



# 2019 *Annual Report*



# Letter from the President

*Hello friends and neighbors,*

When I began writing this letter, I looked to my 9-year-old daughter for some inspiration, asking her what community means to her. She has only known Big Sky, specifically Moonlight as home, and was just learning to walk when a group of homeowners formed the Moonlight Community Foundation back in 2011. Her response reminded me why we as a family feel so lucky to live here. “Community is where people and animals live together and where the people appreciate where they live.” So many of you embody her definition.

Big Sky is a strong, vibrant, proud and giving community that has exploded in growth and acclaim in the last decade. Simultaneously, the needs have also increased exponentially. The area is filled with skiers and snowboarders, bikers and hikers, long-time residents and wide-eyed newcomers, iconic wildlife and flowing waters, all of which combine to give this town a pulse. If you are reading this report, it includes you. It doesn't matter if you've been in Moonlight for 20 years or 20 days – you are a part of this community and a part of what makes this area great. Its heart.

Thanks to you, our donors, the Moonlight Community Foundation established new highs in 2019. We raised the most money in MCF history – over \$430,000 – from the greatest number of families and individuals – over 150. In turn, we received almost \$400,000 in grant requests and awarded almost \$300,000 to initiatives benefitting the Big Sky community – another record. And while these numbers are impressive, I'm equally grateful that we had our

biggest turnouts ever for the Spring Social, Bridge Event and Trail Clean Up Day. Moonlight, thank you for showing up and displaying your generosity and your love of Big Sky.

On these pages, you will see a few of the different ways MCF supported the Big Sky area in 2019. We allocated funding to actions that enhance our mountain town, including making the Gallatin accessible for all-bodied anglers, supporting the Community Food Bank's emergency food and nutrition program, and aiding locals in achieving their dream of homeownership through the Down Payment Assistance Program. None of this would be possible without our donors.

So, from the kids in the Big Sky School District enjoying locally sourced fruits and vegetables at lunch, to the softball players refilling their water bottles during the hot summer days at the Community Park, from the budding angler in a wheelchair landing their first trout, to the future generations driving through the canyon enjoying the same scenery as we do today, we say thank you. Thank you for not just taking from this area – thank you for giving back and thank you for being a part of this community!

With Gratitude,

*Heather Morris*

MCF Chairperson



### Bridging our Community with Causes that Matter

*Your Donations at Work*

Total Amount Granted: **\$863,711**  
(2015-2019)



Year	Total Amount Granted
2019	\$276,688
2018	\$226,287
2017	\$205,474
2016	\$123,381
2015	\$31,881



**ANNA SHIPLEY** started in February of 2020 as the Community Coordinator with Moonlight Community Foundation. We are excited to have her on the team driving our mission and vision forward. Please feel free to reach out to Anna with any questions pertaining to MCF at [anna@moonlightcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:anna@moonlightcommunityfoundation.org).

