



# Community of Giving 2024

**THESE ORGANIZATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**You Can Too!**



**BILLINGS GAZETTE**  
COMMUNICATIONS

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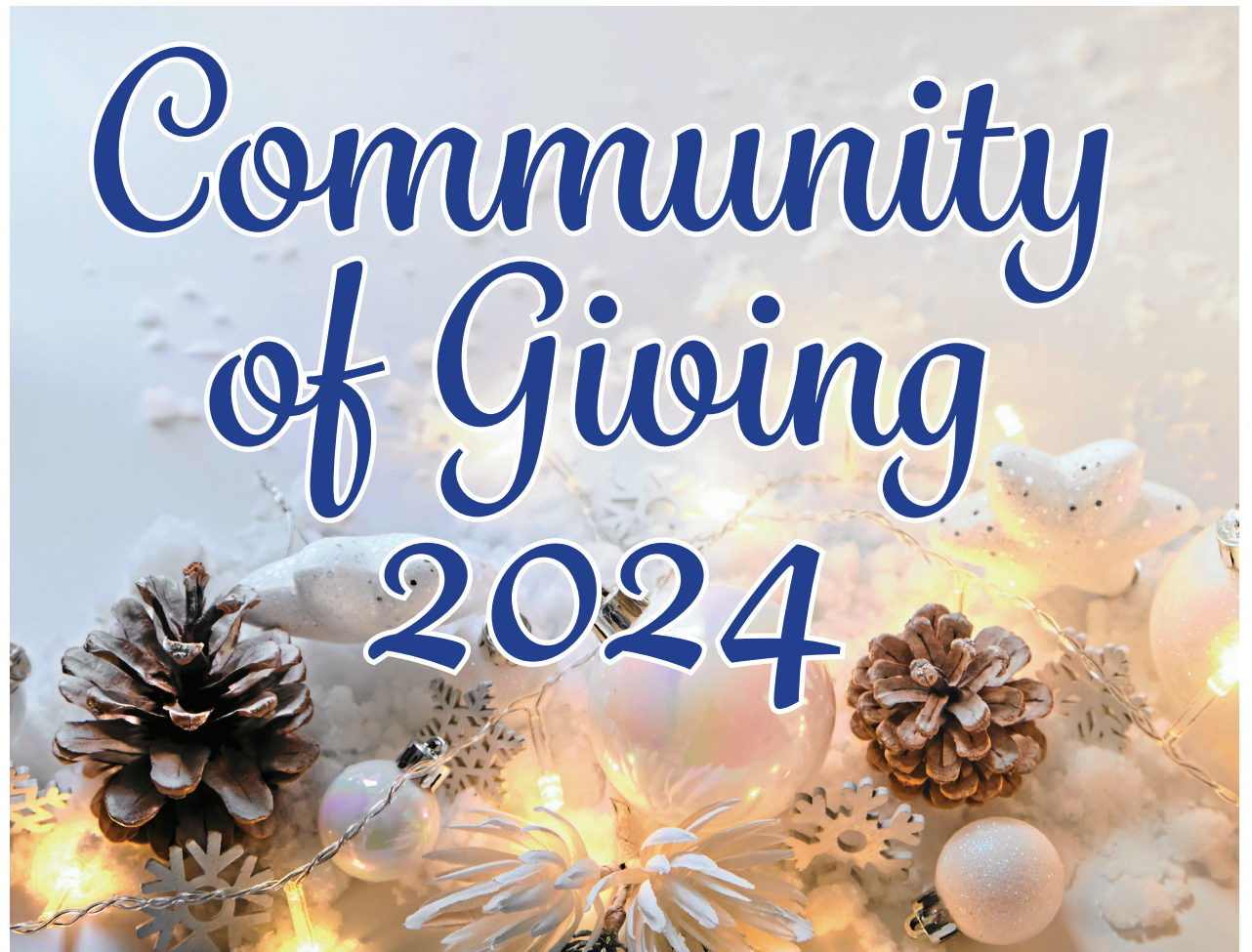
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Community of Giving  
is a special publication of  
The Billings Gazette



Publisher: Dave Worstell

Access Community of Giving at  
[www.billingsgazette.com/special-section](http://www.billingsgazette.com/special-section)



**A**s 2024 draws to a close, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the incredible community we are part of. I am truly inspired by the perseverance of both our local organizations and the citizens who volunteer, serve, and contribute their time and resources to make Billings a better place to live and raise a family. Your generosity has helped ensure that Billings offers a premier quality of life for all its residents. Whether through education, business, sports, the arts, or community services, there's something here for everyone.

During this time of year, friends, neighbors, and civic organizations come together to celebrate the holiday spirit in their own unique ways. It's a truly magical season. However, behind the scenes, a wide range of vital services is being provided to children, families, and individuals from all walks of life who are facing challenges.

In "A Community of Giving," you'll find a detailed overview of our local nonprofits and the essential services they offer to our region, significantly enhancing life in Billings. Our steadfast nonprofits continue to make a profound difference in the lives



they touch. We are fortunate to live in a community that cares deeply and is committed to providing critical support to those in need.

I encourage you to take a moment during this busy holiday season to connect with some of the remarkable individuals at nearby nonprofits and explore the rewarding volunteer opportunities available for all ages. You may discover your own unique way to embrace the spirit of the holidays.

I hope you enjoy this publication and find inspiration in the everyday good deeds taking place around us. The Billings Gazette is proud to be part of this generous community.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

**Thank you,**

*Dave Worstell*

**Dave Worstell, President  
Billings Gazette**

## St. Vincent de Paul



**A**s Billings only Daytime Shelter, St. Vincent de Paul helps homeless and poor families, women, and men no matter what their age, faith, background, or despair.

In 2024, over 100,000 meals will be served, as more struggling with food insecurity have come the first time. We provide donated clothing. Also, life-skills training is offered, group recovery meetings held, and referrals scheduled with community partners to help those in need avoid or end homelessness.



Our charitable assistance includes one-time rent to a landlord to avoid eviction, or utility to avoid shut-off. This helps poor families get on track when wiped out by an emergency, because few can save for the unexpected. Scholarships for sober living home fees help those in recovery, because self-sufficiency requires a job which takes time to get in recovery.

