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 benefiting 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 Chairman
American Rivers, Wild Rivers Film Tour
Montana Land Reliance, Land Conservation in Moonlight Basin Area
Gallatin River Task Force, Upper Gallatin River Access Restoration Project
Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, Native Demonstration Garden at Crail Ranch
Arts Council of Big Sky, ARTventure Youth Education Program
Arts Council of Big Sky, ARTventure Supplies for Moonlight Music Festival
Gallatin River Task Force, Conservation and Sustainability Initiative
The Wilderness Society, Protecting Montana’s Gallatin Range through Collaborate Conservation and Forest Planning
Gallatin River Task Force, Wild and Scenic Designation Project
FOBSE, BSSD Local Foods and Sustainability Enhancement Project
Montana Wilderness School, Youth Wilderness Program Scholarship Fund Support
Morningstar Learning Center, Educational Technology
Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association, Children’s Equipment Program
Big Sky Discovery Academy, Community After School Program
Big Sky Futbol Club, Equipment, Coach and Referee Certification
Big Sky Discovery Academy and Community Learning Center, ELL Programs
Montana State University Alumni Foundation, Montana Shakespeare in the Parks Program
Camp Moonlight Scholarships
Big Sky Community Housing Trust, Down Payment Assistance Program
HATCH Summit Student Scholarships
Big Brothers Big Sisters, Big Sky Programming
FOBSE (Friends of Big Sky Education) LPHS 2019 Lee Poole Scholarship
Big Sky Community Food Bank, Emergency Food and Nutrition Program
Big Sky Discovery Academy, Work Hard, Play Hard Summer Camp
FOBSE/Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, The 2020 Winter Season
FOBSE/Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, BSSD 2019 Public Programs
MTF 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. The Grants tab on the website contains all the information required to submit a grant request.
Moonlight Spring Social
March 22
Camp Moonlight Registration
July 11
Moonlight Trail Day
July 11
MCF has granted over $863,711 over the past five years.
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 was 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
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 seeks 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 essential 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 the big key facilitated the permanent conservation of over 2,460 acres of land in the community in 2019.” – Jessie Weise, Southwest Manager, Montana Land Reliance

**ARTventure**
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.

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2019 Donors - Moonlight Community Foundation

$20,000+ Donors -
Moonlight Community Foundation

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$20,000+

$10,000 - $19,999

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Outlaw Partners

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Santosha Wellness Center

Seasonal Montana

Jim & Lynanne Hauger

David McCue

Mike Wildmyer

Kevin German

Giving feels good

Thank you to the 172 families who donated $433,044 in 2019.
Vision
Bridging Moonlight Community to causes that matter

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