tracking software.

CMF has 12 unrestricted endowments, which are used for its grant program. The principal remains intact and only the dividends and income spent. In 2023, CMF approved grant requests totaling \$234,354. These "Legacy Donor" funds include Mildred Bryte, Housel Family, John & Alice Janicek, Bertha Martin, Rosie Pense, Charles Rickner, Gertrude Saxtorph, Sally Wells, Margie Wilkins, Terry Bragg and George Mueller.

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) held with CMF

granted another \$272,750 to non-profits and tax-exempt organizations. CMF launched its DAF program in 2018 and is making huge impacts across Central Montana and beyond. In addition to these grants, some DAFs are awarding scholarships and in 2023, that total was \$130,000!

Scholarships totaling more than \$385,000 were awarded in the last academic year to nearly 100 graduating senior and post high school students from across Central Montana from 70+ scholarship and DAF funds held with CMF. The number of scholarship funds continues to grow and is one of the most impactful programs administered by CMF.

Eleven rural communities have permanent endowments with CMF, and each received \$3,000 from the Mildred Bryte Estate to award grants in their own communities. Combined with income earned on their endowments, these communities granted nearly \$73,000 in 2023 to projects in their area. Those rural endowments include Denton, Garfield County, Grass Range, Hobson, Judith Basin, Judith Gap, Moore, Petroleum County, Roy, Wheatland County and Winifred.

Major grants (requests of \$5,000+) are considered just once per year, and applicants were at the Annual Meeting to give short presentations about their requests. CMF Board of Directors approved major grants and the May minor grants (under \$5,000) at the regular meeting following the Annual Meeting (see related story on grant awards on Page 5).

Another item of business at the regular meeting following the Annual Meeting was the election of officers. The current slate of officers were elected to serve another term and include Dean Comes, president; Brian Henderson, first vice president; Jennifer Weeden, second vice president; and Robyn Bakkedahl, secretary/treasurer.



Leave a Wise Legacy.

By including Central Montana Foundation in your estate plans, you can pass on the values that have guided your life.

A bequest lets you maintain control of your assets and makes a lasting impact on the community you love.

(You can help your favorite non-profit; see list of funds held with CMF on Page 15.)

Call CMF at 406.538.6130 to learn more!

CMF major and minor grant awarded to 19 organizations since March

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) has awarded grants totaling more than \$112,000 to 19 local organizations since March. Included were \$89,000 for major grants (\$5,000+) awarded to nine organizations at CMF's Annual Meeting, along with minor grants (under \$5,000) considered at CMF's March, April and May regular meetings.

Major Grant Recipients

- **Boys & Girls Club of Lewistown, \$5,000** for infrastructure improvements for the Boys & Girls Club's greenhouse project, including a frost-free hose bib for automated drip irrigation, gravel bed and solar powered grow lights.

- **Boys & Girls Club of Lewistown, \$8,000** awarded for this second request from the Boys & Girls Club is for capital improvements to remodel the facilities' restrooms, which date back to the 1960s.

- **Central Montana District 6 HRDC, \$5,000**, earmarked for the Adult Education program to help students prepare for the High School Equivalency test, among other services.

- **Fergus Center for the Performing Arts, \$13,500** to be used towards updating the lighting system for the stage. The current lighting system was installed in 2000 and no significant upgrades have been made since then.

- **Heath Rural Fire District, \$12,500** for spray foam insulation for the group's fire hall where the majority of their brush and tender trucks are stored. Currently, these trucks are winterized and unavailable when temperatures fall below freezing, but the insulation will allow them to extend their ability to respond during late season fires.

- **Heritage & Cultural Foundation of Garfield County, \$15,000** to be used for design and construction expenses for the new Garfield County Museum in Jordan. The current museum has structural deterioration and lacks insulation and a heating/cooling system. A capital campaign has been launched for a new facility with construction to begin in spring 2025.

- **Judith Mountain Players, \$5,000** to help replace windows at the Barnes Street Theatre. The current windows were installed in 1956 and will be replaced with energy efficient windows to save on heating costs.