Grateful for Your Support for Christmas Meals

To donate please visit [svdmt.org](http://svdmt.org) or mail your check payable to St. Vincent de Paul at 3005 First Ave South Billings, MT 59101



# Hunger Knows No Boundaries



## Your Support for Christmas Meals is Needed

Please donate at [www.svdpmnt.org](http://www.svdpmnt.org) or mail your check payable to St. Vincent de Paul, 3500 First Ave South Billings, MT 59101



St. Vincent de Paul, Billings' **ONLY** Daytime Shelter,  
Welcomes Everyone in Need

## Hoodies for Heroes

**F**rederick “Rick” Baker, an Operation Enduring Freedom Combat Soldier was looking at the memorials outside city hall and realized there is no memorial to honor his fellow soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq and all soldiers post-Vietnam. Rick wanted to do something about that. So, after researching he compiled a list of all Montanans who were KIA. He thought to put their names on the back of hoodies to raise money and community awareness. His classmate from Shepherd High School SGT Terry Lynch, KIA, was the inspiration of the memorial. Rick put SGT Lynch’s dog tags on the front of the hoodies and named the organization Hoodies for Heroes. Rick mostly paid out of his own pocket for the first two years to raise awareness and seek help from the community. Rick had several businesses help him throughout 2020-2022.

Rick asked Eric Simonsen from Simonsen Architect if he could help. Eric offered their services and he and Thom Greenwood from Simonsen Architects jumped in full force. They both spent numerous hours getting this project off the ground. On Veterans Day November 11, 2022, Hoodies held its first official fundraiser and this is where Rick Baker met Ken Callahan. Ken a US Army Veterans shared his experience and showed Rick a photo of the Veterans Monument he just helped build in Williston ND. From this day forward they were joined at the hip, created the 501c3, formed the board of directors, and started to build the team who would build the wall. Rick and Ken’s partnership grew over the next year as they looked at 87 city parks in Billings. On November 8, 2023, the park board unanimously approved to recommend Dehler Park for the memorial. On April 8th, 2024, the City of Billings granted their home for the Memorial. The location – the park just past left centerfield fence where the Billings Mustangs play baseball. They put a budget together, they started to recruit a team to build the wall and fundraise. Sandra Gebhardt utilized her marketing skills helping to get the word out faster than expected.

Ken and Rick visited with Knife River who committed to supply the concrete and volunteered to provide all the digging and dirt work. This was the first big accomplishment they needed as the building season was underway. With help from Eric Simonsen and Thom Greenwood they formed the construction team. 4-Ground Structural Engineer, CON’EER, and Montana Dakota Utilities both jumped in to help. We needed a general contractor, and they recommended Bauer Construction. Rick and Ken met with Chris and Houston Bauer, and they did not hesitate. Rick reached out to LG Electric, Ed and Tyler agreed to be our electrical contractor. Alicia and Robert from the Counter Toppers



reached out to Rick and said they wanted to help with the granite. We modified the plans and needed a concrete finish person. Dustin Devlin from Devlin Contracting stepped up and said he wanted to be part of such an amazing project. Scott Aspenlieder from Performance Engineering volunteered to be part of the project. Rick started Metal Tech with his vision to make the memorial in 2020 and now the construction team was complete.

Now we need to fundraise, Bill Kennedy and Scott Aspenlieder both agreed to help Ken and Rick fundraise for the Memorial, now we have our fundraising team. This was a huge ask to raise \$400,000 before Veterans Day and another \$100,000 before Memorial Day when they plan to sign over the Memorial to the City. Rick needed to shift gears and start building the memorial. Ken, Bill, and Scott continued to fundraise, doing numerous presentations, and filling out many grants and achieved their goal of \$400,000!!

Rick’s vision was to build a Veterans Memorial out of metal to recognize the Montana Soldiers who were KIA. Rick ordered the metal and put it on the wall. It became surreal when Rick put the first name on the wall. It has been four years of challenging work, time, and money; but at the end of the day, it is humbling to see. The construction team put their business aside and jumped into the building of the wall and make this a reality!!



## NAMI Billings

**D**riven by the pressing demand for mental health services in Yellowstone County, a small group of families with loved ones exhibiting mental illness gathered for mutual support and understanding. Now, almost thirty years later, their simple home meeting has evolved into a vibrant community of clients, compassionate volunteers, and devoted contributors.

NAMI Billings, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, offers FREE mental health programs for adult individuals and families, including:

- Education classes to provide information and resources

- Support groups to connect with others who share similar experiences

- Community presentations to raise awareness of the significant need for mental health services

Mental illness does not discriminate; one in five are impacted. You can help! Your compassionate support elevates mental illness from the shadows, enhances community understanding, and transforms stigma into hope.

Please consider making a year-end contribution to NAMI Billings today by scanning the QR Code. Your donation will bolster our efforts to collectively create a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness this holiday season.



## United Way of Yellowstone County

**U**nited Way of Yellowstone County is a trusted, local non-profit founded in 1961. We support programs that give free books to kids, provide resources to those in crisis, work toward solutions to homelessness, and much more.

Individuals and families in our community face challenges. We strive to give them the tools to overcome those challenges and provide for their future. This year, we:

- distributed \$300,000 in grants to local non-profits supporting school readiness and success, senior independence, and crisis stabilization.

- Are on track to award about \$60,000 in scholarships and emergency assistance through our childcare programs.

- provided funding for a coordinator for a coalition fighting homelessness, and plans to hire another position to tackle issues contributing to homelessness.

... and we're just getting started.

Your donations fuel this work.

Through additional fundraising, volunteering, and coordination with other organizations, we turn each dollar donated to us into a more-than-\$4 investment in our community. Your support directly aids people in Yellowstone County who are striving to create a brighter future, for themselves and our community.



*Your mental health matters*



**NAMI**  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

**Billings**

955 Broadwater Sq.  
Billings, MT 59101

**406.256.2001**

info@namibillings.org  
[www.namibillings.org](http://www.namibillings.org)



**CHEERS**  
to our community



**UNITED WAY**  
of Yellowstone  
County

A local non-profit  
supporting local  
causes since 1961

For the price of one  
drink per month, your  
donation helps  
Yellowstone County



United, we strive...  
To end homelessness  
To increase literacy  
To provide crisis aid  
... and much more

Scan to donate



Learn more: [unitedwayyellowstone.org](http://unitedwayyellowstone.org)

## Billings Clinic Foundation

**B**illings Clinic is proud to support and care for the communities where we live, work and serve. Across Montana, northern Wyoming and the western Dakotas, our mission is to provide quality, compassionate care for all.

Over the last year, Billings Clinic has expanded that commitment to local, high-quality care by continuing to join with Logan Health to create a unified, Montana-based health system to enhance care and coordination across the region. It completed the largest capital campaign in its history to enhance trauma and complex care, including the state's first and only mobile ECMO program. And it reaffirmed its dedication to the youngest members of the community with a campaign to renovate its pediatrics department and the start of construction on a new neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Last year, Billings provided \$76.6 million in community benefit, including \$19.4 million in financial assistance for tens of thousands of patients. All of this adds up to a vision that reimagines health care through connection, service and

innovation so that everyone, no matter where they are, gets the care they need, when they need it. At Billings Clinic, that also means that we're taking care of our homes, our families and our communities. Learn more at [billingsclinic.com](http://billingsclinic.com)

CELEBRATING  
*Loved Ones*  
A Season of  
Honor & Remembrance

This holiday season, celebrate the people who matter most by giving the gift of hope and healing.

