

A Gathering of People Helping People

The

ROUNDUP

Winter 2024

Bequest to CMF will provide funding for historical preservation

Nancy Watts was passionate about accurately preserving history - so much that she provided funding for that purpose through her estate gift to the Central Montana Foundation (CMF).

CMF received nearly \$370,000 from Nancy's estate after her death at the age of 80 in January of this year. The funds are to be used for the benefit of non-profit and tax-exempt organizations engaged in archival and historical preservation activities.

"Earnings from the Nancy Watts estate gift will be used for grant funding for the historical activities that were important to her," said CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth. Potential grant recipients would be libraries and museums in Central Montana.

Nancy worked at the Lewistown Public Library from 1992 to 2020 and was also a dedicated volunteer at the Central Montana Historical Museum for many years.

Former Lewistown Library Director Florence Kettering said of her former colleague and friend, "Nancy did so much for the library, particularly for the local history and photo section."

Florence said the local history section used to be quite small. "Nancy did so much for the library that I had wanted to do. We received frequent requests for local history, and Nancy pulled that together and made our local history section the envy in the state."

Nancy's long-time close friend Maureen Logan said Nancy spent untold hours researching local history and genealogy and proofread for accuracy several history books written by local authors.

"She was always looking for new pictures and information to add to the Lewistown Library's collection," Maureen said. She also worked to coordinate having the same information for both the library and Central Montana Museum.



Nancy Watts (above, and in childhood photo, below) provided an estate gift to CMF that will provide grant funding for archival and historical preservation activities.



Even after her retirement, Nancy continued helping answer genealogy questions directed to the library and volunteering with the Central Montana Historical Association. She also provided a great deal of information on Central Montana history to the Montana Memory Project, and frequently contributed photos and historical facts on Facebook pages about Lewistown history.

Nancy (Hoenstine) grew up in State College, PA. She was a 1968 graduate of Penn State University. She married Robert Watts of Whitehall, MT, in 1964 and they moved to Lewistown in 1969. They had one son, Shawn, born in 1977.

Maureen and Nancy became good friends when they served together in PTA when their sons were in grade school. Their bond grew closer as the years marched on.

Maureen said Nancy began having neurological problems in the summer of 2023, and within a few months time, was falling frequently and forced to use a walker and then a wheelchair. By December 2023 she was no longer able to remain at home and was moved to a nursing home.

Her condition continued to deteriorate, and she was transported to Billings by ambulance for more testing, but there was nothing that could be done. She was brought back to the nursing home and died January 18, 2024.

"She was a great friend and a great person," Maureen said. "She was so giving of her time and loved history."

Eligible organizations will be asked to fill out a grant application to apply for funding from the Nancy Watts estate, and CMF Board of Directors will determine funding. For more information, contact CMF at 406.538.6130. ❖

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

May the coming year be filled with Peace, Joy and Happiness!

Allied Investment Advisors is the sponsor for this edition's full-color!

Allied Investment Advisors is the generous supporter of the full color in this edition of The Roundup; a joint publication of Central Montana Foundation (CMF) and Central Montana Medical Center Foundation (MCF).

Allied has been CMF's investment manager since 2017 and currently manages its portfolio valued at more than \$65 million as of November 2024. The CMF portfolio includes the 300+ permanent endowments and donor advised funds administered by CMF, which are invested in a conservative mix of stocks and bonds designed to earn a steady rate of return. Since Allied was hired as CMF's investment managers in June 2017, the rate of return has been 8.7% (through September 30, 2024).

"Allied follows CMF's Investment Policy and communicates regularly with CMF staff and Board of Directors," said CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth. "We are constantly sending funds for deposit and requesting funds out of the accounts to fulfill grant requests and cash needs of the accounts, and Allied staff are responsive and efficient in making it a seamless process."

Allied Investment Advisors was founded in 2011 by the firm's principals, Gary Lucas and Bart Aby, native Montanans with a long resume

in the financial industry. They follow a basic approach to investing that focuses on quality and a long-term view of investing. "Allied's philosophy of investing aligns perfectly with CMF's," said CMF President Dean Comes. "The very nature of permanent endowments is investing for the long-term in order to have a perpetual source of funding."