- **Rural Behavioral Health Institute, \$10,000** earmarked for free, school-based mental health screenings for 6th-12th graders in Central Montana. The Screening Linked to Care screening identifies students with high suicide risk or other common mental health issues.

- **Stanford Open, \$15,000** to finish construction of the crow's nest at the Judith Basin Fairgrounds in Stanford. The framework was installed last year, and this grant will help complete the roof, announcer's booth and electrical components.

Minor Grant Recipients

- **Fergus Junior Class After-Prom Party, \$2,500** to help with costs associated with organizing and holding the annual, school-sponsored event.

- **Fergus Wrestling Club, \$4,995** to purchase wrestling mats and clock timers.

- **Boy Scout Troop 1360, \$1,363** to help with travel costs associated with participating in a camp in Washington.

- **CMMC Auxiliary, \$1,000** to help fund scholarships for local students pursuing a healthcare degree.



Fergus High School and Moore BPA and Fergus FFCLA received grants to assist students who qualified for national competitions.

- **Fergus-Petroleum County 4-H, \$3,000** towards expenses for performance and ranch horse clinics for local 4-Hers.

- **Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce, \$4,000** to support the annual Fourth of July Community Celebration, including a large fireworks show and community celebration at Symmes Park.

- **FHS Business Professionals of America (BPA), \$800** for travel expenses associated with four members attending national convention.

- **Moore School BPA, \$600** for travel expenses associated with three members attending national convention.

- **Moore Family, Career & Community Leaders \$600** to be used for travel expenses associated with nine qualified members attending national convention.

- **Lewistown Park and Recreation, \$4,500** to provide swim passes to the Lewistown City Pool for about 60 underprivileged youth. Funding is from the Summer Youth Activities fund held with CMF and from grant funding from Enbridge earmarked for at-risk populations.

- **Lewistown Park and Recreation, \$2,150** for the purchase of infant/toddler swing set equipment at Frank Day Park.

- **Moore Cemetery Association, \$1,500** to be used towards the fencing project at the Moore Cemetery.

For more information on CMF's grant program and criteria, see www.centralmontanafoundation.com or call CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth in the CMF office, at 406.538.6130. ❖



Eric Wareham with Heath Rural Fire District presented on a major grant request at the CMF Annual Meeting May 28.

First Bank of Montana and Bank of the Rockies step up to help CMMC



Grant funding facilitated by First Bank of Montana provided \$300,000 for CMMC with \$225,000 towards a new ambulance and \$75,000 for the Cancer Center project. (Photo courtesy of Lewistown News-Argus)



Grant funding facilitated by Bank of the Rockies provided \$133,336 for significant enhancements for CMMC's Cancer Center Project. (Photo courtesy of Lewistown News-Argus)

First Bank of Montana and Bank of the Rockies both went the extra mile to garner funding for Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) from Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Des Moines Member Impact fund.

First Bank's efforts provided \$300,000, with \$225,000 to be used towards the purchase of a new 4WD ambulance to replace a 27-year-old ambulance. The 1996 ambulance was no longer reliable to respond to emergency calls in the 11,069 square mile service area. In addition, \$75,000 of the donation will go to CMMC's Cancer Center project.

Bank of the Rockies secured \$133,336 from FHLB's grant program, and the funds will go towards significant enhancements for the Cancer Center. These enhancements include items that weren't in the final Cancer Center design due to unexpectedly high construction costs but are vital to the Cancer Center and CMMC long term success. Significant Enhance-

ment items include but are not limited to restrooms in the main lobby, second elevator, and identified equipment.

FHLB Des Moines Member Impact Fund provides \$3 for every \$1 of an eligible donation, with the local banks leveraging the match. Both First Bank of Montana and Bank of the Rockies sought out the funding opportunity.

"CMMC is very grateful to both local banks for not only supporting the CMMC's programs and services through direct donations, but for also taking the initiative to seek out matching funds from the FHLB program," said CMMC CEO Cody Langbehn.