Honor or memorialize a loved one with a special tribute.

  
Billings Clinic  
Foundation

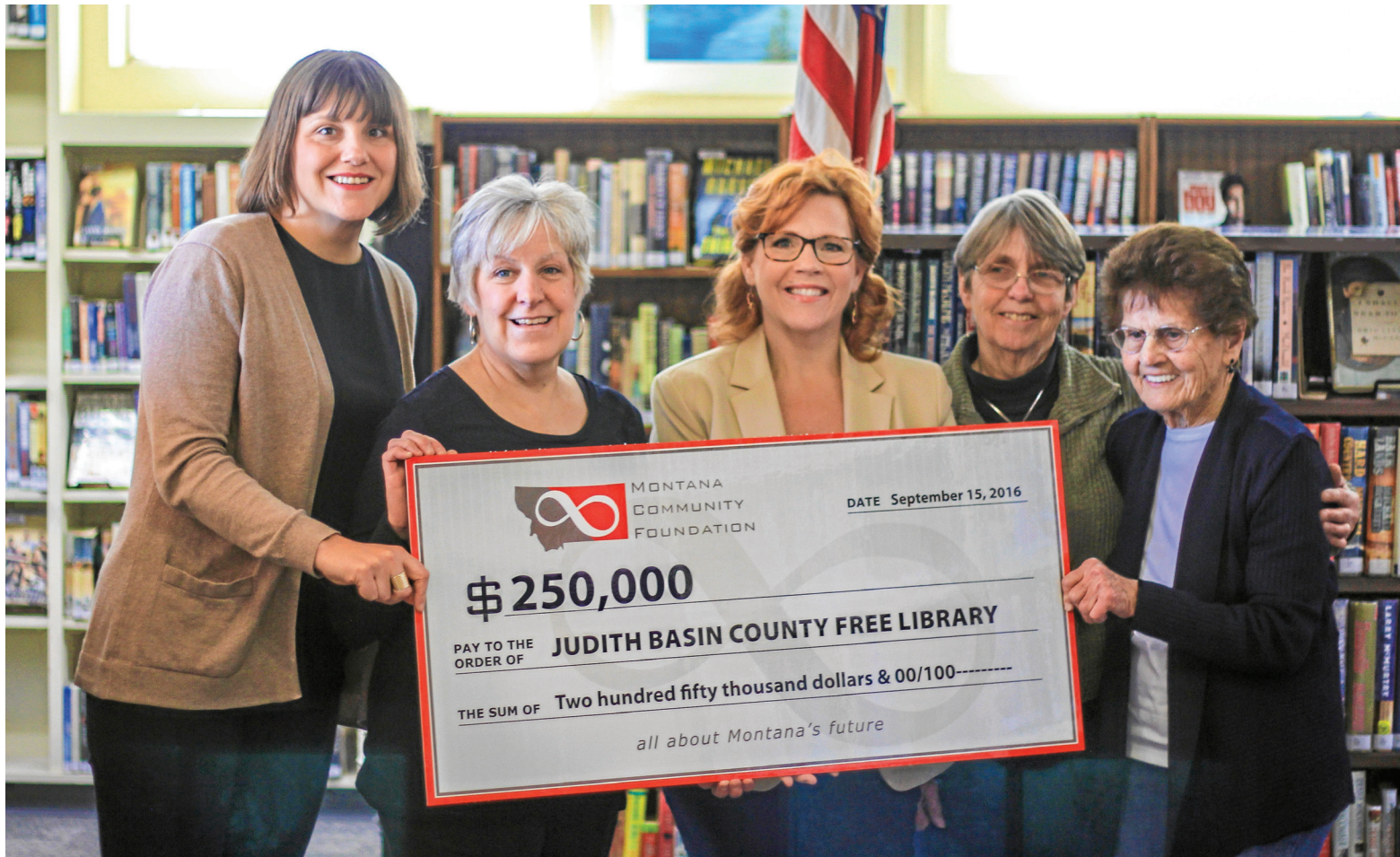
  
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## Embrace the Power of Giving with the Montana Community Foundation

**A**t the Montana Community Foundation (MCF), giving is more than just a way to support causes—it's about building a legacy that will continue to benefit Montana for generations. Since our founding in 1988, MCF has worked tirelessly to nurture a culture of philanthropy. Today, with more than \$178.5 million in assets and more than 1,450 funds and planned gifts under our care, MCF has reinvested more than \$100 million into Montana. These efforts are driven by community centered individuals and organizations. We are honored to place Montana at the heart of all that we do.

As we enter this charitable giving season, I want to emphasize how impactful your contributions can be. Montana is filled with generous individuals who care deeply about their communities. Your contributions help address issues that matter to Montanans, from expanding mental health access in tribal communities to supporting scholarships for the next generation of leaders. Your donation can make a difference today or leave an enduring mark for tomorrow. At MCF, we offer giving options that fit your personal goals and financial planning needs, making the process easy and meaningful.

One of the most powerful ways to give back is by making a Montana Endowment Tax Credit (METC) qualifying gift. This tax credit allows individuals to give to a qualified permanent endowment fund and receive a credit of up to 40% of their donation, with a maximum of \$15,000 for individuals and \$30,000 for couples. The 2023 legislative session brought even better news—the METC cap has been increased, and the sunset date has been



eliminated. This means the opportunity to create a lasting legacy through the METC is solid, allowing you to both support the causes you love and reduce your state tax bill.

My husband, John, and I have personally experienced the benefits of the METC. Through planned gifts, we've been able to contribute more than we ever thought possible to causes we care about, while enjoying significant tax advantages. What makes these gifts particularly special is that they are endowed—ensuring that the impact continues indefinitely, benefiting Montana communities long after we're gone.

If you've been considering how to make a difference, now is the perfect time. By taking advantage of the METC, you can amplify the power of your giving while securing a brighter future for our state. Whether you're passionate about education, health care, conservation, or another cause, your contributions will ensure that the Montana we love remains vibrant and thriving for generations to come.

To learn more about how you can make a lasting impact or to explore tax credit-qualifying planned gifts, I encourage you to reach out to one of our philanthropy experts at the Montana Community Foundation. Visit us online at [mtcf.org](http://mtcf.org), call us at (406) 443-8313, or send us an email at [giving@mtcf.org](mailto:giving@mtcf.org).