Allied's sole focus is fiduciary investment advisory services for businesses, non-profits and individuals. Their independent ownership structure allows them to make decisions at the local level with only their clients' best interests in mind.

Their culture is based on building trust and long-term relationships, with a passionate focus on client service. "There is strong alignment between our core values as a company and the mission of the Central Montana Foundation. Rural Montana clients have played a significant part in building our company into what it is today, and the Central Montana Foundation and the communities they serve are at the heart of our company footprint," according to Gary Lucas. "We are grateful to be a part of the Central Montana Foundation's success story, and we look forward to our continued work together in improving the quality of life in Central Montana." ❖

CMF's planned giving program qualifies donors for MT tax credit

Are you interested in making a charitable investment in your community while earning a tax credit in Montana and a federal charitable deduction? If so, setting up a planned gift to benefit a permanent endowment may be for you.

The Montana Endowment Tax Credit was established in 1997 to encourage individuals, businesses and organizations to make lasting investments in their communities by giving to qualified endowments like those held with CMF.

"Montana is one of just four states in the nation with an endowment tax credit, and we're excited to announce that Senate Bill 506 increased the tax credit limit and made it permanent as of Jan. 1, 2024!" said CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth.

The incentive is 40 percent of the gift's federal charitable deduction, up to \$15,000 per taxpayer or \$30,000 for joint filers, and a credit of 20 percent of a direct gift by a qualified business, up to \$15,000 per year. (The limits were previously \$10,000 for individuals and businesses, and \$20,000 for joint filers.) This is a direct deduction of the Montana income tax liability.

Planned gifts are a way of giving that allows donors to maintain access to income during their lifetime, provide estate and tax planning tools, and build permanent wealth for Montana's charities like those in the long list of endowment funds held under CMF's umbrella (see page 15).

CMF has software to create illustrations for donors who are considering setting up a charitable gift annuity. "Once we gather the relevant information, we can present information back to the donor that provides a close approximation of their federal charitable tax deduction and Montana Income Tax Credit.

"It's been very satisfying to these donors to

realize they can reduce that tax bill by helping charitable causes," Carrie said.

Another popular planned giving tool is a charitable gift annuity, where the donor can take income before the asset is gifted to charity.

Carrie works closely on the planned giving program with CPA Stacie Arntzen of Arntzen & Ruckman, the firm which provides accounting services for CMF.

If you are interested in learning more about planned giving, talk to your financial advisor and then contact CMF at 406.538.6130 for more information or to request an illustration. ❖



Leave a Wise Legacy.

The Montana Endowment Tax Credit allows donors to make lasting impacts in their community by giving to a qualified permanent endowment.

You can help your favorite non-profit; see the list of permanent endowment funds held with CMF on Page 15, then call Central Montana Foundation at 406.538.6130 to learn more!

**Greetings from
Central Montana Foundation
Board of Directors President**

On behalf of the Central Montana Foundation Board of Directors and staff, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

This was an exciting year for Central Montana Foundation as we celebrated our 40th Anniversary at our Annual Meeting in May. We had a good-sized group of our "history-makers" in attendance to help us celebrate, which made the event extra special. Especially poignant was having the sole surviving founding member, Don Pfau, at the meeting.

One thing that was emphasized at the Annual Meeting, and is worth repeating, is that there would be no Central Montana Foundation without our donors. I'm continually amazed at the generosity of people who love Central Montana. From people like Norm Asbjornson and all that he is doing in his hometown of Winifred and beyond, to the donors who give to a fund administered by CMF - those gifts illustrate how good people make good things happen in their communities.

Our founders created an amazing organization when they organized CMF in 1984. It was the first community foundation in the state, and it remains one of the largest and most respected. We now administer well over 300 funds and those combined assets are more than \$65 million. We've grown exponentially, but what hasn't changed is our mission to give back to the Central Montana community in order to improve life for its residents. The way we accomplish that is through your gifts; thank you to each and every one of you!

- Dean Comes
Central Montana Foundation President

**Greetings from
Medical Center Foundation
Advisory Board Chair**

It's the most wonderful time of the year! CMMC and the Medical Center Foundation have many things to be thankful for this past year and I feel honored to be delivering this message to all of you.

It has been a very busy year. The Medical Center Foundation, due to your generosity, approved funding for 30 grant requests, a total of \$73,822.

