

Annual Report **2023**



MOONLIGHT
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

LETTER FROM MCF BOARD CHAIR

To my friends and neighbors,

For over 9 years, Moonlight Community Foundation has helped and aided various vital programs, efforts, and causes. Your contributions support members of the Big Sky Community, as well as the recreational assets and environmental projects that all help make Big Sky an exceptional place to live and work. The town of Big Sky and the people who live here largely provide the quality of life that we enjoy, yet living here can be a challenge, and they need our help. Many employees, including those we value at Moonlight, depend on the services that receive funding from MCF. We support programs that specifically focus on, but are not limited to, affordable housing, health care, mental health care, daycare, recreational assets, and conservation.

For example, MCF granted funding this past fall to the Rotary Foundation's Big Sky Bandage Program, which was developed by Moonlight Member Amy Vance. It provides up to a \$500 stipend to Big Sky employees who are uninsured or experiencing financial hardship due to needed healthcare services. This report highlights the work of our nonprofit partners, in addition to listing every grant award on pages 4-6.

Without a local government in Big Sky, charitable foundations provide a large portion of funding for all these services. I am always impressed by the efficiency of this arrangement. Funding flows from members to

charitable foundations, then on to organizations with minimum bureaucracy and related costs. Thanks to the generosity of our Moonlight Community, donations have grown year after year. In turn, so have MCF's semi-annual grant awards. In 2023, a new record was set, with almost \$750,000 awarded to local nonprofits.

As Big Sky grows, so does the need for community support. My wife Patty and I moved here 12 years ago, and since then, the Big Sky population has more than doubled. As more demand is placed on the Resort Tax for additional resources, some excess demand flows down to our charitable foundations. Please consider donating to MCF in 2024, as I am sure we will again see unprecedented demand due to continued explosive growth in Big Sky. No donation is too small or too large, it's just your participation that is important. Be assured that the impact of your dollars is immeasurable and makes a true difference that helps Big Sky be more than a mountain town, but a mountain town that cares.

Best,



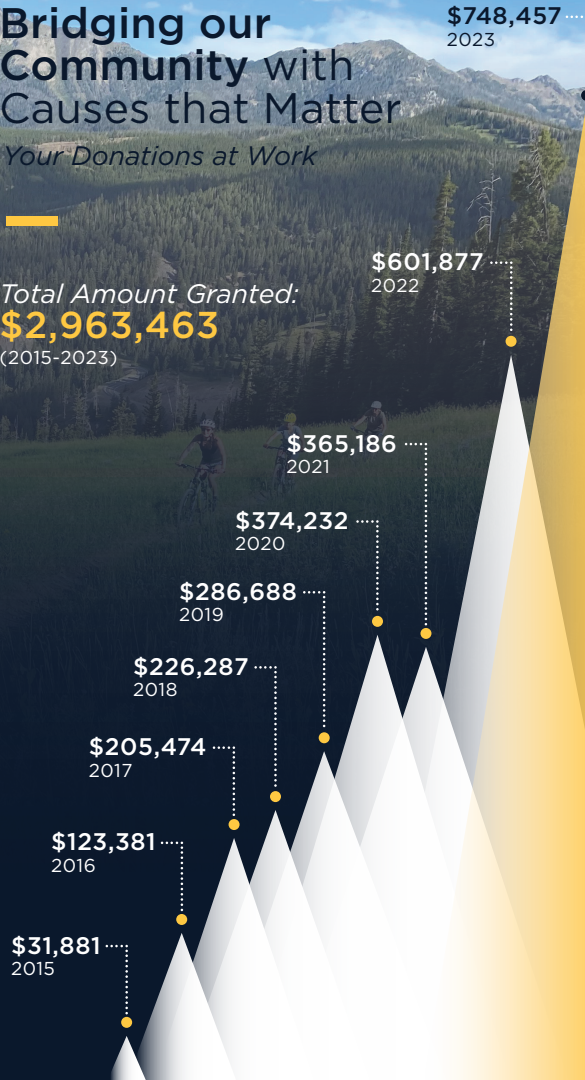
MCF BOARD CHAIR

2023

Bridging our Community with Causes that Matter

Your Donations at Work

Total Amount Granted:
\$2,963,463
(2015-2023)