Let's continue to cultivate a culture of giving that makes Montana a place where communities flourish—today, tomorrow, and forever.

**Mary K. Rutherford**  
**President & CEO, Montana Community Foundation**



The Montana Community Foundation makes

**more...**



**Mary K.  
Rutherford**  
President & CEO  
(Helena)



**Heather Ohs**  
Gift & Estate  
Planning Director  
*Serving Southwest  
and Eastern Montana.*

**thriving communities**

**securing legacies**

**scholarships**

**disaster recovery**

**after school programs**

**grant funding**

**possible.**

For more than 35 years, thanks to the generosity of passionate donors, the Montana Community Foundation has helped make more possible. Connect with us to learn how you can make MORE possible in your community.



**mtcf.org**  
giving@mtcf.org

## Boys Scouts of America

**T**oo many kids today prefer online interactions over outdoor play, a trend that has grown over recent years. Excessive screen use has been linked to sleep issues, obesity, and mental health challenges.

In Montana, Scouting America encourages youth to get outside, collaborate, and build confidence through real-world interaction and hands-on activities.

Programs like Cub Scouts (grades K-5), Scouts BSA (ages 11-17), Venturing, and Exploring (ages 14-21) invite boys and girls to develop leadership skills while tackling fun, challenging adventures. Scouting helps young people grow into their best selves, creating lifelong memories and valuable skills.

Did you know that youth in the Scouting say it helps them be more honest, improves their ability to work with others, and are more helpful and kind? They are building character while having fun!

Scouting is for the whole family. More time together hiking, exploring, and being involved in the community means you get to be a part of your child's path of adventure as they grow into ethical leaders.

A Scout is: Prepared. For Life.

Learn More: [WWW.MONTANABSA.ORG/START](http://WWW.MONTANABSA.ORG/START)

**Scouting America**  
Montana Council

## Zoo Montana

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## TRADE PIXELS FOR PINECONES.

ADVENTURES IN REAL LIFE



**Scouting America**  
Montana Council

406-259-4513 | [WWW.MONTANABSA.ORG/START](http://WWW.MONTANABSA.ORG/START)

## WE'RE SHOUTING IT LOUD AND CLEAR:



## THANK YOU BILLINGS FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORT OF ZOOMONTANA!



## Family Service

**T**his season, you can help bring hope and relief to those who need it most. Together, we can ensure more families have the essentials they need to not only survive the season, but truly celebrate it.

“This support has been a lifeline for us, allowing us to keep the kids in a stable home and share a meal at a time when it felt like everything was out of control.” – Susan Bentley, a neighbor in need

The Bentleys, a local family of four, have always worked hard to make ends meet. But last year, for the first time, their paychecks didn't reach as far as in previous years. As the holiday season approached, the pressure mounted. Purchasing new winter coats for the kids, higher heating bills, and grocery bills began to add up, leaving the family feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, and alone. When the Bentleys first received help from the Family Service Client Choice Food Pantry, it made an immediate impact. The groceries they received meant they could enjoy a holiday meal together without worrying about the cost. The turkey, fresh vegetables, and pantry staples, provided through donations, allowed them to experience the joy

of the season with dignity.

But the help doesn't stop there...by applying to Family Service's one-time rent assistance program, the Bentleys were able to stay in their apartment. They didn't have to choose between keeping a roof over their heads, paying utility bills, and celebrating the holiday with their children, “Without the food and rent assistance, we wouldn't have made it through the holidays.”

Remember, the true spirit of the holiday season isn't just about buying gifts, and spending time with loved ones, it's about extending compassion and a helping hand to those who are struggling. Your generosity, no matter how small, makes a profound impact. Because of you, families' lives like the Bentleys are changed.

This holiday season, will you help provide:

- Meals for families in need
- Utility support
- Rental assistance
- Clothing
- Education assistance

Your support brings comfort, security, and joy to those facing the toughest challenges.

Let's make this season one of hope and renewal for our Montana neighbors.



**Family**  
**SERVICE**  
Feed, Furnish, Fortify



**You can bring hope and relief to those who need it most.**

Every month, one in six families in Yellowstone County has to decide whether to feed their children or pay their rent. People we work and live beside are often one paycheck away from poverty. Every day, those who face emergencies turn to Family Service for help.

**Let's make this season one of renewal and hope for our Montana neighbors.**



### YOUR GIFT PROVIDES:

- Meals for families in need
- Rental assistance, so families can stay safe in their homes
- Utility support, to keep homes heated during the coldest months
- Clothing to remain warm and maintain dignity
- Education assistance, to make dreams a reality

With your help more than **64,000** families and seniors were lifted toward stability last year. **No donation is too small. Any amount will be appreciated.** Donate securely. Text the word **WINTER2024** to **26989** or online at [billingsfamilyservice.org/#donate](https://billingsfamilyservice.org/#donate), or mail to:



PO Box 1020  
Billings, MT 59103  
406.384.0062  
[billingsfamilyservice.org](https://billingsfamilyservice.org)



# In Montana, 'neighbor' is also a verb.

As our Stillwater and Boulder River Valleys cope with recent economic challenges, please consider helping these deserving organizations this holiday season.

## **COLUMBUS FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION**

thansen@columbusfirerescue.com  
columbusfirerescue.com

## **COLUMBUS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**

wenwells@scmrmhc.org  
Mhcbillings.org

## **COLUMBUS SENIOR CENTER**

mgolden27@msn.com  
406-322-8605

## **DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICES**

info@dsvsmontana.org  
Dsvsmontana.org

## **KRUZIN' 4 SENIORS**

kruzin4seniors@aol.com  
Kruzin4seniors.org

## **PROJECT HOPE**

projhopecol@gmail.com  
projecthopestillwater.org

## **SPECIAL K RANCH**

steve@specialkranch.org  
Specialkranch.org

## **COLUMBUS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

columbuscommunityfoundation@gmail.com  
Columbuscommunityfoundation.org

## **ABSAROKEE AREA MERCHANT ASSOCIATION**

absarokeearea.com

## **STILLWATER LEGACY TRAILS**

stillwaterlegacytrails@gmail.com

## **NYE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

info@nyecommunityfoundation.org  
Nyecommunityfoundation.org

## **SWEET GRASS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

cseitz@sweetgrasscf.org  
Sweetgrasscommunityfoundation.org

## **HOSPITALITY HOUSE**

hospitalityhouse2017@outlook.com

## **ABUSE SUPPORT & PREVENTION EDUCATION NETWORK (ASPEN)**

info@aspenmt.org  
Aspenmt.org

## **BIG TIMBER FOOD BANK**

btfoodbank@gmail.com

## **MONTANA ON A MISSION**

info@montanaonamission.org  
Montanaonamission.org

## **CATALYST FOR CHANGE**

info@catalystforchange.org  
Catalystforchange.org

## **BIG TIMBER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

bigtimberfire@gmail.com  
Sgcountymt.gov

## **FRIENDS OF DORNIX PARK**

dornixpark@gmail.com  
Dornixpark.org

**Thank you for your support.  
Please donate today!**

## YWCA Billings

**A**t YWCA Billings, we dare to dream of a world free from violence, where every survivor of domestic violence can heal and rebuild their life with hope. This vision isn't just an ideal—it's at the heart of everything we do. Every day, it guides us as we work to support survivors, strengthen our community, and build a future where everyone has a chance at a safe, fulfilling life.