A new fund in FY24 was the CMMC Education Fund that supports CMMC staff who are looking to increase skills and knowledge through further education. This fund was made possible by Rich and Donna Dengel, in memory of their daughter Darcy. In the first year, seven staff have benefited from this fund. Phlebotomists working to become Medical Lab Technicians, Emergency Room Nurses gaining further trauma education and certifications to management staff pursuing leadership education; this is a fund that will have a wide and broad benefit to CMMC and our community.

The Medical Center Foundation continues to support the high school EMT program, as well as the Fergus High School CPR and first aid program where 82 high school sophomores are now certified. Involving the younger generation in medical training benefits us and them.

Most noteworthy was to finalize funding for the Cancer Center. Community donations and grant writing efforts, including Helmsley's significant lead gift of \$9 million, totaled nearly \$18 million. Once again, our community signified their love through charitable giving and supported a much needed service that will directly benefit our friends and families. Every single donation is appreciated and was needed to make this important project a reality.

On behalf of the Medical Center Foundation and our amazing director, Abby Franks, I wish everyone of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Blessings to all.

With Love and Gratitude,
Derree Kamp
CMF Chairman

Norm Asbjornson's quest to improve hometown continues

It's been said, "When it rains, it pours," and usually the connotation is a rapid succession of misfortunes. However, for the small farming community of Winifred, a good rainstorm is welcomed, and Norm Asbjornson is figuratively showering blessings on his hometown that just keep coming!

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) Board of Directors recently approved another round of new permanent endowments funded by Norm as he continues his quest to give back to the community that shaped the successful man he would become. His gifts to CMF for the Winifred Community Library, Winifred Museum and Town of Winifred-General totaled about \$3 million, and he provided another \$250,000 for the Winifred Stockyards. Funds for the Winifred Lutheran Church were also approved. Here's a rundown of these new funds with CMF:

Winifred Community Library

This agreement was approved in September and will provide financial support for preservation, maintenance and advancement for the Winifred Community Library, also known as Dorothy "Eric" Asbjornson Community Library. Library Director Brenda Baker said the library was ready to close its doors for lack of funding just a few months ago. Norm's generosity to the library (named after his mother) has allowed them to extend the library's hours, provides for the purchase of new materials and allows the library to offer new programs and update obsolete equipment. Having this endowment with the principal remaining intact and the earnings used to support

(Continued on Page 5)

Asbjornson Gifts . . .



CMF Board of Directors approved several new agreements with Norm Asbjornson for the benefit of Winifred. Pictured are (above left, from left) Town of Winifred Clerk Cheri Kjersem, Winifred Mayor Travis Willson and Museum Curator Nicole Spang, (above right) Library Director Brenda Baker, Winifred Lutheran Church and the Winifred Stockyards. All will benefit from Norm's generosity.



(Continued from Page 4)

Asbjornson Gifts . . .

the library's needs provides long-term sustainability. "I can't imagine where Winifred, and the library, would be without him," Brenda said.

Winifred Museum

The Winifred Museum has a unique collection of historical items, including what may be the largest collection of Tonka toys in the world. Norm's gift for a permanent endowment will provide financial support for the preservation, maintenance and advancement of the Winifred Museum.

Town of Winifred General

CMF Directors approved the permanent endowment funded by Norm providing funding to be used at the discretion of the Town of Winifred for its preservation, maintenance and advancement. Winifred Mayor Travis Willson and clerk Cheri Kjersem agreed that Norm's generosity towards Winifred has changed the trajectory of the town. Beginning back in the early 2000's, Norm began infusing funding for major improvements, including building a community center in 2003 housing the Town Hall, post office, library, museum, fire hall and large space for community events. More recently, Norm has invested in water works repair and the Winifred Airport Improvement project through endowments with CMF. Income from this Town of Winifred General endowment will help maintain and improve Norm's investments.

Winifred Stockyards

Improvements at the Winifred Stockyards are in the works, and include a new scale, fencing and updates in the arena. CMF Directors approved in October a new agreement with Norm for the Winifred Stockyards which will provide funding for the upgrades for this non-profit community stockyards.



