

What is a community foundation?

A community foundation is a public nonprofit organization created by donors and governed by local volunteers who manage a permanent pool of funds providing grants for initiatives and programs that address current and future issues in a specific geographic area – such as Park County, Montana.

Since its launch in 2006, the Park County Community Foundation has helped turn creative ideas into tangible programs, build momentum for new initiatives, and preserve time-honored traditions for future generations. Governed by a 12-member board of citizens, the Community Foundation maintains a collection of funds that are as diverse as the donors who establish and support them.

The concept is simple: People who care deeply about Park County – Wilsall, Clyde Park, Livingston, Springdale, Emigrant, Gardiner, Silver Gate, Cooke City and Colter Pass – make large and small gifts to the Community Foundation. These gifts are pooled and invested to create a growing permanent endowment. As assets increase, so does the Foundation's capacity to award grants to support projects and programs that enhance the community.

PARK COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

*“Connecting caring people
and resources
with community needs
and opportunities.”*

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The Fund for the Future

PARK COUNTY'S PERMANENT ENDOWMENT



PARK COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Four distinct characteristics define and distinguish the Park County Community Foundation, setting it apart from other worthy charitable organizations:

PERSONAL

The Community Foundation offers donors the opportunity to name funds in honor or memory of family, friends and colleagues. Donors decide how involved they want to be in the distribution of funds they create. Some donors place no restrictions on their gifts, preferring the Foundation Board of Directors to make grants that address the most pressing needs of the community. Other donors identify board areas of interests such as child welfare or youth services, the arts, education or economic development for their gifts. Still other donors may designate specific charitable organizations they want to support.

PERMANENCE

The Community Foundation is a recognized and respected force in Park County. As the “Fund for the Future” endowment grows, a portion of the earnings will be earmarked for grant-making activity, but the endowment itself will remain intact and untouched. Investment professionals manage the assets, professional accountants conduct audits and annual reports offer detailed financial information to the public. The Park County Community Foundation, among the most active and involved in Montana, is rock solid. Regardless of dips in the economy, shifts in population and changes on the political landscape, the Foundation is here today ... and will be here tomorrow.



PROXIMITY

The Park County Community Foundation is local. Our goal is to provide residents with ways to strengthen their home community. The impact of donor dollars is evident in every aspect of community life. Foundation grants have helped underwrite scholarships, build soccer fields, introduce children to their environment, support early-childhood education and opportunities, provide for nutritious meals for seniors, improve public health and fight domestic abuse. We support the arts, museums and community centers, and help equip community parks in Silver Gate and Clyde Park, support convenient transportation for seniors through Angel Line, and work in the best interests of children through Big Brothers Big Sisters and CASA, court-appointed special advocates. All of this in Park County.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Foundation exemplifies the adage that “everyone can be a philanthropist.” And there’s strength in numbers. Donors with similar interests can jointly support a program like Farm to School Park County or address a need that is important to them. By collaborating with the Community Foundation, they can leverage resources through donor-advised accounts to generate enthusiasm for a new program at the Livingston Food Resource Center or the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts. Through her bequest to the Foundation, Barbara Thronson has initiated change in the lives of deserving first-generation college students through the scholarship she established.