Yet, the reality we face is stark. The demand for refuge from domestic violence remains high. Last year, there were 723 calls from individuals seeking shelter where we had to tell them we were at capacity and couldn't help them that day. This reality underscores the urgent need for more safe spaces and reminds us of the many people still struggling to find the support and compassion they deserve.

When Maya reached out to YWCA, she was desperate to find safety for her and her children after years of living with her controlling abuser. Although our shelter was at capacity, we immediately connected her with our other programs. Maya met with YWCA's Legal Advocate to secure a restraining order and worked with our Services Navigator to find a therapist, gradually healing from past traumas while rebuilding her self-confidence. With assistance from our Housing Navigator, she moved into an apartment, where she started exploring her long-held dream of opening a small business. Maya worked tirelessly on her handmade products, and now her items are sold in local shops across the state. Maya's journey is a testament to resilience and the transformative power of community support, proving that with determination and the right

## Let's Turn Hurt into Healing & Dreams into Reality



Use the QR code or visit [ywcabillings.org](https://www.ywcabillings.org) to find out how.

resources, a life worth dreaming of is within reach.

With your help, we can help more survivors like Maya. Every contribution from our community makes a tangible difference, ensuring that no survivor is left without a safe place to turn, and bringing us closer to a world where healing is possible for all. To donate, please visit us at [ywcabillings.org](https://www.ywcabillings.org), call 406-252-6303, or connect on social media @ [ywcabillings](https://www.ywcabillings.org). This holiday season, let's turn hurt into healing and dreams into reality.



**DARE TO  
DREAM**  
*of a world free from violence.*

**Join  
Us**



YWCA Billings | 909 Wyoming Ave | 252-6303 | [ywcabillings.org](https://www.ywcabillings.org)

## Family Tree Nurturing Center



### FAMILY TREE NURTURING CENTER

**F**amily Tree Nurturing Center (Billings Exchange Clubs' Child Abuse Prevention Center) is committed to the prevention of all types of child abuse and neglect in Yellowstone County and the surrounding areas. Family Tree Nurturing Center believes that every child deserves the best possible start in life; believes in addressing problems early on before they require costly intervention; that every family needs support, and that support is most effective early in a child's life; and that violence needs to be addressed at every level of society. Since 1985, Family Tree Nurturing Center has been providing services to support, strengthen, and educate children and families in ways that enhance their growth and well-being.

Thousands of families have benefitted from the agency's Parent Aide In-Home Mentoring Services, Nurturing Parenting Classes, Free Respite Childcare, Parents' Evening Out, Family Fun Nights, Montana Women's Prison Parenting Program, Voices of Incarceration Re-Entry Project (an 8 week re-entry group and ongoing support for parents and resources and support for caregivers of children with incarcerated parents), Parenting Workshops, Prevention Education (which teaches parents, teachers, child care workers, and others about recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse and neglect), and Supervised Parenting Time. All of the services offered by Family Tree Nurturing Center are offered with the express purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect - "to stop the hurt before it happens," and are available to ANY family in the community without judgement. Please help us "stop the hurt" before it is too late!

39TH ANNUAL

# Festival of Trees

PRESENTED BY

*Family Tree Nurturing Center*

A BENEFIT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

METRA PARK

PAVILION

DEC 5 - DEC 7



FESTIVAL OF TREES-FAMILY TREE CENTER / 406.252.9799/WWW.FTNC.ORG

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**THURSDAY, DEC 5TH**

**Gala & Auction 5:00 PM**

Gala Tickets: \$75 per person \$500 per reserved table of 8

**FRIDAY, DEC. 6TH**

**Special Viewing for Children & Seniors 9 11 am**

Opportunity for seniors, children and special needs groups to visit the festival prior to opening for public viewing. No charge for groups viewing the trees.

**Tea in the Trees 1 - 3pm**

\$10 Senior Tickets \$12 Advance Tickets or \$15 at the door. A lovely relaxing afternoon of tea, cider and desserts. Style Show by Dillard's, Entertainment. Special Guest Miss Montana, Gift Boutique and door prizes.

**Gift Boutique 3 - 8pm**

Come do your Christmas shopping with the many creative and delightful holiday gifts from a variety of vendors and artisans.

**Stroll through the Trees 5 - 8pm**

Stroll through a Winter Wonderland and enjoy the beautifully decorated holiday trees. Remember to vote for your favorite. \$1 per ticket vote. Tickets may be purchased at the front entrance. (We ask that you please do not touch the trees or items below the trees)

**Entertainment 5 - 8 pm**

Magic Show, Choral and dance groups provide entertainment for the whole family. Schedule will be posted at the event.

**Carnival 5 - 8 pm**

Family fun carnival for all ages. Games, prizes, airbrush tattoos, and more. Tickets for sale at the Carnival Booth. All proceeds go to Family Tree Nurturing Center, Festival of Trees.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 7TH**

**Stroll through the Trees 10am - 6 pm**

Stroll through a Winter Wonderland and enjoy the beautifully decorated holiday trees. Remember to vote for your favorite. \$1 per ticket vote. Tickets may be purchased at the front entrance. (We ask that you please do not touch the trees or items below the trees)

**Gift Boutique 10am - 6pm**

Come do your Christmas shopping with the many creative and delightful holiday gifts from a variety of vendors and artisans

**Entertainment 11am - 6pm**

Choral and dance groups provide entertainment for the whole family. Schedule will be posted at the event.

**Photos with Santa 10am - 3pm**

Bring your child(ren) to visit with Santa and take that annual photo and drop that letter to Santa in his mailbox.

**Food Trucks 10am - 6pm**

Bring your appetite. We will have a variety of food trucks available. Located in parking lot.