A beautiful fall allowed work on Winifred projects to move full-steam ahead at the Airport, on school housing construction and Winifred Water Works repair. Century Companies Director of Business Development Kevin Myhre (left) stands on what will be a 60-foot wide paved airstrip, with a 75-foot grass landing strip adjacent to it. A new large capacity fuel system and hangar addition will also be completed in 2025. Other photos include work on one of the housing units and work to connect the housing to the town's water system.

Lutheran Church of Winifred

Two agreements were approved regarding the Lutheran Church of Winifred: a building fund and a general fund to provide financial support for preservation, maintenance and advancement. A major addition to Norm's home church is in the planning stages, and Norm said it will be one of the most beautiful houses of worship in the State of Montana.

"Once again, we're astounded by Norm's vision for his hometown and his continual generosity," said CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth. "He's transformed his hometown, and apparently, he's not done yet!" ❖



Winifred School Superintendent Chad Fordyce and counselor and coach Marietta Boyce are proud to showcase the electronic bulletin board in the school that Norm Asbjornson invested millions of dollars to improve.



Memorials honor long-time CMMC OB Nurse Darla Jones

With a more than 40-year-long career at Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC), most of the time in the Obstetrics Department, Darla (Owens) Jones had a connection with many people in the Central Montana community. When she was out and about, people often greeted her with, "You helped deliver one of my kids," said her son, Adam Jones.

Darla died August 25, 2024, and the Medical Center Foundation (MCF) received many memorials for CMMC's General fund directed to the OB Department.

"She was a steady force in the OB Department for many years. She taught so many nurses her skills and shared her knowledge that benefited many families over the years. She was full of grace and kindness; we were all lucky to get to work with her," said CMMC OB Manager Annie Davis.



Darla Jones (on the left) with the CMMC OB staff years ago at a memorial ceremony for Dr. Steven Berberet.

"Darla had the heart of a nurse; she was super compassionate," said her long-time colleague and friend Susie Wilber. The two went to grade school together, and both chose career paths that landed them in nursing at CMMC.

Darla graduated from Fergus High School in 1974, then went on to Montana State University to earn her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Darla married Charles (Charlie) Jones in 1983, and they had one son, Adam, born in 1987. The family enjoyed outdoor activities. Darla loved music and played many instruments,

enjoyed crocheting and arts and crafts.

She began work at CMMC in 1979, and completed 42 years there, most of which was in the OB Department. She was an OB nurse, then

Darla Jones . . .

(Continued on Page 9)

CMF recent grant awards to benefit the young and the old

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) Board of Directors sent out grant checks to three local organizations in the last few months that will benefit both the young and the old across Central Montana.

This round of grant awards included:

• **Lewistown Kiwanis Club:** The local Kiwanis Club received a \$4,000 grant to help install a playground at the Lewistown Soccer Complex. This state-of-the-art playground is designed for children ages 2-12, will have rubber matting for safety

and be handicap-accessible. Lewistown Kiwanis has committed funding, along with the Montana District of Kiwanis and other organizations for the playground which will be installed next spring at the Soccer Complex owned by the City of Lewistown.

• **Geyser Day Care:** CMF awarded a grant of \$1,628 for this day care located at Geysers School for the purchase of educational equipment including a light table and manipulatives, Amazon Echo Show, and a variety of learning tools and supplies. Light table technology provides a means for children to explore light, color and materials through play.

• **Lewistown Eagles Manor:** A \$4,850 grant was awarded to Eagles Manor to help fund new flooring for the facility's entry way and common area. Funding for this project is from an Enbridge Inc. grant to CMF. Enbridge has generously given funds to CMF's General endowment for four consecutive years, with the stipulation that funds be used to help at-risk populations. The Eagles Manor is home for 43 tenants who are elderly or have disabilities.

CMF Board of Directors considers grant requests under \$5,000 at its monthly meetings and requests \$5,000 and above at its annual meeting in May. The application and instructions are available on the CMF website at www.central-montanafoundation.com. Call CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130 for more information. ❖

**CENTRAL MONTANA
MEDICAL CENTER**

*Hospice Tree
of Lights*

Please join CMMC Hospice for the
"Remembrance Chime Ceremony"

Thursday, December 5, 2024
6 p.m. - Celebration Church
361 Frontage Rd.
Lewistown, MT

*Light is a symbol
of LOVE!*

Cancer Center to open in 2025

Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) Cancer Center construction is well underway and on track to open in early 2025, with a grand opening in late spring or early summer.