He added, "Both organization's unwavering support along with FHLB's matching funds is a great example of what makes living and working in Central Montana truly special." ❖

Cancer survivor excited to see progress of CMMC Cancer Center project

"Oh my gosh! This is going to be the neatest thing for cancer patients!"

That was cancer survivor Loretta Swanson's reaction to what she saw at the "Inside the Fence" event in May to see the progress being made on Central Montana Medical Center's (CMMC) Cancer Center construction.

Loretta spent some time undergoing chemotherapy following her bout with colon cancer in 2019 and said the infusion center that will be located on the second floor of the new CMMC Cancer Center with its superb views will be of great comfort for patients. "Instead of being in a little cubicle, they will have views to connect them with the outside. It will be like being in a penthouse apartment!"

Loretta is a native of Central Montana. She left Montana for a year to attend a fashion school in California following graduation from



Cancer survivor Loretta Swanson at the "Inside the Fence" to see the progress on CMMC's Cancer Center construction.

Grass Range High School, then returned to Montana. She worked in Laurel, then moved back to Lewistown and worked several jobs before taking a position as a ranch cook and housekeeper

for Irwin Allen north of Ryegate. She worked on the Allen Ranch a total of 34 years. When Irwin passed away, she returned again to her hometown of Lewistown six years ago.

While she was still working on the ranch, a pre-cancerous lump was discovered, and she had a lumpectomy in Billings. Then, following a colonoscopy in 2019, a tumor was found, and she had surgery followed by 12 weeks of chemotherapy at CMMC. "CMMC staff were super, and I had great care," she said. As pleased as she was with her experience at CMMC and hopeful that she won't become a cancer patient again, she is full of enthusiasm about the cancer center. "I'm all for this cancer center," she said. "It couldn't come at a better time!"

For more information on CMMC Cancer Center, contact Medical Center Foundation Director Abby Franks at 406.535.6309. ❖

Donor Advised Funds provides another tool for philanthropy

Margaret L. (Marci) Henderson set up a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) with Central Montana Foundation in December and intends to use it primarily to help non-profits in Central Montana.

CMF offers DAFs as another tool for philanthropic giving. Donors can receive the charitable tax deduction the year they fund the DAF and can then take their time in making grant recommendations from the fund. Those grants can be to any non-profit or tax-exempt organization in the U.S., although Marci's focus, like most of the DAF donors, is on local causes.

Last year, Marci sold her home in Madison, Wisc., and was facing a hefty tax bill on the capital gains. Her tax advisor suggested that establishing a DAF was a great way to achieve both philanthropic goals and a reduction of taxes. A win-win!

"Each of my parents were very giving in terms of time and resources," Marci said. "Community service was embedded in the foundation of my family." That focus also influenced Marci's career



Marci Henderson enjoys the hiking trails in Central Montana.

choice as she served two major non-profits; the American Red Cross and the Girl Scouts.

Marci grew up in Longview, WA and has lived abroad and in several states, but has found her forever home in Montana. She moved to Lewistown in the fall of 2023 though had been a frequent visitor since the mid-1990s when her mother, Ruth Henderson, moved here upon her retirement.

Ruth had worked as a representative for Community Concerts years ago and traveled frequently throughout her territory in the

northwest U.S. and British Columbia. "She fell in love with the Big Sky, and really fell in love with the people," Marci said. Ruth left her position with Community Concerts to work with Community Home Health/Hospice in Longview but maintained her connections with friends in Lewistown and decided to make it her full-time home upon retirement. Ruth died in 2012, and by then, Marci said her mother's friends had become like family.

Like mother, like daughter, Marci has the same attachment to Central Montana. "There are just good people out here," Marci said, adding that she was a bit hesitant about adjusting to small-town living, but the plethora of cultural activities, the trail system and hiking trails, has made the transition an easy one. She continues to enjoy travel across the globe but appreciates coming back home to Lewistown.