The 2023 Board of Directors

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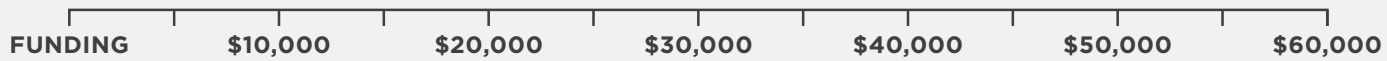
20
23

GIVING
BY PROGRAM

2023 GIVING BY PROGRAM

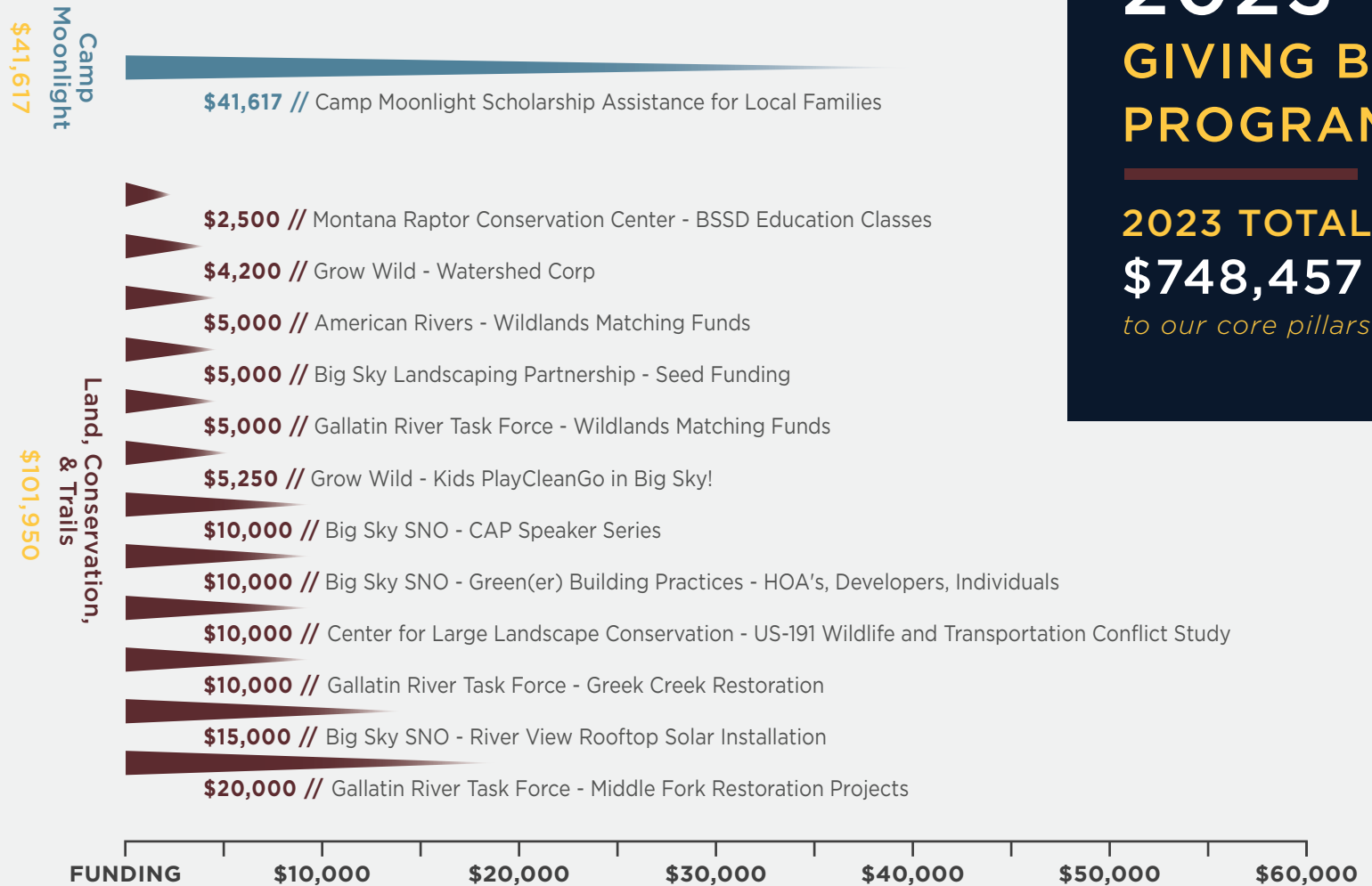


Underserved Needs &
 Community Development
 \$454,390



2023 GIVING BY PROGRAM

2023 TOTAL
\$748,457
to our core pillars

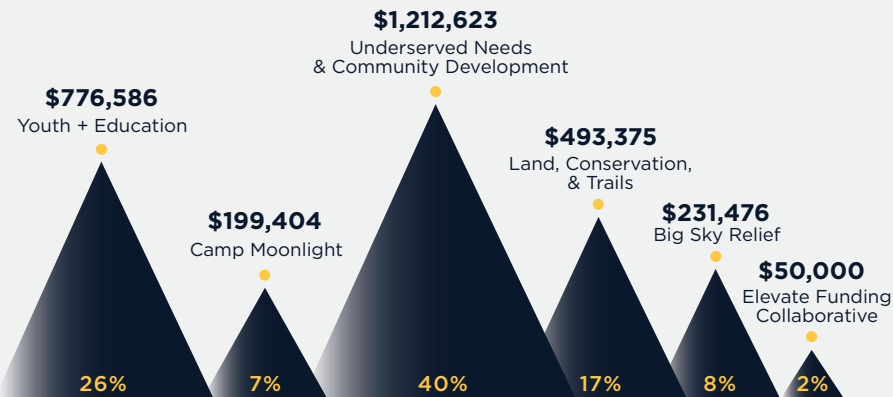




3rd Annual Golf Tournament 2023

MCF GRANTING BY PROGRAM (2015-2023)

MCF has granted **\$2,963,464** over the past 8 years



2024 SAVE THE DATES

MCF Spring Social

Sunday, March 24TH

MCF Trails Day

Sunday, July 7TH

Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday, July 14TH

Fly Me to the Moon

Wednesday, July 17TH

MAKING A GRANT REQUEST IS EASY

MCF has a bi-annual grant cycle. Grant applications are due on **April 15th** and **October 15th** of each year.

Grant applications are available on our website **MoonlightCommunityFoundation.org**

Big Sky Sustainability Network Organization (SNO)



Big Sky SNO aims to tackle some of Big Sky's most pressing sustainability needs by identifying, addressing, and solving issues related to waste reduction and recycling, protection of natural resources and water, energy, transportation, sustainable education, tourism, and more. The organization received funding for three initiatives in 2023: the Climate Action Plan Speaker Series, the Riverview Solar Installation Project, and the Green(er) Building Practices Program.

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) Speaker Series aims to provide data-driven information through an approachable, engaging, dynamic discussion that encourages community collaboration. The series will feature four expert speakers addressing the Targeted Improvement Priorities (TIPs) identified in the CAP: Energy & Buildings, Transportation, Consumption & Waste, and Natural Environment.

