

GIFTS FROM THE HEART



November 26, 2025

The information in this special insert was provided directly by individual organizations. Edits have only been made for layout consistency purposes. The views and information expressed here are solely those of the respective organizations

THE MYRNA LOY

The Myrna Loy stokes creative inspiration and well-being in and around Helena by presenting high-quality, culturally significant films and performances; by supporting local and regional artists in their work; and by nurturing a lifelong love of the arts through education and residencies. Housed in the historic county jail, which was remodeled into a state-of-the-art performance and community gathering space, The Myrna Loy believes that *art transforms everything*. Today The Myrna Loy is known nationwide as one of the most remarkable small arts organizations in the rural West. We provide arts education experiences to thousands of students each year; host special community events and workshops; provide grants to working Montana artists; celebrate and support Montana film makers, artists, musicians, and performers; and present world-class performances that otherwise might not be seen outside a major metropolitan area. And we still show two first-run films a night—many of them Oscar and Golden Globe winners. Give to The Myrna Loy this holiday season and help keep the arts alive!



INTERMOUNTAIN

The holidays remind us of what matters most: connection, compassion, and community. At Intermountain, those values come to life every day as children and families find healing through healthy relationships and experiences that restore trust, confidence, and joy. Across Helena, Bozeman, and area schools, Intermountain's dedicated teams walk alongside children and their families through therapy, school-based support, and specialized programs. These children are our friends and our neighbors. They are also the future of our communities, and every small moment of growth strengthens the families and neighborhoods around them. This Christmas, Intermountain invites families, businesses, and community groups to give in ways that inspire connection and belonging. In addition to financial gifts, supporters can donate gift certificates for local experiences such as art, bowling, skating, swimming, or movie outings. These opportunities help children practice social skills and peer skills, build confidence, and experience the joy of positive connection. Your generosity fuels the relationships and opportunities that make lifelong healing possible. Together we can create a community where hope and resilience flourish. Donations can be made at www.intermountain.org or delivered to the Helena Development Office, 500 South Lamborn Street, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thank you for giving the gift of hope this Christmas season. We hope to see you at the 38th annual Intermountain Festival of Trees, December 3-7 at the Helena Civic Center. For information, visit www.intermountain.org/fot.

**intermountain**
Caring Solutions • Strong Families • Healthy Communities

Thank you for gifting
Hope & Healing
to children and families

Donate Now



Gift cards can be sent to
Intermountain Development • 500 S Lamborn St. Helena, MT 59601

UNITED WAY OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK AREA

United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area (UWLCA) has served our community since 1941, uniting people, organizations, and resources to create lasting change. Today, we focus on building a Healthy Community, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency through programs like Supportive Housing Program, Free Tax Help, Montana 211, Volunteer Helena, and Young Artists United. United Way has evolved beyond its early role as a funding distributor. Across the country, United Ways now operate shelters, food pantries, and more—meeting needs where they exist. In our community, the top unmet need for over six years has been Supportive Housing, and we've stepped up to fill that gap through our Supportive Housing projects.



Current Needs:

- Adult winter clothing (coats, hats, gloves, socks, underwear)
- Cots, sleeping bags and blankets

This year we are fundraising to help the Community Orga-



nizations Active in Disaster (COAD) creating an emergency winter sheltering plan. Together, we continue United Way's legacy of resiliency, hope, and community-driven change. www.unitedwaylca.org/donate 406-442-4360 info@unitedwaylca.org



HOME FOR THE
holidays







Donate Now!

CELEBRATE THE
Holidays
AT THE MYRNA LOY!



ENJOY HOLIDAY MOVIES, GIFTS, AND GATHERING AT THE MYRNA THIS SEASON!

**THE MYRNA LOY**
15 NORTH EWING ST - HELENA
406-443-0287
THEMYRNALOY.COM



QUEEN CITY BALLET COMPANY

Since 2008, the nonprofit Queen City Ballet Company 501©(3) has been at the heart of Helena’s cultural life, bringing world-class performances to our community and sharing the transformative power of dance. QCBC is dedicated to enriching lives through accessible, high-quality ballet performances and educational programs that engage students and audiences of all ages. With a strong focus on arts education, QCBC offers training for dancers at all levels, fostering a lifelong love of the arts. Additionally, our Youth Outreach Programs expand access to ballet and dance arts ed-



ucation, providing opportunities for children, including those from underserved communities, to experience the joy and discipline of ballet. At the Queen City Ballet Conservatory, students of all ages discover more than just the beauty

of dance. They build confidence, focus, and discipline, preparing for success on stage and beyond. Our students learn the art of leadership, giving back through community outreach, and embracing values that last a lifetime and come together through our National Honor Society for Dance Arts chapter to make a positive impact. As a nonprofit, Queen City Ballet Company depends on the support of patrons and donors to thrive. By making a gift, you help us continue to bring professional ballet to Helena, expand our outreach, and nurture the next generation of artists and leaders. Your

donation to QCBC directly supports: ■ **Workshops and School Programs:** Giving our students the rare opportunity to learn from distinguished professionals in the dance world and supporting training and resources for dancers of every level, nurturing a lifelong love of the arts. ■ **Scholarships:** Providing financial assistance to aspiring dancers, opening doors to classical dance training and the lifelong benefits it brings. ■ **Funding for Performances and Special Events:** Supporting high-quality productions that showcase the talent and hard work

of our students, creating unforgettable experiences that inspire and unite our community through the art of ballet. ■ **Educational and Community Performances:** Expanding access to ballet for new audiences, including children experiencing live dance for the first time. Every gift helps us foster a lifelong love of the arts, nurture local talent, and enrich the cultural landscape of Helena. To donate please visit queencityballet.com/company-support