Work is nearly complete to enclose the entire facility as cold weather approaches. Workers have been hanging sheetrock in the facility, and thanks to the open fall weather, the driveway to the Cancer Center has been paved.

“The entire campaign has reached the goal and was only made possible by each and every gift contributed,” said Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Director Abby Franks. The community campaign raised more than \$8.4 million, and along with funding from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust and CMMC, the necessary funds were secured to construct the 16,700 square foot facility, and significant enhancements. Total project costs are projected at just over \$18 million.

Abby said donations continue to come in to support CMMC’s Cancer Center and will be used to support the long-term needs of the cancer program including future equipment replacement costs, cancer treatment advancements and growth of the facility.

The CMMC Cancer Center will include radiation and medical oncology, an improved hospital entrance and centralized patient registration. For more information, call the MCF office at 406.535.6309. ❖



CMMC Oncology Nurse Navigator/Cancer Care Services Coordinator Amy d’Autremont (left), CEO Cody Langbehn and MCF Director Abby Franks in front of the view from the Cancer Center.

Community Endowment Contact List & Fund Balances

as of October 31, 2024

- **Denton Endowment, \$174,163; Denton Ambulance, \$29,878**
Josh Webber, Farmers State Bank, P.O. Box 1047, Denton, MT 59430, phone, 406.567.2226
- **Garfield County Endowment, \$30,262; Jordan Swimming Pool, \$425; Library Fund, \$1,712**
Holly Harbaugh, PO Box 395, Jordan, MT 59337, phone, 406.557.2324
- **Grass Range Endowment, \$84,336**
Debby Olson, 401 7th Ave. So., Apt. 208, Lewistown, MT 59457, phone, 406.366.0370
- **Hobson Endowment, \$39,597; Hobson School, \$8,865, Philbrook Cemetery, \$2,312; Pride of the Judith, \$11,515; Hobson Pool, \$1,804**
Bill Hesselbart, PO Box 433, Hobson, MT 59452, phone, 406.423.5369
- **Judith Basin County/Stanford Endowment, \$252,589; Stanford Pool, \$3,676**
Tess Brady, PO Box 221, Stanford, MT 59479, phone, 406.566.2633
- **Judith Gap Endowment, \$46,253**
RoseMary Mitchell, PO Box 127, Judith Gap, MT 59453, phone, 406.366.1654
- **Moore Endowment, \$147,854**
Gary Greenwood, PO Box 133, Moore, MT 59464, phone, 406.374.2363
- **Petroleum County Endowment, \$182,553**
Gari King, PO Box 125, Winnett, MT 59087, phone, 406.429.5821
- **Roy Endowment, \$35,464**
Shelly Willmore, 2350 Birdwell Ln., MT 59471, phone, 406.464.7411
- **Wheatland County Community Endowment, \$68,010**
Mandie Reed, PO Box 733, Harlowton, MT 59036, phone, 406.240.1954
- **Winifred Endowment, \$132,491**
Jamie Wickens, PO Box 92, Winifred, MT 59489, phone, 406.462.5612

**Eleven
Rural
Community
Endowments
Funds
TOTAL:
\$1,253,759**

*Helping
improve
life
in our
Central
Montana
Communities!*

Couple with local roots provide funding for two cemeteries

Jim Allen and Patty (Tyler) Allen haven't lived in Central Montana since their youth, but it will always be "home" in their hearts.

When they lost their son Andrew Tyler Allen in 2022, they decided to bury him in the Moore Cemetery, joining other Tyler family members. "The idea of Andrew joining his family on Patty's side was important to us," Jim said.

Andrew's great grandparents, Charles and Laura Tyler, grandparents Max and Ruth Tyler, great uncles and aunt, Earl and Katherine Tyler and Clifford Tyler, cousins Maurice Tyler and Gwen Tyler Valentine, and Andrew's uncle, Ron Tyler, were all laid to rest in the Moore Cemetery.

Their decision on the burial later spurred Jim and Patty to make generous gifts to both the Moore Endowment and Judith Gap Endowment, earmarked for the cemeteries in those communities. The couple recognize that finding funding for the maintenance and improvements of cemeteries is difficult, and they wanted to help.