## The 2019 Board of Directors

Heather Morris  
CHAIRPERSON

Ania Bulis  
VICE CHAIRPERSON

John Geisler  
SECRETARY

Amy Smith  
TREASURER

Kevin Germain  
DIRECTOR

Jerry Hood  
DIRECTOR

Larry Landry  
DIRECTOR

Julie Peinado  
DIRECTOR

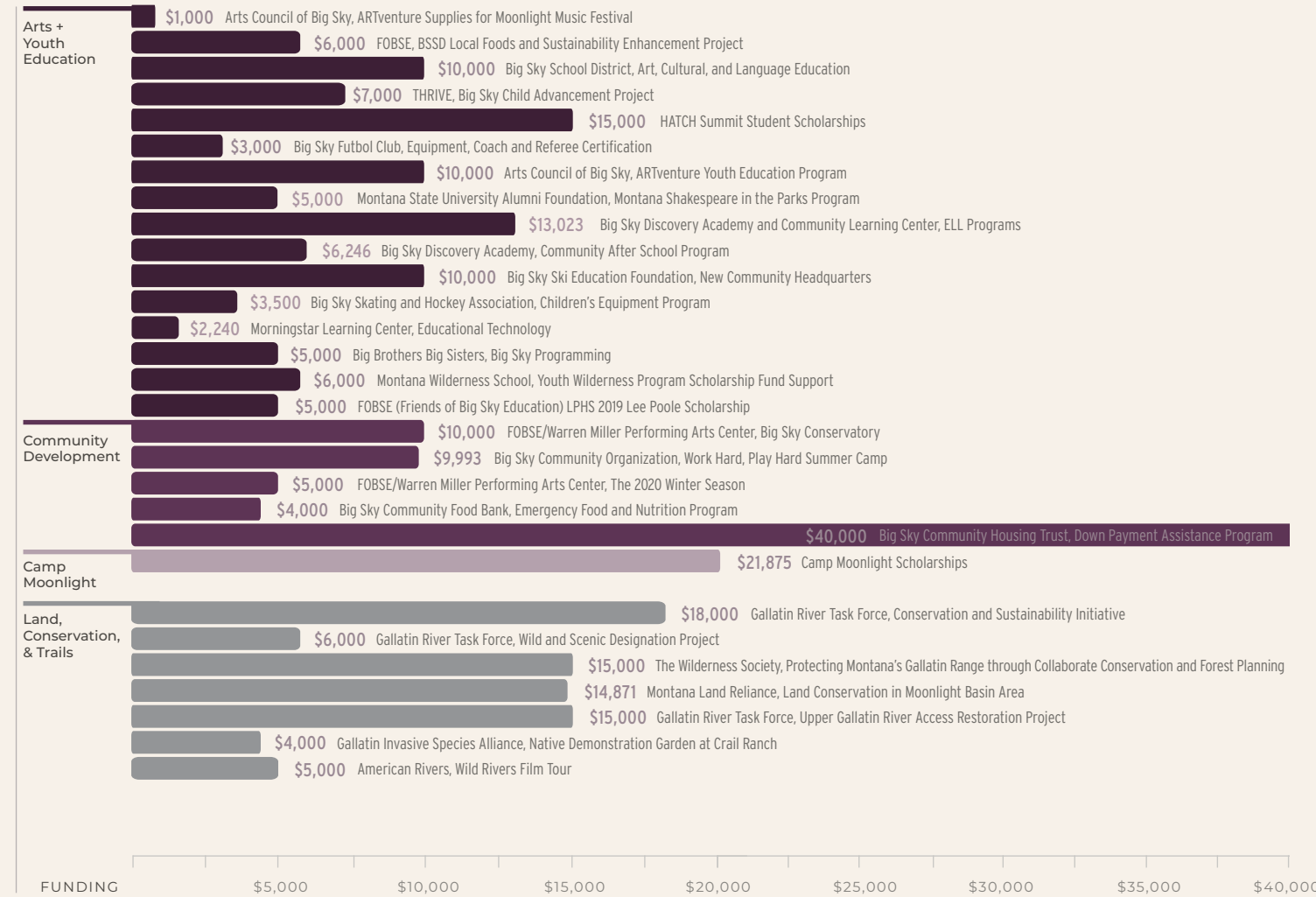
Katharine Stowe  
DIRECTOR



2019  
Giving by  
Program

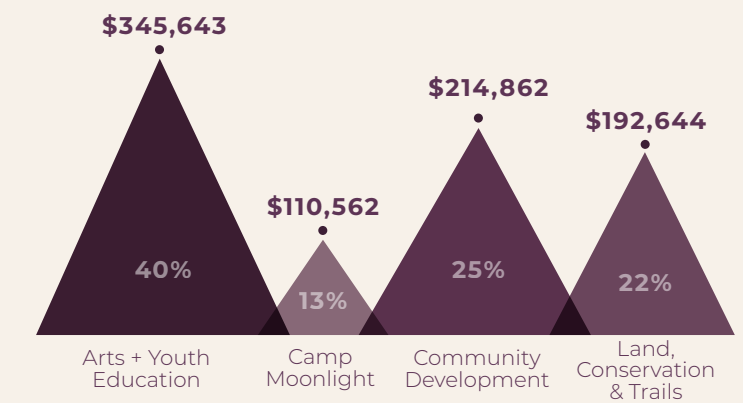
---

2019 TOTAL  
\$276,688



## MCF Granting by Category 2015-2019

MCF has granted over \$863,711 over the past five years.



## Save the Dates - 2020

- |                                             |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Moonlight Spring Social</b><br>March 22  | <b>10th Annual Bridge Event</b><br>July 19       |
| <b>Camp Moonlight Registration</b><br>May 1 | <b>Camp Moonlight Session 1:</b><br>July 22 — 25 |
| <b>Moonlight Trail Day</b><br>July 11       | <b>Session 2:</b><br>July 29 — Aug. 1            |

## Making a grant request is easy

MCF has a biannual grant cycle. Grant applications are due on May 15th and November 15th of each year.

Grant applications are available on our website [MoonlightCommunityFoundation.org](https://MoonlightCommunityFoundation.org). The Grants tab on the website contains all the information required to submit a grant request.





## Scholarships & Camp Moonlight

The Moonlight Community Foundation created the Lee Poole Memorial Scholarship in 2016 to honor his pioneering stewardship and vision for Moonlight Basin. Last year, a \$5,000 grant is awarded to an outstanding graduating senior of Lone Peak High School that demonstrates leadership ability, superior vision, and a strong desire to pursue a degree in environmental studies or conservation. In 2019, Brooke Botha from Lone Peak High School was awarded the Lee Poole Memorial Scholarship to attend Baylor University.



Camp Moonlight summers continue to flourish in Moonlight Basin. The adventure-based camp programming emphasizes education, awareness, and conservation values while fostering a greater appreciation for the natural world. Through outdoor experiences such as fly fishing, hiking, canoeing, or horseback riding, friendships are formed and campers have the opportunity to experience what is so special about this part of Montana.