GIRLS THRIVE

Girls Thrive (GT) is a Helena-based, non-profit dedicated to helping girls THRIVE. **We are on a mission to inspire girls to empower themselves through a variety of physical activities and educational lessons designed to promote self-confidence, self-esteem, and positive body image.**



GT offers four programs throughout the year in the **Community Program to girls in grades 6-12:** 8-week sessions in the fall, winter, and spring, as well as a two-day Summer Confidence Clinic. Core sports offered in the fall and spring are mountain biking and running, and a cross-training day is provided for girls to experience a variety of other activities, such as: rock climbing, strength training, and yoga. Furthermore, educational lessons are incorporated throughout featuring a range of topics, including, but not limited to: body image, confidence, leadership, communication, resilience, self-esteem, mental health, and goal-setting.

To meet the needs of younger participants and disheartening data about girls’ self-confidence plummeting at the age of 8, GT developed a **School Program for girls in grades 4-5 at Title I elementary schools.** In its

third year, this program has already served 149 girls, many of whom are on scholarships. These are critical ages to reach for promoting self-confidence, self-esteem and positive body image, as building a strong foundation in these areas helps girls stay positive. The School Program eliminates the transportation barrier for many families, as girls meet with coaches at their respective schools. **Current GT programming is taking place throughout the entire school year at both Bryant and Broadwater Elementary Schools.**

The unfortunate truth about girls in sports is that research demonstrates that **by age 14, girls drop out of sports at two times the rate of boys for reasons including: lack of access, chang-**



ing bodies, and lack of positive role models. Additionally, 70% of girls nationally believe they are not good enough or do not measure up in some way, including their appearance, academics, and relationships with family and friends. **GT bridges that gap for a diverse array of girls, with varying abilities, and encourages them to stay active, despite the many challenges that steer them away from being active.**

This giving season, give the gift of self-empowerment and confi-

dence to Helena-area girls through a tax-deductible, year-end gift to GT. **Since 2015, GT has served 672 girls and provided 167 scholarships to girls in need.**

The need for this program is evident; monetary donations put towards scholarships (\$150 per girl for Fall & Spring Sessions, \$120 per girl for Winter Session, and \$60 per girl for the School Program) to ensure program participation for girls in need is a constant. Another deep need is healthy snacks for hungry athletes – 37% of our

participants qualify for free or reduced lunch. A \$20 donation will purchase snacks for one GT practice. **We hope you’ll join us to improve the lives of girls and contribute to a stronger future for all!**

Gifts can be made through our website: www.girlsthrive.com or checks made payable to Girls Thrive can be mailed to: Girls Thrive, PO Box 1771, Helena, MT 59624.

Thank you for helping our girls THRIVE!



WHEN OUR COMMUNITY GIVES, EVERYONE BENEFITS.

By giving to **St. Peter’s Health Foundation**, you help ensure our **nonprofit, locally governed health system** delivers compassionate, high-quality care to more than **100,000 people** across Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Jefferson, Powell, and Meagher Counties.

As one of the **Top 100 Community Hospitals in the nation**, we rely on donors to **invest in innovation, equipment, expanded facilities, healing spaces, and community health programs**, enhancing patient experiences and keeping exceptional care close to home.



Your gift can honor a caregiver, remember a loved one, and support funds including:

- PATIENT ASSISTANCE FUND**
Access to care and essential healing items like transportation, prescriptions, and medical supplies.
- GREATEST NEED FUND**
Supports urgent priorities, new technology, facility expansions, and community health initiatives.
- EMERGENCY AND AMBULANCE SERVICES FUND**
Ensures lifesaving care through equipment, technology, and patient support.

- COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FUND**
Addresses critical social determinants like housing, mental health, and mobile crisis support.
- HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
Scholarships and the Olson Institute support education and growth for health care teams.

Gifts can be made via cash, stock, donor-advised funds, IRA rollovers, bequests, named funds, or endowments.

Together, we keep care close to home and build a healthier future.



St. Peter’s Health
FOUNDATION

406-444-2370 | sphealth.org/foundation



Scan to
give now!

HELENA INDIAN ALLIANCE

The Helena Indian Alliance advocates for and serves the mental, physical, spiritual, and social wellness of the American Indian/Alaska Native population and the Helena community. How do we do that? By providing community education and classes, engaging our community with events and outreach, providing a higher level of healthcare, and being a safe place for everyone in the community.

2025 was a year of change and growth. We had some amazing accomplishments and time to reflect on who we are, who we are becoming, and who we want to be.

■ Achieved AAAHC accreditation. Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care is a recognized leader in the industry



for high quality patient care standards. This accreditation reflects HIA's dedication to our patients whole body care.

■ 2024 Workplace of Choice. Awarded in 2025 through the Lewis and Clark Job Service, Helena Indian Alliance was selected for the mid-size company category for our outstanding employee care.

■ 2025 Top Workplace Award. This is a regional award given based on our own employee survey results. We could not be prouder of this acknowledgment from our own team.