Andrew spent nearly all of his 40 years in Spokane but did live in Montana for a few years to attend the University of Montana. He was employed by United Parcel Service for more than 19 years in Spokane. He had "a gentle soul," especially with a fondness for animals, was an avid reader and loved card games.

Family is important to Jim and Patty, and they maintain close ties with extended family members. Patty was raised on the Tyler ranch



Jim and Patty Allen gave gifts for both Moore and Judith Gap Cemeteries. Sophia Finucane (above) helped her grandfather, Joe Bauman, install the bronze plaque on the pillar at Moore Cemetery.

near Moore, the daughter of Max and Ruth Tyler. Her brothers, Mike and Paul, are the fifth generation to ranch there.

Jim was raised on the Allen ranch a couple of miles north of Garneill, and his brother, Demorise Allen, Jr., still lives in the area. His parents, Demorise and Clara May Allen, are buried in the Judith Gap Cemetery. His parents were active members of the Judith Gap American Legion and Auxiliary and his brother has a long resume of service and leadership with the American Legion.

Jim and Patty are proud of their Montana roots and have always looked forward to their visits back home. The year after Andrew's death, Jim had some serious health problems and underwent a double lung replacement, curtailing their trips to Central Montana, but

they were comforted that friends and family were faithful to commemorate Andrew's life and place flowers on his grave.

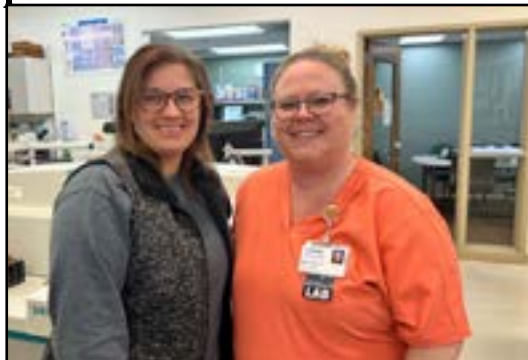
The couple were both raised by families who believe in volunteerism and giving to their communities. "A lot of people think about giving back but don't always take the time to do it," Jim said, adding that losing their son, followed by Jim's serious illness and recovery were the catalysts in their decision to not just think about giving back to support causes in their hometowns, but to actually do it. "We hope our story will encourage others to step up and do what needs to be done to support their communities." ❖

MCF provides support for staff education and other projects

Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Advisory Board awarded another round of grants over the past few months, including the following:

• **Central Montana Childcare Alliance:** MCF gifted \$2,500 to Central Montana Childcare Alliance for the purchase of manikins and first aid training kits to enable groups to offer CPR and First Aid certifications. MCF Director Abby Franks said there's currently a high need for persons who are hired to work for childcare facilities and need certification pre-employment, but the group will also offer these services to the broader community. Funding was from CMMC General Fund. Abby said gifts to CMMC's General Fund with MCF is a great way to support healthcare-related projects, both small and large in scope.

• **HOPE Fund:** MCF granted \$3,000 to help CMMC employees in crisis. The HOPE Fund is primarily supported through employee giving and is used to help co-workers in crisis or emergency. This last quarter the HOPE Fund supported three



Melissa Foxhoven (left) with Britney Ehlert, who received support from the CMMC Education fund to work towards her licensure to become a laboratory technician.

employees.

• **Nursing Excellence and Education Funds:** The Nursing Excellence Fund and the Education Fund with MCF provided \$600 each to support a CMMC registered nurse and department manager who was accepted into the Leadership Central

Montana program. Leadership Central Montana is a local opportunity for folks who are ready to take their leadership skills to the next level and make a significant impact in Central Montana. The nearly year-long program is offered through Snowy Mountain Development Corporation, as they fulfill a mission to cultivate a vibrant network of current and emerging leaders.

• **Education Fund award:** The Education Fund with MCF granted \$1,000 to support a phlebotomist to enter school and complete the Medical Laboratory Technician program and become a Laboratory Technician. Each year the CMMC lab completes more than 71,600 tests. Of these, around 51,500 are for outpatient needs, while around 14,000 support the Emergency Room, 5,700 for inpatient purposes, and 370 for swing bed patients.