The Riverview Solar Panel Installation Project, a collaborative project with Big Sky Community Housing Trust, will provide renewable energy to residents, reducing utility costs and promoting equitable access to green energy. The installation of solar panels is part of SNO's net-zero emissions goal by 2050 under the Climate Action Plan.

The Green(er) Building Practices Program aims to help owners' associations, residents, and developers adopt sustainable practices to become more environmentally friendly.



Big Sky Community Housing Trust (BSCHT)



Big Sky is facing a housing crisis as real estate prices have skyrocketed and vacation rentals dominate the rental market. At the end of 2022, there was a 0% vacancy rate for long-term rentals, and the average cost to purchase a non-luxury condo soared to \$1,182,500. As a result, a large number of Big Sky workers are forced to live outside the community, with recent census data indicating that 78% of the workforce commutes from at least 40 miles away.

To tackle this issue, the Big Sky Community Housing Trust (BSCHT) was established, which provides affordable housing options for the community to grow and retain a strong base of residents and employees living in Big Sky. This, in turn, supports the local economy and enhances the community's character. In 2023, MCF awarded \$75,000 to BSCHT's Good Deeds Program and \$40,000 for their Rent Local Program.

The Good Deeds program, modeled after Vail's INDEED program, rewards homeowners or buyers with cash in exchange for placing a permanent deed restriction on their property. This program aims to preserve existing inventory for locals serving the community and also provides downpayment assistance for local first-time home buyers.