For more information on DAFs, contact CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130, or see the DAF tab on CMF's website at centralmontanafoundation.com. ❖

Community Endowment Contact List & Fund Balances

as of May 31, 2024

- **Denton Endowment, \$166,963; Denton Ambulance, \$28,534**
Josh Webber, Farmers State Bank, P.O. Box 1047, Denton, MT 59430, phone, 406.567.2226
- **Garfield County Endowment, \$29,570; Jordan Swimming Pool, \$408; Library Fund, \$1,645**
Holly Harbaugh, PO Box 395, Jordan, MT 59337, phone, 406.557.2324
- **Grass Range Endowment, \$85,794**
Debby Olson, 401 7th Ave. So., Apt. 208, Lewistown, MT 59457, phone, 406.366.0370
- **Hobson Endowment, \$37,967; Hobson End. School, \$8,516, Philbrook Cemetery, \$2,221; Pride of the Judith, \$11,062; Hobson Pool, \$1,733**
Bill Hesselbart, PO Box 433, Hobson, MT 59452, phone, 406.423.5369
- **Judith Basin County/Stanford Endowment, \$242,649; Stanford Pool, \$3,528**
Tess Brady, PO Box 221, Stanford, MT 59479, phone, 406.566.2633
- **Judith Gap Endowment, \$41,876**
RoseMary Mitchell, PO Box 127, Judith Gap, MT 59453, phone, 406.366.1654
- **Moore Endowment, \$136,871**
Gary Greenwood, PO Box 133, Moore, MT 59464, phone, 406.374.2363
- **Petroleum County Endowment, \$177,649**
Gari King, PO Box 125, Winnett, MT 59087, phone, 406.429.5821
- **Roy Endowment, \$34,044**
Shelly Willmore, 2350 Birdwell Ln., MT 59471, phone, 406.464.7411
- **Wheatland County Community Endowment, \$63,407**
Mandie Reed, PO Box 733, Harlowton, MT 59036, phone, 406.240.1954
- **Winifred Endowment, \$129,343**
Jamie Wickens, PO Box 92, Winifred, MT 59489, phone, 406.462.5612

**Eleven
Rural
Community
Endowments
Funds
TOTAL:
\$1,203,783**

*Helping
improve
life
in our
Central
Montana
Communities!*

CMMC Foundation grants help variety of projects and people

Over the last few months, Central Montana Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Advisory Board of Directors recommended grants benefiting a broad cross-section of people. They include:

- **Lewistown Pickleball:** MCF gifts a first-aid kit to this group of volunteers who had raised funds to convert an abandoned tennis court at Symmes Park into a six-court pickleball facility completed in 2023. The first-aid kit is kept in storage at the courts to treat minor injuries.

- **Central Montana Emergency Care providers, \$5,180:** EMT's and Paramedics, must obtain annual education to maintain their licensing. MCF granted funds from the CMMC General Fund to supplement monies from CMMC to help 96 Central Montana Emergency Care Providers maintain competency, ensure evidence-based practice, and re-certify their licensure. Of these 96 providers, 68 are responders who are volunteers.

- **CPR Training at FHS, \$2,500:** A grant from Darci's Fund provided CPR training to Fergus High School juniors. This fund was established when a young boy was pulled from Warm Spring Creek and due to Darci Gillen Dawson's knowledge and quick action, she was able to perform life saving CPR. She, with the help of many contributors, have grown this fund to provide annual CPR training to juniors at Fergus High School. This year 81 students were certified.

CMMC Education Fund and the Nursing Excellence Fund held with MCF are helping CMMC staff who want to further themselves educationally. Recent awards include:

- **CMMC Education Fund award of \$404:** This award to a Hospice RN for an online course, OASIS Quality Specialist Bundle, allowing the trainee to sharpen assessment skills in relation to patient care.

- **CMMC Education Fund award of \$150:** This award allowed a Hospice Social worker to complete an online training called Compliance Hospice Bereavement Webinar.

- **CMMC Education Fund award of \$1,000:** This award helped a Radiation Therapist continue her education where she can learn the skills to provide radiation in the new Cancer Center.