## ADMISSION PRICES

\$5 per person or \$15 per family (2 adults + children) Children 6 & under are FREE



**Methods of payment:  
Cash & Credit Cards acceptable**

## ANGELA'S PIAZZA

**A**ngela's Piazza is a welcoming, accepting place where women come to learn to live a safer, better life free from addictions and violence. They do this by discovering self-confidence, courage, and hope through domestic violence programs and programs that encourage spiritual and emotional healing.

When we opened our doors in 1998, Sister Mary Dostal and Sister Pat Funderhide, founders of Angela's Piazza, knew they wanted to offer a place of respite for marginalized women. As programming took shape over the years, we now proudly offer Domestic Violence Support and Education, Nurturing Parenting Education, Sexual Assault Support, a young girls empowerment group, and more.

We welcome over 1,500 women through our doors every year, the majority of whom are minorities, and all of whom are living below the poverty level. As one program member testifies, "At Angela's Piazza, I am surrounded by women with similar wounds. In the groups, we heal together. This community of women shares ways of giving back to ourselves, healing our souls. We learn how to be comfortable in our own skin." [www.angelaspiazza.org](http://www.angelaspiazza.org)



### *A place to find rest, solace, a friend.*

Angela's Piazza is a welcoming, accepting place where women come to learn safer, better lives free from addictions and violence. They do so by discovering self-confidence, courage, and hope through domestic violence programs and programs that encourage spiritual and emotional healing.



Education • Support • Advocacy

Women's Drop-In Center, 420 Grand Ave., Billings  
406-255-0611 • [www.angelaspiazza.org](http://www.angelaspiazza.org)



## REMINDER

Support your local non-profits and help those in need. Give back to the community in ways that have everlasting impacts.



**BILLINGS GAZETTE**  
COMMUNICATIONS



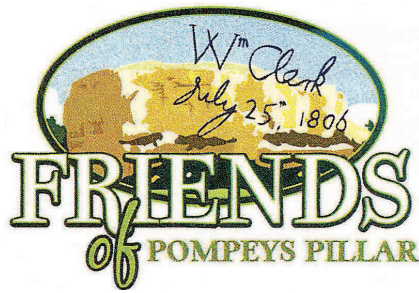
## Friends of Pompeys Pillar

**O**ur mission is to preserve and protect Pompeys Pillar National Monument through education, interpretation and special projects. We assist the Bureau of Land Management in teaching over 2000 students who visit the Monument every year. We participate in special projects and events like our Annual Fall Festival, Back to the Future Program, Public Lands Day and Signature Day and we also provide funding for interpretive signage and other educational exhibits.

We provide transportation for Title 1 schools so underprivileged children may visit the Monument every year. We also offer volunteer opportunities for seniors and others. We provide hands-on historical experiences for children and adults and we help bring history to life!

Charitable donations are deeply appreciated and support the only National Monument in Yellowstone County. Please send your support to:

Friends of Pompeys Pillar  
P.O. Box 23535  
Billings, MT 59104



**"Funding for buses that Friends of Pompeys Pillar provides is invaluable to educators and students. Many students have never been to a national monument. Pompeys Pillar is directly related to the curriculum we are required to teach. Hands-on activities, presentations, and the entire field trip to Pompeys Pillar extends what we teach in the classroom. We are very grateful for the opportunity to go on this field trip. Thank you to all who generously contribute to Friends of Pompeys Pillar."**

Sincerely,  
Julie Tallman, 4th Grade Teacher



**Charitable donations are deeply appreciated and support the only National Monument in Yellowstone County.**

**Please send your support to:  
Friends of Pompeys Pillar  
P.O. Box 23535, Billings, MT 59104**



**406-969-5380 | [www.pompeyspillar.org](http://www.pompeyspillar.org)**

## Alberta Bair Theater



**A**lberta Bair Theater continues to bring the excitement of the performing arts to Big Sky Country. We are committed to presenting world-class performances, engaging audiences of all ages, enhancing the livability of our community, and contributing to the economy of our city for generations to come. This holiday season we encourage you to do the same and give the gift of the arts.

Share the beauty of the arts! Gift certificates are available for any amount at the ABT Box Office. Performances this season include Broadway shows, musical performances, comedy acts and more. These vouchers never expire and can be used to purchase tickets for any show. This is the perfect gift for any occasion. Your support is the greatest gift ABT could wish for.

**ABT Give the gift of the arts!**

Share the beauty of the arts this season!  
Gift certificates are available in any amount at the ABT Box Office. This is the perfect gift for any occasion. We can't wait to see you at the theater!

## Gift Certificates



Learn more at  
[AlbertaBairTheater.ORG](http://AlbertaBairTheater.ORG)  
406.256.6052  
2801 Third Ave N | Billings, MT

## Tumbleweed

**‘W**here will I sleep tonight?” This was the question that haunted my sixteen-year-old mind before I found Tumbleweed. Standing at their doorstep with just a worn suitcase containing the few treasures from my childhood, I was another statistic - another homeless teen trying to survive in Montana. Having endured parental neglect, a household ravaged by drug and alcohol abuse, and nights spent wondering if I would ever have a real future, I had almost lost hope. Little did I know that walking through those doors would transform my future in ways I never imagined possible.

For two and a half years, Tumbleweed became more than just a shelter — it became my home. During this crucial time, I was juggling the typical challenges of high school life: maintaining good grades, discovering my passions, and trying to appear “normal” to my peers. What set me apart was the weight I carried: a past marked by instability and trauma. But Tumbleweed offered something invaluable — consistency, reliability, and most importantly, hope.

Beyond providing basic necessities like a warm bed, hot showers, and regular meals, Tumbleweed gave me something far more precious: a safe space where I could finally lower my emotional walls and experience what a normal teenage life should be. Through their unwavering mentorship, love, and compassion, I began to see myself differently. I was no longer just a “homeless and troubled kid” - I was someone with the potential to create a bright future.

During my time at Tumbleweed, I experienced

countless “firsts”: my first Christmas tree, my first real birthday party, and my first family-style dinner! These moments might seem simple to others, but to me, they were transformative. The stability and support I received enabled me to graduate high school and pursue higher education, eventually earning a bachelor’s degree in Interpersonal Communications.

Today, I serve as the Director of Campaigns and Special Events at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County. The scared sixteen-year-old with a suitcase has grown into a confident professional who helps create opportunities for other young people to thrive. This transformation wouldn’t have been possible without Tumbleweed’s comprehensive support system.

But here’s the hard, truth: I am not alone. Right now, there are more teens just like me, standing at crossroads in their lives. They’re carrying heavy burdens no young person should bear. Tumbleweed can be and has been a lifeline for

teens and young adults in the Billings community when they were unsure of what their future would hold. Your support today means another young person will find what I found - not just a safe place to sleep, but a foundation to build their dreams upon. Together, we can ensure that every young person who walks through Tumbleweed’s doors has the chance to transform their story from survival to success. Will you help write the next chapter of hope?