To help support projects like these by giving to MCF funds, use the giving form on Page 14, or call MCF at 406.535.6309, for more information. ❖

Heart of Montana Love Inc - LINC House sets up endowment

Heart of Montana Love INC has set up a new permanent endowment with Central Montana Foundation (CMF) for a restorative home for women.

Heart of Montana Love INC Executive Director Danielle Barth said plans have been underway since 2023 for the opening of Love INC's new Restorative Home for Women, called the LINC House, and in early 2025 they will be open for residents.

The goal and aim of LINC House is to offer hope and healing in the Name of Christ by linking women to resources, relationships and a stable residence. LINC House represents a unique strategy of Love INC and its partner churches which combats homelessness, drug addiction, domestic violence and other struggles of women in Central Montana. The LINC House primarily serves women in the Central Montana tri-county area (Fergus, Petroleum, and Judith Basin).

"We want to give women a chance to rebuild their lives while residing at LINC House, whether that stay spans 30 days or 12



Heart of Montana Love INC Executive Director Danielle Barth at the Heart of Montana LINC House, which will open in early 2025.

months," Danielle said.

The house will serve up to six women at a time (and children on a case-by-case basis). Each resident has a separate bedroom, with communal living space available to all.

The LINC House is a Life INC ministry of Love INC, and as such, women will benefit from life skill classes, mentoring, connection to a local church, and a fuller understanding of healthy life processes that solidify sound decision-making.

Heart of Montana Love INC set up a fund with CMF shortly after the organization was founded in 2019. Having a permanent endowment helps build long-term sustainability for Love INC, and Danielle said it made sense to have that same long-term vision for the LINC House.

Donors can support either Heart of Montana Love INC or the LINC House permanent endowment with CMF by giving online or by using the giving form on Page 14.

For more information about Heart of Montana Love INC and the LINC House, call 406.535.5683.



Darla Jones . . .

OB manager for many years, and also worked in Acute Care, Quality Improvement and later in Information Technology.

"I learned a lot about being an OB nurse from Darla and how to navigate through a lot of things in the nursery and leadership positions," Susie said. Darla retired from CMMC in March 2021, and Susie in September of the same year.

When Darla's husband, Charlie, died in January 2023, the two former classmates and colleagues grew even closer. Darla had developed health problems and Susie provided care and support to her friend in the last years of her life.

MCF Director Abby Franks said memorial gifts like those for Darla to help the OB Department are instrumental in supporting healthcare. To learn more about MCF and its mission, go to the "Foundation" tab at cmmc.health.com.



Posing for a Christmas photo a few years back were (from left) Charlie, Adam and Darla Jones.

(Continued from Page 6)

FHS & St. Leo's Class of '59 established scholarship for FHS grads

Fergus High School and St. Leo's Class of 1959 alumni have decided to give back to the community that shaped their lives by setting up a scholarship fund with Central Montana Foundation (CMF).

The alumni held their 65th class reunion in August and had 14 alumni, along with spouses and friends, in attendance. There were 78 students who graduated from Fergus in 1959, and 13 from St. Leo's.

A spokesman for the class said they hope to build their permanent endowment and award an annual scholarship, "allowing the account to grow and increase the annual scholarship amount, long after members of our class have stopped



FHS and St. Leo's Class of 1959 held its 65th class reunion in August and have set up a scholarship fund for FHS graduates.

contributing."

A scholarship will be awarded to either a graduating senior or post high school graduate of FHS. The recipient will be selected by the Lewistown Public School Superintendent and FHS counselor, and financial need will be a consideration.

Applicants will use the Central Montana Foundation and Central Montana Clearinghouse Scholarship application to be considered for the Class of '59 Scholarship, as well as a long list

of other scholarships for local students.

Contact CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130 or at cmtfoundation@midrivers.com for more information. ❖

New scholarship offered for FHS Cross Country runners

A new scholarship opportunity is available for Fergus High School Cross Country athletes.

The Fergus High School Alumni Cross Country Scholarship will award two scholarships annually: one to a graduating senior and one to a post high school graduate.

Eligible applicants are students who ran cross country at Fergus throughout high school.

Preference will be given to applicants who are pursuing cross country at the college level, and to those who showed leadership in the cross-country program at Fergus.