- **CMMC Education Fund award of \$1,000:** This award allowed a maintenance employee to further his education and complete the Building Operator Certification.

- **Nursing Excellence Fund award of \$1,000:** This award supported a Certified Nursing Assistant who is pursuing education to earn her Licensed Practical Nurse certification.

- **Nursing Excellence Fund award of \$579:** This award helped an Emergency Room Nurse complete her needed two-year certification: Trauma Nursing Core



Ashley White (from left), Julia Valach and Erin Walsh were three of the recipients of awards from CMMC Education Fund and Nursing Excellence Fund to take classes to expand their knowledge and skills in their medical careers.

Course.

MCF Director Abby Franks said being able to help CMMC staff increase their knowledge through additional education is made possible by generous donations to both CMMC Education and Nursing Excellence Funds with MCF. "We're very excited to be able to help our staff in their quest to further their education!" Call Abby at 406.535.6309 to learn more about giving to these and other MCF funds. ❖

MCF supports high school EMT classes



Fergus High School students celebrate completion of the CMMC EMT program.

A record 21 students graduated from the Central Montana Medical Center's High School EMT program. Fifteen were from Fergus, three from Winifred, one from Hobson, and two from Harlowton. This program in total costs about \$47,000; a large portion donated by CMMC through in-kind use of staff time and equipment and just over \$18,000 donated by the Medical Center Foundation. Congratulations graduates!

Businesses and individuals are supporting Cancer Center enhancements

Central Montana businesses and individuals are once again living up to their reputation for generosity!

The Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) Cancer Center capital campaign raised the \$15.6 million base cost for the new comprehensive center, and donors are stepping up to fund Phase 2 of the campaign for significant enhancements to the Cancer Center.

Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Director Abby Franks said Stockyard Bar raised their hand and said, "How can we help?"

During the week of February 12-16, with each draft beer or White Claw purchase, Stockyard Bar donated \$1. Also, a special raffle was held. As a result, Stockyard made a special gift of \$500 to the Cancer Center

and specifically the Significant Enhancements of the project.

Abby said the significant enhancements to the project will cost \$2.8 million, and donors have put CMMC well on its way with just \$900,000 left to raise!

The Cancer Center significant enhancements include items such as CT Simulator equipment, restrooms at the central registration station, a pneumatic tube system connecting the lab, infusion center and pharmacy, a second elevator, landscaping, and lobby aesthetics for a healing environment.

To learn more about the project call Abby at 406.535.6309 or see Significant Enhancements by going to: <https://www.cmmc.health/foundation/cancer-center/> ❖



Michele Caldwell of Stockyard Bar with the \$500 raised for CMMC Cancer Center.

Memorials, Tributes & Donations - Thank You!

Donations to

CENTRAL MONTANA FOUNDATION

March 1-June 11, 2024

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In Memory of Becky Woltermann

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Summer 2024

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www.centralmontanafoundation.com

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February 15-June 11, 2024

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Rick & Sandy Thompson

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A gift to Central Montana Foundation (CMF) helps improve life in Central Montana. CMF holds a long list of permanent endowments for local non-profit organizations, scholarships, pass through accounts, the Central Montana Medical Center Foundation (MCF) and community endowments. (See the list of funds on the following page.) You can give online through EZ-Gift using a credit card, or ACH withdrawal from a checking or savings account by going to www.centralmontanafoundation.com under the "Give a Gift" tab. Please consider setting up a recurring gift for your favorite cause, or, return this form with your donation.

• **To give to a CMF Permanent Endowment or Pass Through Account,** return this form to Central Montana Foundation, PO Box 334, Lewistown, MT 59457

• **To give to a Medical Center Foundation Fund,** return this form to Medical Center Foundation, 408 Wendell Ave., Lewistown, MT 59457

• **To give to a Community Endowment Fund,** return this form to the contact person for that fund listed on Page 10.