We hosted many community events throughout the year such as our Back to School Bash, Community BBQ, Community Health Fair, Women's Health Symposium, Gold Rush Days, Diabetes education, cooking classes, our annual Rounddance, and our hol-

iday events. All of these events are possible from donations and volunteers.

We were so proud of the classes and groups we had in 2025. There were a lot of them, and we are so proud of our capable and talented staff who make these happen.

■ Traditional games, crafters, regalia making, powwow dance practice, Family Nights, Talking Circles, Wellbriety, Rock and Fist Tournament, Elders Council, Native Connections Youth Culture Camp, MMIP Awareness Walk, Moss Bag Making, Ledger Art Workshop, and Star Quilt classes.

Indian Education for All through the OPI Office, the Last Chance Community Powwow Committee,

and organizations such as the Lewis and Clark Public Library were amazing community partners. We strengthened those partnerships and look forward to the work we will continue and grow in 2026.

We cannot continue the programs and events we do without generosity from you. We welcome you to volunteer with us. Sign up can be found on our website. We welcome your generous monetary donations, and we want to ensure you know that when you give, you are becoming a part of the diverse landscape that is the Helena community.



FAMILY OUTREACH

Since 1977, Family Outreach has been working hard to ensure individuals with developmental disabilities can achieve their potential by engaging with their communities. We offer services across the lifespan for qualifying individuals and their families in western Montana, providing an important support system for a vulnerable population.

We counsel families who have concerns about their child meeting developmental milestones. We assist families who need help finding resources and learning how to best care for their exceptional



family outreach

children. We provide opportunities to adults with developmental disabilities that help them adapt to new situations, interact with other people, and find meaningful work. We help children with autism spectrum disorders respond

to their environment in healthy and beneficial ways.

Donations from individuals and businesses can make a significant difference for the better in any given year. We are extremely grateful to our friends and neigh-

bors who send donations of all sizes and types that help us to address many different needs in our Montana communities. Every year, we ask people receiving our services about what kinds of presents they would like for the holidays. We want to continue creating joyful memories for individuals with disabilities and their families – and you can be a part of that!

This year, Align + Well is hosting the Family Outreach Giving Tree at their 1434 N Roberts St location in Helena. Choose tags from the tree to purchase holiday gifts for a local

family in need. The Family Outreach Giving Tree will be available beginning November 17th, with gifts due on December 17th. You have the power to make dreams come true this holiday season!

The long-term vision of Family Outreach is to build communities where abilities are celebrated and every individual can achieve their fullest potential, and together we can make this happen. Thank you for your support.





TRANSFORM LIVES WITH YOUR DONATION



The Helena Indian Alliance works every day to improve community members lives. Our outreach, community events, services, and education we provide, is not possible without the amazing generosity of people like you. Thank you.



Our Contact:
info@hia-mt.org

DONATE NOW
hia-mt.org/donate

Non-Profit Tax Free Donation
TAX ID
81-0304870



SPRING MEADOW RESOURCES

For 50 years, Spring Meadow Resources has been partnering with the Helena community and providing supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since our program began in 1975, we have grown over the years, to our current operation that includes 7 group homes, supported living and a day program. We provide support for 80 + people and have over 100 employees who all live, work and recreate in the Helena community.

Programs like Spring Meadow Resources rely on and appreciate the generous donations from our community partners, families and other stakeholders. Your donations help us achieve our goals, one of which is ensuring each person we serve has meaningful opportunities, that



afford them the ability to participate in things they love, that create joy and passion for each person. We are grateful for the support we receive from our community and we look forward to continuing our mission of “Discovering Abilities and Improving Lives”.



A HOLIDAY SEASON TO REMEMBER—FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS

The holidays should bring warmth, full tables, and moments shared with the people we love. But for one in seven of our neighbors, the season brings a very different feeling: worry. Rising food and childcare costs, along with the ongoing federal shutdown, have pushed families already living on the edge into crisis.

Sarah, a single mom of two, recently walked through our doors with a heavy heart. She’s working hard, doing everything she can for her kids, but each week the grocery bill climbs, childcare doesn’t get cheaper, and her paycheck no longer stretches far enough. She worries most about her kids seeing empty cupboards.

Because of neighbors like you, Sarah left that day with nutritious groceries and a little relief. Her children will sit down to a meal tonight, and tomorrow, she’ll have



one less impossible choice to make. Every gift and every can of food makes moments like that possible. Your generosity ensures:

- Families can sit down to a warm, nourishing holiday meal
- Kids don’t go hungry over the weekend
- Seniors receive healthy food to stretch fixed incomes
- People facing a crisis can count on emergency food packs when they need them most

This season, we invite you to help our Helena neighbors feel that same relief and the comfort of a full table.

How You Can Help

Donate food: donation door is open Mon & Thu 8:30–6 • Tue/Wed/Fri 8:30–3

Food needed: canned pumpkin/yams, canned fruits/vegetables, evaporated milk, stuffing, broth/gravy, jello/pudding, flour/sugar, frozen turkey breast, turkey or ham

Donate funds: online at helenafoodshare.org/donate | mail to PO Box 943, Helena, MT 59624 | Call us at 406-443-3663

Together, we can make sure this holiday season is remembered not for struggle, but for community, comfort, and shared meals. Thank you for being the reason no one in Helena has to face hunger alone.