"Cross country is a challenging sport that develops endurance



A new scholarship has been established for Fergus High School Cross Country runners.

and determination," said a spokesperson for the scholarship. "We're so pleased that Fergus High School now supports funding for both boys' and girls' cross-country teams." Until a few years ago, the boys' cross-country program was privately

funded.

Applicants will use the Central Montana Foundation and Central Montana Clearinghouse Scholarship application to be considered for the FHS, as well as a long list of other scholarships for local students.

Call CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130 for more information about the scholarship program. ❖

CMF Scholarships available for Central Montana students

Applications for Central Montana Foundation and other area scholarships and supplemental materials for the 2025-2026 academic year will be available online in early December at www.centralmontanafoundation.com and on the Fergus High School website.

The scholarship deadline for graduating high school seniors is March 15, 2025, and the deadline for post high school graduates is April 1, 2025.

A link to a description of nearly 80 CMF and other scholarship funds is also available on the CMF and FHS websites. Scholarships totaling more than \$500,000 were awarded in the last academic year from scholarship funds administered by CMF. Contact CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130 for more information about CMF's Scholarship program. ❖

Memorials, Tributes & Donations - Thank You!

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CENTRAL MONTANA FOUNDATION

September 18-November 12, 2024

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In Memory of families of Ft. Maginnis & Gilt Edge

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Central Montana Shooting Complex

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The Roundup

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In Memory of Dianna Stevens

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In Memory of Margaret Wiley

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Darrel & Christa Elliott

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September 11-November 11, 2024

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In Memory of Darla Owens Jones to support OB department

Alta Mae Pallett, Gerald & Sharon Moline, Valerie Tomuccio, Russel & Debra Slivka, Kurt & Wendy Vance, Glenn & Jane Todd

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Norm Asbjornson

In Memory Robert Barker

Central Montana Medical Center

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In Memory of James Francis Myers
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In Memory of Hazel Aasved

Robert & Joyce Taurman

In Memory of Charles Buck

Robert & Joyce Taurman

In Memory of Lear & Mona Fanagan

Robert & Joyce Taurman

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James Gardner, Nikki Hartrich, Scott & Dr. Tammy Welsh, Shannon Gardner
Designated purchase of Blood Bank Freezer for Lab
Dave & Donna Byerly

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Room Remodel

Amie d'Autremont

Support for Nursing Excellence

Katrina Waters, Annie Davis, Kristy Heller, Rob & Jessica Hicks & family, Courtney Moline, Kate Wier, Richard & Donna Dengel
In Honor of Rich and Donna Dengel
Wade & Debbie Stein



A Gift to Improve Life in Central Montana

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.

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*** 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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(Funds grants awarded by CMF)

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- Selma "Sally" Wells Estate George Mueller
- Terry Bragg

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- Asbjornson funds for Winifred: Airport
 - Housing Museum Library Town of Winifred
 - Winifred School Water Works
- 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
- Heart of Montana Love INC - LINC House
- 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
- Your Neighbor Cares of Central Montana
- Zion Lutheran Church
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- Jack & Shirley Hughes (Grass Range & Winnett)
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- Leonard & Edith Brooks
- Lewistown Bowling Association (Triumph)
- Little Belt Snowmobile Club
- Lyle & Jean (Zelenka) Hasser
- Maiden School Marion Burke
- Maude Del Pimlott Estate
- Montana Cowboy Poetry Gathering
- Moore Farmer's Oil Moore Sisters
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- Central Montana Childcare Alliance
- Central Montana Youth Challenge
- Denton Swimming Pool
- Fergus County Courthouse Restoration
- Fergus Wrestling Club
- Friends of Head Start
- Friends of Saint Wenceslaus
- 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
- Darci'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 _____

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- 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 the Judith

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- Fergus High School Alumni Cross Country
- FHS Class of 1935 FHS/St. Leo's Class of 1959
- FHS/St. Leo's Class of 1964 FHS Class of 1970
- FHS Class of 1995 FHS Class of 2019
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Central Montana Foundation
P.O. Box 334, 224 W. Main St., Suite 316
Lewistown, MT 59457
Phone: 406.538.6130
Email: cmtfoundation@midrivers.com
www.centralmontanafoundation.com



Carrie Mantooth

Medical Center Foundation
408 Wendell Avenue
Lewistown, MT 59457
Phone: 406.535.6309
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Abby Franks