Given by _____ Date _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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I wish to remain anonymous

*** Please write checks to "CENTRAL MONTANA FOUNDATION," and designate to which fund your gift should be deposited in the memo line. You may write one check for multiple funds! Questions? Call CMF at 406.538.6130! www.centralmontanafoundation.com under the GIVE A GIFT tab to make your secure donation online!**

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- Rosie Pense Estate Chester Rickner Estate
- Gertrude Saxtorph Jr. Housel Family Fund
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- Terry Bragg

Permanent Endowments

- A.W. Johnson Family Fund
- Big Spring Creek Watershed Council
- Boys & Girls Club of Lewistown
- Casino Creek Dam Site Maintenance
- Central MT Community Concert
- Central MT Community Cupboard
- Central Montana Fair Calf Roping Prize Fund
- Central Montana Fairgrounds
- Central Montana Family Planning
- Central Montana Head Start
- Central Montana Jaycees
- Central MT Medical Center Auxiliary
- Central Montana Memorial Gardens
- Central Montana Museum
- Central Montana Shrine Club
- Central Montana Shooting Complex
- Central Montana Youth Mentoring
- Cheadle Community Hall
- Council on Aging COA Bus
- Creekside Marketplace & Pavilion
- Crooked Creek Chapter, Walleyes
- Devin Moe Memorials: 4-H FHS
- Elks Lodge #456
- Emma Light Ag Building
- Fergus Community Leadership Partners
- Fergus County Farm Bureau
- Fergus Eagle Boosters
- Fergus FFA Alumni
- Fergus High School (FHS) Activity Fund
- FHS Speech & Drama (Quickenden)
- FHS Track & Tennis Court Maintenance (Kolar)
- First Presbyterian Church
- Forest Grove Cemetery
- Fort Maginnis Cemetery
- Friends of the Hobson Library
- Friends of the Library--Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Friends of the Pool
- Friends of the Trails
- Garfield County Fire Foundation
- Garfield County Health Center
- Gina Fitzgerald Music Fund for Jordan Schools
- Heart of Montana Farm in the Dell
- Heart of Montana Love INC
- Heath Rural Fire District
- High Notes for Kids
- Hilger Community Hall
- Hilger Fire Department
- Hobson Ambulance
- Hobson Rural Fire District
- Hobson Public School Montana Bale Trail
- Hobson Tiger Boosters
- Inspire Pregnancy Outreach
- Jawbone Creek Country Club Forever
- Judith Basin Co. Sheriff's Office K9
- Judith Gap Methodist Church
- Judith Mountain Players
- Kiwanis Toys for Kids
- Lewistown Art Center
- Lewistown Assoc. for Mentally Handicapped
- Lewistown Boy Scouts
- Lewistown Ice Skating Association

- Lewistown Library Book Fund
- Lewistown Park & Recreation Civic Center
- Lewistown Pickleball
- Lewistown Redbirds Baseball Association
- Lewistown Sea Lions
- Lewistown Swimming Pool
- Partnering for Resilience
- Petroleum County (Bratten)
- Petroleum Co. Road Maintenance (Teigen)
- Petroleum County Community Center
- Petroleum Co. Comm. Center Youth Program
- Projects for the Blind
- Recycle Our Waste Lewistown
- Saint James Episcopal Church
- Saint Paul Lutheran Church
- Save the Barns Maintenance
- Saving Animals From Euthanasia (SAFE)
- Ski for Light Montana
- Softball Hall of Fame
- Small Wonder Child Care
- Snowy Mountain Development Corporation
- Summer Youth Programs
- SMILES (Supplemental Meals In Lewistown Elem. Schools)
- TCT Activities
- TORCH (Together Our Recovery Center Heals)
- United Methodist Church (Gen., Boy Scout, Help, Mission, Youth)
- Veteran's Memorial Park Maintenance
- Winifred American Lutheran Church
- Winifred Cemetery
- Winifred Community Ambulance
- Winifred Methodist Church
- Winifred Rural Fire District
- Young People in Recovery
- Your Neighbor Cares of Central Montana
- Zion Lutheran Church