FLORENCE CRITTENTON FAMILY SERVICES: WHERE COMPASSION MEETS ACTION

Imagine a young girl, barely 16, standing at a crossroads. She’s scared, alone, and has just discovered she is pregnant and is unsure how to provide for her child. At Florence Crittenton Family Services, we believe that no one should face that journey without support. For over 125 years, we’ve been a beacon of hope for families in crisis—offering safety, healing, and the tools to build a brighter future.

Our mission is simple yet profound: to strengthen families and create generational change. Through three interconnected service areas—Residential Programs, Community Services, and Early Childhood Education—we provide a continuum of care that meets families where they are and walks with them toward stability and success



shelter—they provide a lifeline. Here, young mothers and women find a safe, loving environment with 24/7 support. They receive therapy, parenting education, job skills training, and guidance to navigate complex systems like courts and housing. These programs don’t just change one life—they transform entire family trajectories. When a mother heals, her children thrive, and the ripple effect touches schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.



Group Connections for Families empower parents with knowledge and confidence. Our services strengthen family bonds and reduce the risk of children being removed from the home or experiencing. These interventions prevent crises before they happen, saving families—and communities—from heartbreak and hardship.

Early Childhood Education

At our Child Enrichment Center, children ages 0–5 receive high-quality early education and care. These formative years are critical, and we ensure every child has the tools to succeed in school and life. Research shows that early intervention reduces exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), lowering the likelihood of

substance use, criminal activity, and health challenges later in life. When children thrive, communities flourish.

The Ripple Effect

The impact of Florence Crittenton’s work extends far beyond the families we serve. Parents who complete our programs are more likely to graduate, maintain employment, and secure stable housing. Their children grow up in safe, nurturing environments, breaking cycles of poverty and trauma. This ripple effect strengthens entire communities—creating healthier, more resilient generations.

A Story of Hope

Consider *Emily*, a young mother who came to us after years of instability. At Florence Crittenton, she found not just a roof over her head, but a team that believed in her. Through counseling, parenting classes, and job training, Emily regained

her confidence. Today, she’s employed, her child is thriving in preschool, and both are living in a safe home. Emily’s story is one of hundreds—proof that with the right support, families can rewrite their futures.

Be Part of This Transformation

Every donation to Florence Crittenton Family Services is an investment in hope. Your gift helps us provide housing, education, and healing to families who need it most. It ensures that mothers like Emily have the tools to succeed and that children grow up in loving, stable homes. Together, we can create a ripple effect that lasts for generations.

Join us in building stronger families and brighter futures. Donate today—and be the change that transforms lives. Visit www.florencecrittenton.org to donate or scan the QR code

Holiday Wish List

GAMES & CRAFTS

- Paints and brushes
- Paper-colored, watercolor, multi-designs
- Board games
- Crayons
- Markers
- Craft Kits
- Card Games
- DVDs
- CDs

CLOTHING ITEMS

- Plain socks (all sizes)
- T-Shirts (all sizes)
- Sweatpants (all sizes)
- Night gowns and pajama sets (all sizes)

GIFT CARDS

- Movie Passes
- Coffee
- Grocery
- WalMart
- Target
- Restaurants
- Gas Stations

HYGIENE ITEMS

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Liquid soap
- Hairbrushes, hair ties
- Deodorant
- Electric razors
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

GENERAL GIFTS

- Journals
- Pens
- Books
- Makeup

BAKING SUPPLIES

- Cake mixes
- Cookie mixes
- Baking utensils
- Common ingredients

Please drop off donations at the Spring Meadow Resources Main Office at 2850 Broadwater

To Give Online, visit: springmeadowresources.org/donate

Your kindness is the heart of our story

Celebrating 125 Years of hope, healing and Family—Wishing You a Season of Joy.

As the holiday season wraps us in its warmth and spirit of giving, we want to take a moment to thank you for being part of our community. Your generosity and encouragement help us continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families.

As we look ahead to a new year full of possibilities, we invite you to join us in this journey. A year-end gift—of any amount—helps us grow, reach more families, and build brighter beginnings.

Ways to give the gift of hope, compassion and dignity.

Scan the QR code, or visit florencecrittenton.org

MONTANA LEARNING CENTER AT CANYON FERRY LAKE

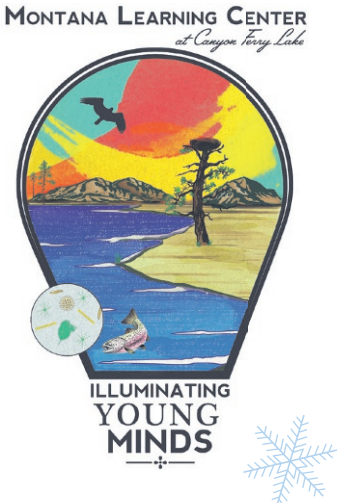
Inspiring Montana’s Next Generation of Scientists, Engineers, and Explorers