In 2019, Moonlight Community Foundation was thrilled to award 70 camp scholarships totaling \$21,875. The Foundation provided 35 Big Sky Works scholarships and 35 Camp Moonlight Scholarships. Big Sky Works is a program that is set up for local families living and working in Big Sky offering reduced tuition.

Registration for 2020 Camp Moonlight will begin May 1, 2020. Camp Moonlight is open to children ages 5-14.

If you have an interest in enrolling or sponsoring a child, please email us at [info@moonlightcommunityfoundation.com](mailto:info@moonlightcommunityfoundation.com)





## Gallatin River Task Force

The Gallatin River Task Force is driven by one simple goal — to make certain the Gallatin River flows with clean, cold, abundant water. **The Task Force received three grants from MCF in 2019 focused on conservation and sustainability.**

### UPPER DEER CREEK

In partnership with the Custer Gallatin National Forest, the Task Force has put together an ambitious plan to improve public access sites with the goal of repairing riparian habitat damage. Project activities at the Upper Deer Creek site include capturing run-off of fine sediment, improving the trail system, enhancing riparian buffers, and developing an accessible fishing access point. Interpretative signage will be installed to educate the public about the importance of these areas and how individuals can minimize their impact.

### WATER REFILLING STATIONS

The Task Force also works to address sustainability, instilling an environmental mindset and way of living across the community. Through this initiative, GRTF was awarded funds to install two permanent water refilling stations in the Big Sky community – significantly reducing the use of single-use plastic.

### HEADWATERS SECURITY ACT

GRTF received funding to build support for the Montana Headwaters Security Act through education and outreach. The Montana Headwaters Security Act is draft legislation for new wild and scenic river designations on some of the best rivers and streams on public lands in Montana.