***With deep gratitude,  
Bethany Taylor***





With your support, in 2023, we accomplished a record number of food boxes delivered. Increased our case management services provided, meals provided, hygiene & personal grooming services, and life skills classes provided.

## How your gifts help our youth and young adults

- \$50/month provides a full day of food for 4 youth and young adults.
- \$100/month provides a life skill class.
- \$250/month ensures access to a crisis counselor 24 hours a day.
- \$650/month provides housing for one month.
- \$1,000/month helps provide food, housing security, and a Tumbleweed individualized case manager.



731  
YOUTH & YOUNG  
ADULTS SERVED



3,524  
FOOD BOXES



6,740  
HOT MEALS



22,665  
TOTAL SERVICES



**Tumbleweed**  
Lasting Change for Vulnerable Youth

*Help make a difference and donate!*

[tumbleweedprogram.org](https://tumbleweedprogram.org)



## AWARE

### AWARE Helps People Live Independent Lives

**A**WARE has been serving Montana for more nearly 50 years. We proudly help individuals and families living with mental health and/or developmental disabilities live independent lives – in all 56 counties of Montana.

Each adult and child under our care is served by dedicated and compassionate caregivers who aren't afraid to stick with the hardest challenges. We're so grateful for them! They help us weave all of AWARE's services together into our Montana communities, allowing for continuous, compassionate and dedicated care for all ages.

Are you curious about all that AWARE has to provide? While the list of services is extensive, it was intentionally created to ensure each person receives the exact care they need and desire. We call it wraparound care, which brings the client, family or caregivers and the AWARE team together to build upon their dreams and goals.



Services AWARE provides to support its clients in Billings and surrounding areas include residential, community and early

childhood care.

**Residential** - Adults and children with mental health and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to receive the day-to-day support they need while living in a home and community of their choice.

**Community** - Children and adults engage in their community as much as possible with AWARE's outpatient, community-based support, including offering assistance with services, help in school, home visits, family therapy, psychiatric care and counseling.

**Early Childhood** - Our youngest generation, 0-3 years, become school-ready through AWARE's Early Head Start programs. In addition, this amazing service offers behavioral health services for children and families.

To learn more about AWARE and all that it offers, you can go to our website at [www.Aware-inc.org](http://www.Aware-inc.org). While you're there, be sure to click the Donate button to learn about the ways you can support our mission of helping people live independent lives.



## TOGETHER, WE HELP PEOPLE LIVE INDEPENDENT LIVES



**Case Management**



**Early Head Start**



**Family Therapy**



**Psychiatric Services**



**Residential Services**



**School-Based Services**



## MONTANANS NEED US NOW MORE THAN EVER

As you gather with family and friends for the holidays, we invite you to share the **JOY** and help us make this holiday season (and every birthday and major achievement celebration) the **BEST DAY EVER** for the people we serve.

**Will you help us help people live independent lives? Visit our website to make a meaningful impact today, [www.AWARE-inc.org/donate](http://www.AWARE-inc.org/donate).**



406.563.8117



[media@Aware-inc.org](mailto:media@Aware-inc.org)



[Aware-inc.org](http://Aware-inc.org)



## Friends of the Children

**F**riends of the Children of Eastern Montana is a newer nonprofit located in Billings, MT that is impacting generational change by giving children and families the ability to create a new story.

**OUR STORY:** Our model was founded on research showing that the single most important factor in overcoming childhood adversity is a long-term, nurturing relationship with a consistent, caring adult.

Like all children, the youth we serve have unique talents and big dreams. They also face more obstacles than others: things like systemic poverty, structural racism, childhood trauma, underfunded schools, violence, hunger and homelessness. We meet children between the ages of 4-6 and walk alongside them and their caregivers for 12+ years—from kindergarten through graduation and entry to postsecondary education and the workforce.

**OUR FRIENDS:** Friends are full-time, salaried professionals who spend 3-4 hours each week with each child. Friends teach valuable life skills, model healthy behaviors and create pathways to more choices and opportunities.

**IT WORKS:** 83% of the youth in our program graduate high school, although 50% have parents who did not have the support necessary to graduate

93% of the youth in our program avoid the juvenile justice system, although 60% have parents who have been impacted by the criminal justice system

98% of the youth in our program avoid early parenting, Although 85% have parents who started parenting during their teens



**FR1ENDS** of the  
**CH1LDREN**

Generational Change,  
One Child at a Time

Eastern Montana



## GENERATIONAL CHANGE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

Friends of the Children is a nonprofit organization that selects and invites youth – all of whom have unique talents, interests and dreams, and face multiple systemic obstacles – to be paired with a paid, professional mentor called a Friend. We hire and train Friends to support our youth from as early as age 4 through high school graduation – 12+ years, no matter what. The successful mentoring model is now in 41 locations around the country, including Friends of the Children - Eastern Montana in Billings.

**FR1ENDS** of the  
**CH1LDREN**  
Eastern Montana

Learn more at: [friendseasternmt.org](http://friendseasternmt.org)

## MSU Foundation & Alumni

**M**SUB plays a vital role in strengthening the local economy and workforce by providing highly skilled graduates who contribute to the region's growth, innovation, and prosperity. The MSUB Foundation & Alumni furthers the university's mission by fostering growth through philanthropy, stewardship, and engagement.

A powerful way to support this mission is by contributing to the Yellowjacket Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship provides deserving students from all backgrounds and financial situations the opportunity to pursue their academic aspirations, breaking down financial barriers and empowering them to reach their full potential. Your contribution can have a lasting impact on a student's life, helping to shape their future success and enriching the broader community.

Please join us in supporting this important mission by visiting [www.msufoundation.com/donate-today](http://www.msufoundation.com/donate-today) or calling 406-657-2244 to learn more about how you can support the Yellowjacket Excellence Scholarship and help shape tomorrow's leaders. Together, we can make a lasting impact.



## Yellowstone River Parks

### Thank you for your support of parks and trails along the Yellowstone



**T**he Yellowstone River is a treasure for Billings, and public access to parks and trails along the river help make our community great. Since 1991, the volunteer-driven Yellowstone River Parks Association has worked to preserve natural areas, create and maintain trails, put in benches and picnic shelters, and partner with public and private agencies to create a network of natural areas along the river that all can enjoy.

YRPA owns or helps to manage 2,000 acres of publicly-accessible natural areas around Yellowstone County. Our biggest and flagship project is John H Dover Memorial Park in Billings Heights, which is

privately owned by YRPA and is managed for public access. In 2024, YRPA welcomed the leadership of our new Executive Director, Carolyn Sevier.