For over 40 years, **Montana Learning Center at Canyon Ferry Lake (MLC)** has been where curiosity meets opportunity. What began as a small hands-on learning initiative on the shores of Canyon Ferry Lake has grown into a statewide leader in **STEM education**, reaching thousands each year through **youth camps, teacher training, and NASA-supported programs**. At MLC, **science isn’t just taught—it’s lived**. Students explore the night sky through Montana’s largest public-access telescopes, build rockets and robots, analyze real data, and gain confidence that will propel them toward success in college and in careers in science, technol-

ogy, engineering, and math. Our programs give young Montanans—from first-graders to future aerospace interns—the chance to dream bigger than they ever imagined they could. Each summer, hundreds of campers arrive eager to explore everything from **dinosaurs to drones, robotics to rockets**—learning not only how to problem-solve, but how to **think like scientists, engineers, and explorers**. Our NASA-supported teacher workshops, developed in partnership with **Montana State University**, ensure that what’s learned at MLC reaches thousands more students across the state each year. Our renowned **astronomy program** has positioned MLC as a true **center of excellence in astronomical research and education**. MLC’s **state-of-the-art telescopes** connect classrooms throughout Montana directly to the stars. The telescopes allow students and teachers to observe celestial objects near and far and

conduct meaningful astronomical research right in their own classrooms. In addition, the dark skies over MLC’s campus have helped turn that campus into a **hub for astronomical education**, where families, educators, and visitors gather each summer to experience the universe together. Through our collaboration with **NASA’s Northwest Earth & Space Sciences Pathways program**, the **Montana Aerospace Scholars** program continues to give high-school students a transformative, college-level experience in aerospace and Earth science—often the first step towards a STEM-focused college education, a NASA internship or an aerospace career. Today, MLC stands at a crossroads. With **federal funding cuts** and educational costs on the rise, **private investment in Montana’s children and teachers has never been more important**. Without your support, many of the unique programs MLC has added over the last few years

may need to be scaled back or even eliminated. Every dollar you give to MLC fuels discovery, innovation, and access to life-changing opportunities that students in our state might not have otherwise. We remain committed to ensuring that **no student is ever turned away because of financial hardship**—but we can only do that with the generosity of donors like you. Your investment today is more than a contribution—it’s a **commitment to Montana’s future**. It ensures that students from every corner of our state have access to the kind of transformative STEM experiences that change lives and inspire lifelong curiosity and a drive for excellence. We invite you to join us in shaping that future. Please make your gift today at **montanalearning.org/donate** or mail your contribution to:



Montana Learning Center
7653 Canyon Ferry Road
Helena, MT 59602
Thank you for standing with us to ensure that **Montana’s next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers** continues to dream, discover, and reach for the stars—no matter what challenges lie ahead.

FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER HELENA

Family Promise of Greater Helena provides shelter and support to children and their families experiencing homelessness. Our comprehensive programs are designed to build essential life skills, including parenting education, financial literacy, household management, and employment readiness. While families are in our care, we meet their immediate needs, allowing them to save money and prepare for a stable future in safe, permanent housing. In addition to our core shelter services, we offer prevention, diversion, and stabilization programs, as well as parental training for those who may need support to avoid CPS (Child Protective Services) intervention. Our services also extend to Townsend



and Broadwater County, helping us reach families in rural areas who face unique challenges. After more than four years of planning, we are excited to be building a new shelter that will allow us to serve even more families in need. Construction began in May, led by our dedicated contractor Robert Mergenthaler of Mergenthaler Construction Services, and we anticipate completion in early 2026.

The Hidden Crisis of Family Homelessness
Family homelessness is a growing but often invisible crisis in Helena. Unlike the individuals we may see on street corners, families, especially those with young children—often hide their homelessness due to shame, stigma, and fear of CPS intervention. This makes the issue less visible but no less urgent.



The need for shelter and supportive services surged during the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued to rise. Since 2023, we have maintained a waitlist of 28 families, limited only by our capacity. In reality, the list should be twice that size. Once our shelter is finished, we aim to increase our capacity to provide services to a larger number of families in need. The high cost of housing in Montana and the severe shortage of affordable options have created a perfect storm, making it increasingly difficult for vulnerable families to find and maintain housing. Today, families remain in shelter much longer

than they did prior to 2022. **Community Collaboration & Support**
Helena is fortunate to have a strong network of agencies working together to support those in need. Family Promise proudly partners with these organizations, each of which plays a vital role in our community’s response to homelessness. Together, we make a greater impact. We invite you to be part of the solution. Please consider supporting Family Promise of Greater Helena and our new shelter project in your giving this year. Your generosity helps families regain stability, rebuild hope, and move forward with dignity.

ANGEL FUND

“Your kindness will change someone’s world.”

Angel Fund is a nonprofit 501©(3) Corporation making a difference for children in need. Angel Fund began 36 years ago at one school, helping a few students with school supplies, winter coats, and field trip fees. This fall, we are projecting 1,400 students will need assistance with school clothes, shoes, winter outerwear, supplies, and other varied school items required to be successful in the classroom. We are honored to be a part of their “success story” each year, changing lives for the better. Because of your generosity and belief in the work of Angels, the human spirit continues to be healthy and strong among our families facing uncertainty and hardship. Angel Fund also awards Montana post-secondary scholarships to qualifying seniors at Access to Success, CHS, HHS, EHHS, and PAL based on financial need, ac-

ademic success, and a commitment to “pay it forward.” Along with our generous sponsors, Angel Fund awarded 8 graduates a Montana Scholarship this past fall and renewed 7 others for a total of \$33,500, enabling them to work towards a brighter future! “Stuff the Bus,” our annual school supply drive coordinated by Angel Fund, was again reinvented this summer. In the past, local churches, businesses, state agencies, and Helena citizens generously contributed to provide local children with new backpacks full of supplies. Yes, we help not only Helena children, but students in the smaller school districts surrounding Helena. We continued to ask the Helena community to donate money instead of supplies for our 1,400 students who needed school supplies this fall. We met our goal of distributing \$55,000 to all our schools so they could purchase specific school supplies in bulk for their students. Thank you, Helena! Angel Fund and the Helena Police Department partner for the “Running for Montana’s Future