Building enough housing to meet the community's shortage will take years. To provide immediate relief for affordable employee housing, BSCHT has come up with the Rent Local Incentive Program, which aims to convert some of the 950+ vacation rentals into homes for Big Sky's essential workers, such as nurses, teachers, sheriffs, and emergency personnel. Property owners are given cash incentives to turn their vacant properties or vacation rentals into homes for local workers. The program requires a minimum one-year lease and includes a maximum monthly rent that may be charged.

Morningstar Learning Center (MLC)



Childcare is a major issue across the country, and it's no different in Big Sky. The functionality of a community largely depends on its childcare. Morningstar Learning Center is a daycare and preschool that aims to support families and young children in our community. They provide reliable and high-quality childcare services, early education, and resources for families throughout their parenthood journey. Currently, Morningstar is the only full-time daycare or preschool in the area.

Morningstar Learning Center received grant funding to enable sustainable operations through equitable staff wages. The operational support allows the organization to maintain consistency in the services offered to families. The organization is committed to paying their teachers livable wages for the area, and they also provide employee housing to support this goal. This has drastically helped improve retention rates. The grant funds supported two solutions to Morningstar's staffing crunch: sustaining elevated wages to attract highly qualified teachers and helping cover the cost of employee housing to retain those employees.



Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO)



Big Sky Community Organization is dedicated to facilitating year-round recreational programs, outdoor spaces, and community partnerships that serve all of Big Sky — enhancing access and quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and plays here. They have a 20-plus-year track record of successful programs, initiatives, and stewardship. BSCO received grants in 2023 for their Community Connection through Recreation Project and BASEcamp Programming.

Their spring grant focused on their Community Connection through Recreation Project. This program was comprised of four areas: Community Engagement Programming, BASE Community Classes & Events, BASE Scholarships, and Community Park Capital Improvements. BSCO's fall grant supported their BASEcamp Programming and Recreational Programming. The BASEcamp Program provides a web of support for local children of working parents during after-school hours - comprising ongoing enrichment opportunities, homework support, and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) activities. The Recreational Programming Grant helped the organization extend its closing time from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday - Friday during the winter months to accommodate the schedules of those in the service industry. This extension will help alleviate crowding during peak hours and provide alternative activities to those seeking a safe, substance-free place to go after work.



“*Because of you*”

Morningstar Learning Center

“The grant Morningstar received from Moonlight Community Foundation has been vital to our ability to provide affordable, high-quality early education for the children and working families in our community. There is a huge gap between what it costs us to operate and what families can afford (defined as 7-10% of a family’s income). The funds from MCF enabled us to keep tuition at an affordable level for the children at MLC for the entire year while also paying our teachers closer to a livable wage for our area. By staying staffed and affordable, MLC provides children the care and education they need to grow and provides families the opportunity to participate in our local workforce, enabling our whole community to thrive. Thank you for your support!”

- *Maríel Butan, Morningstar Learning Center*

Big Sky SNO

“As the construction of Big Sky Community Housing Trust’s River View Apartment continues, SNO is actively collaborating with BSCHT & Blue Line Development to bring renewable on site energy to 25 affordable workforce housing units in order to decrease building emissions. This partnership supports a just transition to renewable energy that may otherwise be unavailable to those in workforce housing.”

- *Lizze Peyton, Big Sky SNO*

Big Sky Food Bank

“Moonlight Community Foundation funds are essential to our work of supporting the Big Sky community workforce in times of hardship. As we know, the cost of living and working in Big Sky is steep and often households can’t make ends meet at the end of the month. We believe that everyone in our community deserves a hot meal on the table, and thanks to MCF funding, we’re continuously able to help provide sustenance to our growing workforce.”

- *Sarah Gaither, Big Sky Food Bank*

Big Sky Community Organization

“Without this funding from Moonlight Community Foundation, we would not have been able to offer new programming such as Qi Gong and spartan training. Keeping classes fresh and exciting and providing new recreational league opportunities makes it easier for community members to stay active and social in a positive substance-free environment.”

- *Madeleine Feher, BASE Director*

Responses from the BASE satisfaction survey include:

“Have met new people, have a better routine, working out more frequently.”