Our work relies on a strong community of supporters and volunteers. We especially encourage legacy-oriented gifts to ensure the preservation and care of these parks for years to come. Donate on our website, [www.yrpa.org](http://www.yrpa.org) or send a check to PO Box 1201, Billings MT 59103. Contact us at 406-255-7619 or [yrpa@yrpa.org](mailto:yrpa@yrpa.org)

THANK YOU for your support of parks and trails along the Yellowstone.

## Invest in MSUB

### Shaping Futures, Turning Dreams Into Reality!

Make a gift today in support of MSUB students.



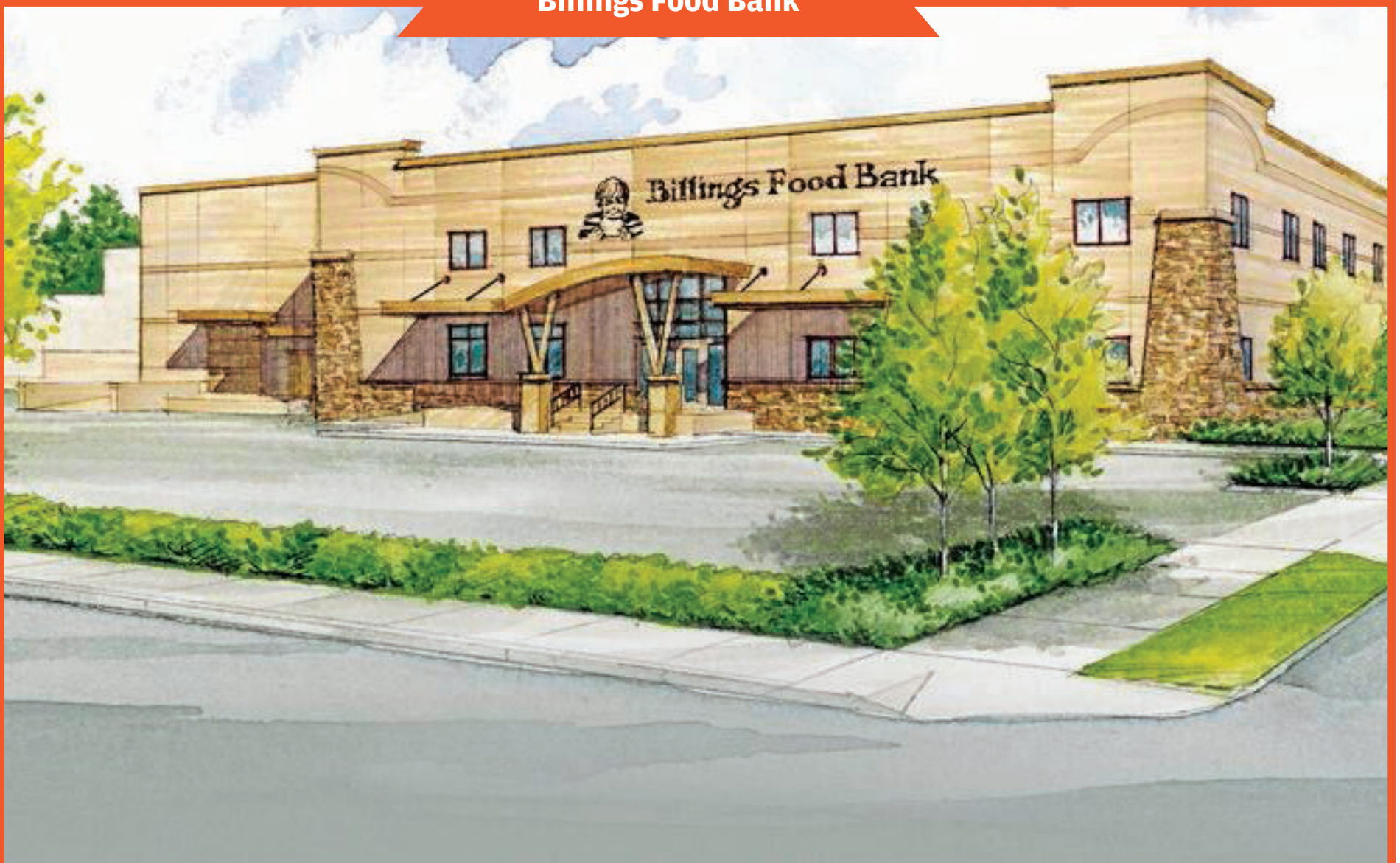
## THANK YOU for your support of parks and trails along the river



Want to help? Join us every  
Wednesday 5:30pm, 404 N 30th



## Billings Food Bank



**F**ood for Today ... Hope for Tomorrow!  
Billings Food Bank has one simple goal, to feed the hungry. Through this community's generous contributions of food and money, we are able to distribute nearly 30 million pounds of food annually and distribute an average of 10,200 food boxes per month. All of which we do with an operating cost of less than 2% - \$.98 of every dollar you donate goes directly to programs to benefit those in need.

Our programs include:

- Senior Food boxes
- Food Boxes through the Voucher System
- Holiday Food Programs
- Food to Trunk Special Food Distributions
- Special Occasion Free Home-Delivered Meals



Our facility allows for controlled storage of fresh, frozen and packaged food in addition to having a commercial kitchen. Our beautiful kitchen is used for our culinary training program and is available for rent by entrepreneurs.

The Billings Food bank also maintains a

baby pantry with diapers and other supplies for babies, and a pet pantry with pet food for your 4-legged friends. These are not always guaranteed to be available, but are available as often as possible as a resource for those that need them.

A huge Thank You to all who volunteer their time to help. A second huge Thank You to all who donate either food or money to help us keep our operating costs low. We couldn't do this without you and your support.

As we gear up for the holidays, if you would like more information on how you can help or to make a donation, please call 406-259-2856 or email us at [foodbank@billingsfoodbank.com](mailto:foodbank@billingsfoodbank.com). If you would like additional information about our programs you can also view our website at

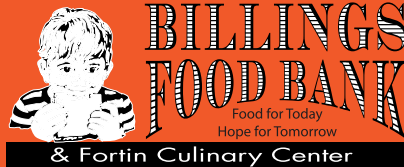
What did you have for dinner last night?



Hunger...give 'til it helps.



Hunger is real and it is a growing concern. With your ongoing support,  
we will continue to provide food to those who need it.  
Remember, food shouldn't be a luxury item.



2112 4th Avenue N • (406) 259-2856 • P.O. Box 1158 • Billings MT 59103  
[www.BillingsFoodBank.com](http://www.BillingsFoodBank.com) • [Facebook.com/BillingsFoodBank](https://Facebook.com/BillingsFoodBank)