Program.” Resource Officers deliver athletic shoes to students in need. Since its beginning in 2010, over 1,500 pairs of shoes have been purchased! This is a “win-win” project that promotes a healthy lifestyle! **How to Donate:** Please visit our website at angelfundhelena.org or mail donations to: Angel Fund, P.O. Box 7436, Helena, MT 59604. Thank you for your continued financial support! Your “Gifts from the Heart” monetary donations are needed and highly appreciated. We believe in human kindness, knowing we are made better when we all work together; thank you for helping kids have a better life and brighter future! **Thank you and Merry Christmas Helena!**



HEART OF HELENA ART SHOW AND AUCTION

The Third Annual Heart of Helena Art Show and Auction is coming up in April of 2026 at the Helena Civic Center Ballroom. The event is put on by St. Peter’s Episcopal Cathedral of Helena. St. Peter’s Cathedral has an active presence in Helena’s social concerns efforts. The Heart of Helena is a major part of that effort. The focus of the event next April will be “A Heart for Housing”, as we look to raise money to address Helena’s various housing needs, from emergency, temporary shelter on up through more permanent physical structures. This exciting event will feature a silent art auction with art from local artists and many well-known established artists. All types of art will be featured...oils, watercolors, acrylics, bronzes, Icons, fiber arts, and pottery. There will be something to tempt everyone’s taste and budget. It will be a memorable occasion where you can mingle with some of the artists while eating, drinking and

enjoying casual background music. Plan to join us on the evening of Thursday, April 9th, 2026, as we mix fun and art sales with raising money for the less fortunate in our community. For more information, visit our website at heartofhelena.org. Contact: Roger Reynolds, St. Peter’s Cathedral unkleroger@aol.com bookkeeper@spchelena.org



MONTANA LEARNING CENTER

at Canyon Ferry Lake



Montana’s Premier Science Camp for Kids

Find out more about our program at MontanaLearning.org

Yes! I would like to help provide a quality learning experience for all kids.

Donate with your card online at **MontanaLearning.org**

Or call **(406) 475-3638**

Or checks can be mailed to:
**7653 Canyon Ferry Road
Helena, MT 59602**

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
Phone _____

Thank You!

HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Helena Education Foundation (HEF) supports enrichment programs for every Helena Public Schools' kid on your list.

Watching kids' faces light up with excitement is the ultimate reward for holiday gift-givers and educators alike. The Helena Education Foundation supports teachers in their effort to spark that joy in their students year-round. Join the fun by making a gift of your donation to HEF; download a certificate to present to a special teacher or student, and we will post honorary donations in their names in our annual Donor Roll that appears in the Independent Record in May.

Since our inception in 2001, HEF and our supporters have provided over 1 million dollars for the range of Helena students. The Helena Education Foundation offers the gift of enrichment opportunities in every discipline so that all Helena kids see community support for their passions. We've enhanced the education of kids of all ages, abilities, and interests!

At our annual Carnival Classic, we kicked off the school-year with 2,000+ at Memorial Park. Almost 30 parent councils, athletic teams and school clubs participated, earning funds as we

celebrated all the fun and opportunities that our public schools provide.

Because of our supporters' love of literacy and stories, HEF was able to give each of the district's nearly 500 Fabulous First graders our traditional gift of a brand-new, hard-cover picture book to launch them on their reading journeys. First grade students across the district also saw high school drama students bring some of the Fabulous First books to life in our Fabulous Firsts Act II: Storybook Theatre program.

Our belief in life-long learning led us to host nearly 300 guests for 36 Great Conversations in November. The audience joined together for a most important conversation—Let's Talk About Great Teachers—honoring 9 educators—1 chief-of-staff, 1 middle school counselor, 1 high school English teacher, 1 high school CTE teacher, 2 Indian Education Title VI Specialists, 2 elementary classroom teachers, and an educator who teaches English at the Project for Alternative Learning and serves as the district's homeless liaison.

The generosity of the Helena community has meant 23 years of unique opportunities for Helena educators and stu-



HELENA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

dents. Since HEF's inception, we've awarded 622 Great Ideas and Spark Grants to educators for a total of \$984,920 in funding. Just last school year we gave \$62,307 in Great Ideas and Spark Grants, funding purchases that ranged from Tonie boxes for young learners to listen to audiobooks to materials for a high school shop class to build desks and benches for an elementary school's outdoor classroom. Through our STEAM-Rolling into Helena Schools grant from Boeing, HEF secured 6 pallets of STEAM-focused LEGO Kits plus professional development to help elementary and middle school educators bring hands-on learning into their classrooms.

Each spring we're proud to celebrate young writers and artists through the Harrison Writing Awards and *Pen and Ink* magazine. In 2025 we awarded \$1050 to three Harrison Writing Award

winners. We also introduced the Going to the Sun Art award through which we awarded \$1400 to four student artists. The publication featured these talented students as well as the work of two student editors and 113 student writers and artists.