“BASE has added wellness opportunities we wouldn’t otherwise have. Exercise and yoga help decrease anxiety and prevent injury too.”

“BASE gives a place to hang out after dark.”



Big Sky Community Housing Trust (BSCHT)

“Owning a single-family home in Big Sky was quickly becoming out of reach for us after 12 combined years of living and working here. As a younger couple, having a place to set roots and one day raise a family is important to us. The stars aligned when we were accepted into the Good Deeds program, which allowed us to make our down payment and close on an amazing home. The Good Deeds program made homeownership a reality and took a lot of stress out of the buying process. We couldn’t be happier with our partnership with the Big Sky Housing Trust and the opportunity Good Deeds provided us and will provide for Big Sky local workers for generations to come.”

- *Greg and Emilie Wagner,
BSCHT Good Deeds Program Recipients*

2023 DONORS // Moonlight Community Foundation

\$20,000+

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Jerry Hood
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Matt & Sheena Kidd
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Bob & Patty Rhea

\$10,000 - \$19,999

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Foundation
Williams Civil Construction

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Crowley Fleck

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Josh & Amy Vance
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2023 DONORS // Moonlight Community Foundation

Auction Items - Individual Donors

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Corey & Karen Bronstein
Megan Buecking
Paul Farrell & Paula Cleary
Janet James
Kurt & Lynn Kelly
Joe & Norrine Lawler
George & Julie Peinado
Jason & Lisa Zenk

Auction Items - Business Donors

Big Sky Natural Health
Bozeman Spirits
Crazy Mountain Ranch
Elite PT
Georgia Baker Artworks
Gourmet Gals
KenCade Designs
Lone Mountain Land Company
Lone Mountain Ranch
Lotus Pad
Michaelangelo's
Montage
Montana Dinner Yurt
Moonlight Basin

Ross Ranch Wines
Roxy's Market
Sanctuary
Six Points Avy Ed with Erik Knoff
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
The Rocks
Whole and Nourished

Event Sponsors - Headline Donors

Lone Mountain Land Co.
Olson Kundig

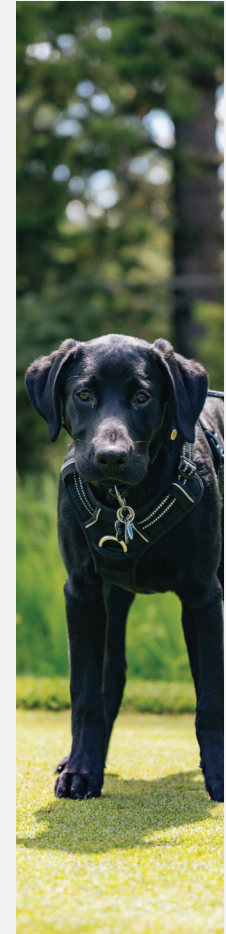
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Alpine Property Management
American Bank
Big Sky Build
Central Plumbing, Heating, and Excavation
Crowley Fleck Attorneys
Earth Elements
First Security Bank
Flying S Title & Escrow
Gallatin Valley Design Group
KO Concrete Coatings
Langlas & Associates
Opportunity Mortgage

PRG Group
Reid Smith Architects
SBC
Security Title Company
Teton Heritage Builders
Two Pines Properties

Community Hole Sponsors

Mike and Alicia Alford
Mike and Kate Ascione
Tom and Jody Conophy
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Angela Exton
The DeMatteis Family
Martin and Kathy Dudley
Raj Garapati and Jyoti Patel
John and Jean Geisler
Michael and Eileen George Family
Josh and Merrill Gregg
Jerry Hood
Jim and Wendi Kelly
Ian and Julie McGuire
Thayer and Philip Meicler
Evie and Bob McCullen
Matt and Heather Morris
Mike and Jill Nelson (Nelson Development)
Greg and Mary Shearson
Tim and Robin Sheehan



GIVING

feels good

Thank you to the **207 families**
who donated **\$1,087,000** in 2023

Check out this years
MCF video!







PO Box 161013

Big Sky, MT 59716

MoonlightCommunityFoundation.org

Vision

Bridging Moonlight
Community to
Causes that Matter

Mission

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

causes that matter.