## Montana Land Reliance

Protecting our water quality, open space, wildlife corridors and habitat is a direct benefit to all and maintaining the integrity of this magical ecosystem is paramount to Moonlight Basin. Montana Land Reliance (MLR) partners with private landowners to permanently protect agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space. In 2019, Moonlight Community Foundation awarded MLR a grant to support its work in the Moonlight Basin area. Several stakeholders came together and formed a conservation easement protecting 2,463 acres of land throughout Moonlight Basin preserving our view sheds and wildlife corridors into perpetuity.

**"Moonlight Community Foundation's support of the Montana Land Reliance's efforts to protect open space and fish and wildlife habitat in Big Sky facilitated the permanent conservation of over 2,460 acres of land in the community in 2019."**

**– Jessie Weise, Southwest Manager, Montana Land Reliance**

## Arts Council of Big Sky

ARTventure is the Arts Council of Big Sky's signature youth education program. It is designed to promote creative exploration of various art forms, cultivate creativity and critical thinking skills, educate students about arts-related careers, explore thriving arts-centric urban areas, and empower youth to use artistic expression to give back to the community. The curriculum includes high school art-centric field trips for 9th and 10th graders and an arts and culture field trip to Seattle for 11th graders. Participating students also learn about nonprofit organizations, the role of philanthropy in the Big Sky community, public art and its impact. Moonlight Community Foundation was a proud supporter of this initiative in 2019.





# 2019 Donors - Moonlight Community Foundation

## \$20,000+

Jonathan & Margaret Doyle  
John & Jean Geisler  
Jerry Hood  
Will McCullom

## \$10,000 - \$19,999

Martin & Kathy Dudley  
Larry & Toni Landry  
William & Cathleen Osborn  
George & Julie Peinado  
Timothy & Robin Sheehan  
John & Katharine Stowe  
Jill & Nicholas Woodman

## \$5,000 - \$9,999

Ania Bulis  
Jeff Greenberg  
Matt & Sheena Kidd  
Matt & Heather Morris  
Bob & Patty Rhea

## \$2,500 - \$4,999

William & Karen Brace  
Chris & Christine D'hondt  
Jason Etheridge & Andrea Eisfeldt  
Paul Farrell & Paula Cleary  
Ben Israel  
Dan & Cyndi Israel  
W. Cleveland & Elizabeth Johnson

Timothy & Merrilee Kick  
Scott Lewis & Marilou Roth  
Gerard & Kerry McMahon  
Mark & Jenny Mummert  
Ed & Robin Orazem  
Greg & Mary Shearson  
Curtis & Rocky Trenkelbach  
Mark & Lori Weinstien

## \$1,000 - \$2,499

Mike & Amy Allen  
Brett & Georgia Baker  
Ray & Lydia Bartoszek  
Robert Becker & Diane Handler  
Bryan & Katherine Bottarelli  
Danne & Anne Buchanan  
Kevan & Katie Comstock  
Thomas & Jody Conophy  
Paul Farrell & Paula Cleary  
Dan & Nancy Fry  
Daniel & Wendy Geraty  
Kevin & Karin Germain  
Stephanie & Greg Guyett  
Chris Killingstad  
David & Lesly Koo  
Ken & Tallie Lancey  
Jimmy & Melinda Lewis  
Mark & Tracey Lowry  
David & Joan Malliband  
Michael & Christine

Maloney  
James & Viola Nielson  
Nicholas & Jill Page  
Bob Sauerberg  
Scott Seig & Gretchen Rapp  
Craig & Kelly Smith  
Scott & Amy Smith  
Jeff & Tricia Swearingen  
John Venner  
Tom Von Lehman & Maggie Good  
Rob & Susan White  
Jason & Lisa Zenk