As is HEF tradition, last May we celebrated 55 Distinguished Scholars and Distinguished Achievers and the Distinguished Educators who inspired them at our spring Celebration of Excellence.

Special projects, like the Helena School District's first Bison Fest, invigorate our mission to enrich public education. HEF helped to fund the Indian Education Title VI Specialists' vision to take 39 students from CHS and HHS to participate in a traditional Pipe Ceremony, harvest, gut and skin a bison heifer. The bison then journeyed to HHS where it served a variety of multi-disciplinary purposes in high school

classrooms including providing organs for dissection, 250 lbs of meat to inspire culinary students, and nourishment for members of the Helena Public Schools community.

Your support of HEF also allows us to bring the community together in dialogue at Issues Institutes that address challenges facing youth and today's schools. In February of 2025, we hosted a series of community events called *Face2Face: Smart Conversations about Kids and Screens* including book discussions on Jonathan Haidt's bestselling *The Anxious Generation*, and a keynote address by Emily Cherkin, author of *The Screen Time Solution*.

Please help us to continue spreading joy in Helena classrooms and build upon our successful programs by making a year-end donation at Helena Education Foundation/P.O. Box 792/Helena, MT 59624 or safely online at hefmt.org/donate/. A donation to the Helena Education Foundation is a gift of inspiration and support for educators and of novel and foundational opportunities for students.



HOLTER MUSEUM OF ART

Nestled in the heart of downtown Helena, the Holter Museum of Art isn't just a museum full of beautiful and thought-provoking art; it's a warm, welcoming place that brings people together and enriches the community in countless ways. The Holter's mission goes beyond showcasing established, emerging or legacy artists - it's about creating connections, fostering creativity, inspiring both children and adults alike and transforming lives through the power of ART.

Through its engaging exhibitions, hands-on classes, and outreach programs, the Holter



HOLTER MUSEUM of ART

makes art accessible to everyone. Local and international artists alike find a platform to share their work, while the museum's dedicated team of educators offers free and affordable classes that ignite imaginations. From schoolchildren on their very first field trip to professional artists sharpening their skills, the Holter brings together people from all walks of life to explore, learn, and grow.

For families, the Holter's

workshops provide opportunities to create memories and masterpieces side by side. For youth, our free after school programs offer a safe space to express, heal and find community. For older adults, art sessions bring a renewed sense of purpose, creativity, and joy. For veterans and patients at St. Pete's, Benefis and the VA hospital, our Courage to Create and Holter Healing Art Carts provide inspiring art materials and projects to work on as healing, grief, and recovery take place for our most vulnerable citizens.

This holiday season, a do-

nation to the Holter Museum is a gift to the entire Helena community. Every dollar helps keep these incredible programs going, ensuring that the Holter remains a vibrant, accessible hub where creativity flourishes. Join us in supporting the Holter's mission to enrich lives through the power of art - today and for generations to come. To donate online, please visit www.holtermuseum.org or mail a donation to 12 E. Lawrence St., Helena, MT 59601.



HEF for the Holidays!

Educators need our appreciation and support now more than ever.

Honor your child's educators with a donation in their name to the Helena Education Foundation. Gifts are acknowledged on Facebook and in the annual Foundation donor roll featured in the *Independent Record* in May.

Gift Certificate download available



Tax deductible secure website



hefmt.org



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Strive for Five: Cultivating A Legacy in Montana

In Montana, fields stretch wide and community runs deep. We all hope to do well enough on the farm, at the bank, or wherever our career takes us, to leave a little something behind. Of course, we want our families set up for success, but wouldn't it be nice if we could also do something for our communities that gave us so much.

Our local communities helped us build our business and stepped up when times were tough. It was here that we celebrated together at the annual festivals or when the local basketball team had a great season.

Don't we all want that community to do more than survive the next 10, 20, or 50 years? Don't we want it to grow and thrive to be even better than the place we remember?

Imagine creating a scholarship for local kids to attend college or a trade school, or supporting your local theatre so that the plays you loved can continue for another generation. Alternatively, consider helping to build or maintain a trail system for people to walk

and stay healthy.

Each of us can leave a legacy in our communities, and you don't have to be a millionaire to do it.

At the Montana Community Foundation, we are starting an effort called Strive for Five. We hope that each of us can leave just 5% of our assets or estate, allowing us to make a meaningful and lasting impact, ensuring that our children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors flourish for generations to come.

Wouldn't it feel good to invest in the community that invested in you? If we leave 5, our communities can thrive.

In 2022, we completed a study on the resources for the future of Montana, which revealed a significant opportunity: an estimated \$37 billion is expected to transition between generations by 2030. This presents us with a chance to gather and plant the seeds that will help our communities thrive.

By setting aside just 5% of this—around \$1.85 billion—we could create lasting endowments that generate \$83 million annually for our charitable organizations, schools, and local initiatives.

This isn't just about the wealthy. It's about every one of us who has worked hard for their family and their community. This is about farmers, ranchers, local busi-

ness owners, and community leaders. By keeping these dollars local, we can ensure a brighter tomorrow for everyone.

Think about the places you love in your community or even the things you wish it had. Together, we can ensure those places have the resources to grow.

There are many ways to ensure you join in this effort to strive to leave five.