- James Schultz Memorial
- Jay & Janette Henderson
- Jerry Bergum Memorial
- John & Nan Marty/Joan Marty Smith Memorial
- Julie Kalin Memorial
- Kiwanis of Lewistown
- Leonard & Edith Brooks
- Lewistown Bowling Association (Triumph)
- Little Belt Snowmobile Club
- Lyle & Jean (Zelenka) Hassler
- Maiden School Marion Burke
- Maude Del Pimlott Estate
- Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering
- Moore Farmer's Oil Moore Sisters
- Oakley Woody Niels & Helen Kirkemind
- Pat Descheemaeker Memorial
- Rachel Schaffer Ralph Rindal Memorial
- Ray & Nikoline Marr Roy & Jean Wunderlin
- Russell & Beatrice Murray
- Susan & Chuck Samuel Family
- Stewart & Catherine Thomas
- Tom & Ellen Moe Walt & Wilma Kunau
- Willems Family
- Winifred Educational-Norm Asbjornson

Donor Advised Funds

- Dave & Donna Byerly
- Rich & Donna Dengel
- Horse Ranch
- Koffler Family
- Langbehn Family
- Lawrence & Kathleen Carrell
- Margaret L. Henderson
- Sherry & Eric Silberhorn
- Wells Fargo Bank

Pass Through Accounts

- Ackley Lake Club
- Central Montana Childcare Alliance
- Central Montana Youth Challenge
- COVID-19 Relief
- Denton Swimming Pool
- Fergus County Courthouse Restoration
- Fergus Wrestling Club
- Friends of Head Start
- Friends of Saint Wenceslaus
- Garfield Ambulance Service, Inc.
- Garfield County Museum
- Girls Fast Pitch/Boys Cross Country
- Glitz, Glam & Gowns
- Judith Basin Back Country Horsemen
- Lewistown Historic Accord
- Lewistown Police Dept. K9 Program
- Lewistown Soccer
- Montana Cowboy Poetry
- Roy School New Gym/Community Center
- Tri-Co. Crisis Intervention Stress Management
- Winnett ACES-Odd Fellows Hall Rehabilitation
- Winnett Swimming Pool

Medical Center Foundation

- Behavioral Health
- Cancer Center
- Cardiac Rehab
- Darc's Gift Emergency Room
- Friends of 1st Responders
- General Home Health
- HOPE Fund Hospice
- Lab Radiology
- Respiratory Care Room Remodels
- Support for Nursing Excellence
- CMMC Education
- Vision 2000 Other _____

Community Endowments

- Denton Philbrook Cemetery
- Denton Ambulance Judith Basin
- Garfield County Stanford Pool
- Jordan Pool Judith Gap
- Library Moore
- Grass Range Petroleum Co.
- Hobson Roy
- Hobson Pool Wheatland Co.
- Hobson School Winifred
- Pride of Judith

Scholarship Funds

- Augra Hegna Bill & Diane Brunemeyer
- Brooks School Central Montana Foundation
- Central MT Manufacturing
- Chester Rickner Clarence & Mildred Smith
- Combs Family Dale Godfrey
- David Moodie Family
- Diane & Duane Dengel
- Don Romo Dorothy Ileene Eklund
- Dr. Frank & Patty Thompson
- Elmer Erickson Memorial
- Ervin Weinheimer Evelyn Beatty
- Fergus Electric Lineman Fergus Farm Mutual
- FCHS Class of 1935 FHS/St. Leo's Class of 1964
- FHS Class of 1970 FHS Class of 1995
- FHS Class of 2019
- Fred Schell Memorial Gail Fox Memorial
- Germaine Stivers Memorial
- Gibson-Durbin Family
- Glenn Vogl Memorial Ag Hannah Bragg
- Harold & Bette Coolidge Nursing
- Helen F. Hruska Schultz Irene Miller
- Jack & Shirley Hughes (Grass Range & Winnett)
- James Lewis Memorial

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