## \$500 - \$999

Anne Ainslie  
Sonja Baertsch  
George Jr. & Mary Campbell  
Bill & KoKo Corbin  
Rory & MaryAnn Finlay  
Mark & Cindy Fritz  
Rajeev Garapati & Jyoti Patel  
Maude E. Glore  
Robert & Laurel Graham  
Jim & LynnAnne Hagar  
Jared & Holly Hauskins  
Bob & Susan Hicks  
Kevin & Terri Hinkle  
Barbara James

Kenneth & Kimberly Johnson  
David Jones & Jeanne Claire  
Greg & Elizabeth Kelly  
Steve & Denise Kestner  
Brad & Melissa Levine  
Mark & Tracey Lowry  
Frank & Pam O'Connor  
Tom & Kathy O'Connor  
Thomas & Paula Olsen  
Chris & Yvette Palermo  
Michael & Janel Palm  
Jack & Kristen Paris  
Dr. W. Scott & Mrs. Jean M. Peterson  
Chris & Sara Pfaff  
Troy & Kellie Pierce  
Jeffery & Karen Strickler  
Chris & Emily Wayman  
Shay & Elizabeth Williams  
The Focus Foundation

## \$0 - \$499

Rich & Lori Addicks  
Lonnie & Mary Ball  
Bayard Dominick  
Derek & Brooke Elzner  
Theodore Fox & Anita Barnes-Fox  
Nicole Friend & Gar Duke  
Jim & Angela Gates

John & Cara Greco  
Lee & Michelle Horning  
William Jonas  
Joy & Otis Kramer  
Michelle Kristula-Green  
Stephen Lamont  
Michelle M. Laxson  
Gene & Renae Martin  
Taylor Middleton & Barbara Rowley  
Marianne Nolan  
Christian T. Oliver  
JR & Karen Rudzki  
Chris & Acra Samuels  
Lee & Ruth Ann Seward  
Martin Tilson  
Norm & Tara Warner  
Jessie Wiese  
Mike & Jen Wilczynski  
Ted & Kate Williams  
Andy Wirth

## Auction Items - Individual Donors

Tom Gilleon  
Jim & LynnAnne Hagar  
David McAley  
Mike Wilczynski & Kevin Germain

## Auction Items - Business Donors

320 Ranch  
Big Sky Adventures & Tour  
Big Sky Blooms  
Big Sky Build  
Big Sky Resort  
Blacksford  
CrossHarbor  
Emmaus Glass Works  
Grizzly Outfitters  
Horse of a Different Color  
Jill Zeidler Ceramic Art Studio  
KenCade Designs  
Kene Sperry Photography  
Kira Fercho Gallery  
Lone Mountain Land Co.  
Lone Mountain Ranch  
Madison Double R Ranch  
Michaelangelo's  
Montana Backcountry Adventures  
Montana Expressions  
Montana Supply  
Moonlight Club  
Moonlight Music Fest  
Natural Retreats  
Outlaw Partners  
Sage Lodge  
Santosh Wellness Center  
Seasonal Montana

Shelly Bermont Fine Jewelry  
The Spice & Tea Exchange  
The Trove West

## Event Sponsors

Big Sky Build  
Dick Anderson Construction

## In-Kind Services

Headframe Spirits  
The Rocks

## Neighborhood Organizers

Amy Allen  
Daphne Chester  
Katie Comstock  
Kathy Dudley  
Kelly Edwards  
Paul Farrell & Paula Cleary  
Liz & Greg Kelly  
Lynn Kelley  
Robin Orazem  
Amy Smith  
Katharine Stowe







PO Box 161013  
Big Sky, MT 59716  
[moonlightcommunityfoundation.org](http://moonlightcommunityfoundation.org)

## *Vision*

Bridging Moonlight  
Community to  
causes that matter

## *Mission*

Supporting initiatives  
for youth, education  
and conservation, and  
under-served needs  
benefiting Big Sky