1. Leave a gift in your will.
2. Create a donor-advised fund giving you tax benefits and support causes you care about.
3. Leave a gift of agricultural commodities, which is a tax-smart option instead of giving cash.
4. Donate property and receive tax benefits.
5. Create a charitable gift annuity and provide lifetime income.

Together, we can lay the foundations of a prosperous future, leaving a legacy that truly nourishes our communities for generations to come.

Mary Rutherford
President & CEO
Montana Community Foundation
mtcf.org



PRICKLY PEAR LAND TRUST

Thirty years ago, friends and neighbors gathered in a living room to discuss protecting the forest and trails behind Montana's Capitol. That shared vision of open space and public access has grown into a regional conservation organization protecting tens of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat, working lands, and community trails.

Helena's trail culture certainly didn't happen by accident. Decades of conservation and elbow grease built more than 80 miles of trails, a combined 2,000 acres of public open space, and now three new community parks: The Grove, Prickly Pear Park, and Tenmile Creek Park. From May to September this year, counters recorded more than 51,000 visits to PPLT parks, a clear sign these places are part of our daily lives. They're where we exercise, explore, learn, and connect.

That connection starts young. Through our education program, PPLT partners with local schools to bring hundreds of students outside each year to learn about wildlife, habitat restoration, and stewardship. From planting cottonwoods along Sevenmile Creek to studying macroinvertebrates and stream health, students gain hands-on experience that sparks a lifelong love for conservation and the outdoors.

This year, PPLT celebrated its 30th conservation easement, a milestone made possible through collaboration with local landowners and partners. Each easement is a lasting commitment



with landowners to keep open space available for wildlife, agriculture, and the people who depend on it. These projects safeguard the working lands and natural beauty that sustain both Montana's economy and its way of life.

Your gift to PPLT is an investment in Helena's future. Together, we can keep Montana's lands, trails, and heritage protected. Whether you give, volunteer, or simply show up to connect with the outdoors, you're part of something lasting. Learn how you can get involved at pricklypearlt.org.



THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Thanks to our community, The Friendship Center has been able to provide support and safe haven to those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in our tri-county area for over 50 years!

Many are aware of our shelter services for those fleeing sexual and domestic violence in our community, but that is just one of many free, confidential services we offer to meet survivors where they're at, 24/7, 365 days a year. Outside of safe shelter, our dedicated team of advocates work with our clients to connect them with the help they need—whether that's crisis intervention, safety planning, legal advocacy, help making a law enforcement report, material assistance, safety planning, or referrals to any of the fantastic organizations we work alongside to ensure everyone is supported with care and dignity.

We do all we can to help clients find their footing and provide our larger community with resources and information to ensure we're equipping everyone to thrive in healthy relationships. While all our funding sources are vital, much of it is restricted to specific programming and services we offer, limiting how responsive we can be to client and community needs as they arise. By contrast, the continued generosity of individuals and businesses—both in the form of material items and monetary donations—gives us maximum flexibility to meet the day-to-day needs of both our residential and non-residential clients.



Shown is a list of current items from our needs and wish list, which you can always find at thefriendshipcenter.org/needs. You can also give by mail or online! Mail check donations to The Friendship Center, 1430 N Sanders St, Helena, MT 59601 or visit thefriendshipcenter.org/donate to give online. Our website is also where you can go to learn more about our services for survivors and community-wide efforts to prevent interpersonal violence through education.

Thank you from our entire team for supporting us, and for sharing our belief that nobody should have to walk alone on the journey to a life free from abuse. Our advocates remind our clients that we'll always be around when they need us, and you help us keep that promise!



- The Friendship Center needs & wish list**
- Food and everyday items**
- Gifts cards for gas, groceries, and fast-food restaurants
 - Motel food items (micro-wavable and/or ready to eat)
 - Reusable tote bags
 - Toiletries, medicine, child care products
 - Deodorant (full + travel size)
 - Lotion (small + travel size bottles)
 - Shampoo and conditioner (12oz + travel size)
 - Small bottles of Tylenol, ibuprofen, and cold medicines
 - 3T/4T potty training pants (i.e., Huggies Pull-Ups, Pampers Easy Ups) and baby wipes

- Cleaning supplies and household items**
- Laundry supplies – Baskets, detergent, fabric softener, bleach
 - Toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissue
 - Trash cans and garbage bags (33 gal and 13 gal)
 - Cleaning supplies – Multi-purpose cleaner, dishwasher tablets, dishwasher rinse aid, furniture polish, brooms, mops, wide floor dusters
- Clothing**
- Women's sweatpants, leggings, sweatshirts, zip-up hoodies (all sizes)
 - Women's underwear and socks (all sizes)
 - Winter jackets, hats, gloves, wool socks, boots (all sizes)
- Bedding**
- Sheets, blankets, comforters (twin- or full-size, new or gently used)
 - New pillows
 - Mattress covers (full-size)

Will You Help Provide Food to Those in Need?



YES! I can help.

Donate online at **HelenaFoodShare.org**

Or call **(406) 443-3663 ext. 104**

Or checks can be mailed to:
PO Box 943, Helena MT 59624

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Thank You

Please make a gift today!



Wishing you abundant
happiness, health and
good fortune this
Thanksgiving and always!

*As we celebrate the many blessings we've been
so lucky to enjoy this year, we count good
friends and customers like you among them.*

*May you enjoy laughter and happiness around
the table this Thanksgiving and an abundance
of good fortune to last all year!*

Independent Record

