

# Legacy



**Polson Girls (14 and under)** recently won all three games at the Montana State Cup soccer tournament and brought home the state champions' trophy. Their example inspires us to get the new soccer field project finished!!

## GPCF Offers \$28,000 Challenge Grant

The Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF) is offering its first-ever challenge grant to help the Polson Youth Soccer Assoc. (PYSA) raise \$84,000 needed to complete the construction and equip the concession stand, build a final section of perimeter fence, and improve the parking lot, all of which will complete the half-million dollar project.

The challenge grant of \$28,000 will be awarded in two tiers. When PYSA raises \$28,000, GPCF will award them \$14,000. Then when another \$28,000 is raised, PYSA will receive another \$14,000 check from GPCF, the second half of the challenge grant. Altogether, the total will be \$84,000, which must be raised by August 4, 2017, when GPCF holds its annual "Passion for Polson Celebration" at the soccer field.

Offering this challenge grant fits the four objectives of GPCF's mission: 1) financially support initiatives that build our community; 2) collaborate and partner with others; 3) promote community pride and unity; and 4) promote philanthropy.

GPCF president Penny Jarecki says, "We hope the challenge grant will inspire everyone in the community to join in helping to raise the amount PYSA needs to complete the soccer complex and be ready for business when the fields open for play. The new soccer fields will be a huge benefit to soccer players of all ages and Polson's economy for years to come."

Checks made payable to the Polson Youth Soccer Assoc. may

## GPCF Directors Revise/Update Vision Statement, Hone Objectives

All 13 members of the GPCF Board of Directors gathered with facilitator Jenifer Gursky from the Montana Community Foundation and enthusiastically joined in for hours of intensive thought and idea sharing during a goal-setting workshop on Thursday, October 13. This session was a follow up from a shorter workshop in June and also time they spent answering a detailed questionnaire to prepare for the workshop. Directors agreed it was time well spent as the outcome was a rewritten (revised and updated) Vision Statement and revised Mission Statement that outlines the GPCF's 3, 5, and 20 year goals.

### The New Vision Statement is:

**We facilitate and invest in the development of a robust and welcoming community where all have the opportunity to be healthy, educated, creative, productive, and prosperous.**

In order to begin making this vision a reality, the GPCF directors have identified four general objectives:

- 1) **Promote Philanthropy**
- 2) **Inspire Community Pride and Unity**
- 3) **Collaborate and Partner with Others**
- 4) **Financially Support Initiatives that Build Our Community**

Each director is committed to work to promote philanthropy. They also have organized themselves into three working committees to plan and carry out specific goals that will bring the other three objectives to life and will include community participation.

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be mailed to P.O. Box 1337, Polson, MT 59860.

If donors prefer, they may send a directed gift to the PYSA via the Greater Polson Community Foundation, P.O. Box 314, Polson, MT 59860. These gifts will be sent on to the PYSA to be added to their match.

## His Unique Donation Benefits GPCF



He spends hours planning, prepping the food, and cooking a five-course gourmet meal for eight lucky diners who are successful bidders for this top money raiser in the annual

live auction benefitting the Greater Polson Community Foundation.

Bob Zimorino, well-known Missoula chef, restaurant owner, caterer, and host of a TV cooking show is a very special donor to the GPCF. He came up with the idea for the dinner and has come to Polson for four years donating his time to prepare the meal and entertain diners with jokes and stories about the food as the courses are being served. Bob's dinner has become the highlight of the live auction, and bidding on it is fierce. This year the top bid was \$2,600. When it reached that level, Bob said he would prepare two meals if the second bidder would agree to pay the same price. He did, and thus, Bob's unique donation generated \$5,200!

## GPCF Receives First Gift of Land

Thanks to the continued vision and generosity of one of our Founders, John Cowan, the Foundation received its first gift of real property. Over a period of years John is donating to the Foundation real property he owns in Polson. In addition to his continued kindness, with this gift John is showing that donations to the Foundation can come in the form of other assets in addition to cash. Thank you to John Cowan, as always, leading by example. Is it possible you have some land, stocks, bonds, or other assets that you might want to pass along to the Foundation furthering your legacy?

## Annual Fund-Raiser Sets New Record

The eighth annual "Passion for Polson Celebration" held Friday, August 5 at the home of Tim and Kelly Bagnell, generated \$26,759, a new record for the Greater Polson Community Foundation.

The event also broke previous attendance records as 198 donors made reservations for the festive dinner-dance. A live band, The Grateful Dads, travelled from the Sacramento area at their own expense and rolled back the clock by playing danceable

rock and roll music. Their lead singer, whose voice was amazingly similar to that of "The King," Elvis Presley, delighted the crowd when he sang those familiar songs.

There was lively bidding for both the live and silent auction items which together generated \$12,270, which also set a new record.

The 2017 "Passion for Polson Celebration" will be held Friday, August 4 at the new Polson Youth Soccer Association field.

## 2016 GPCF Annual Grants Top \$18,500

The Greater Polson Community Foundation distributed \$18,501 among nine local non-profit organizations as part of its 2016 grant cycle.

The award recipients are: Crown of the Continent Guitar Scholarship (\$1,250,) Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC) (\$2,500,) Friends of Lake County Fairgrounds (\$2,500 match,) Lake County Parks Board (\$2,500,) Mission Valley Christian Academy (\$1,250,) Mission Valley Aquatics (\$2,500,) Mission Valley Ice Arena (\$1,250,) Onward and Upward (\$1,442,) North Lake County Public Library (\$1,800,) and Polson Middle School (\$1,509.)

The grants support a wide variety of youth and community-oriented projects including: amenities and exercise stations for trail users on Polson's walking trails, a LEGO project and building table, scholarships for local guitar students, support for communication and literacy skills for Polson Middle School students, materials for STEM projects (science-technology-engineering-math) in Polson's elementary schools, support for the FLIC film festival, a portable multi-use stage for 4-H and other youth activities, equipment for a new winter festival organized by the Mission Valley Ice Rink, and Boys' and Girls' Club member swim lessons at the Mission Valley Aquatics Center.

"GPCF is able to fund these grants because our donors truly love making a difference," said GPCF Board President Penny Jarecki. Gifts and contributions from donors have added significantly to the permanent endowment, which now totals over \$617,600.

# Envision Polson News

Envision Polson is the major connection between the GPCF and dedicated volunteers who work for our community and is made up of eight “action committees” which are the feet-on-the-ground for the community values identified by the Heart and Soul Project. The committees meet regularly and spearhead an amazing number of projects carried out by hard-working volunteers.

**Beautification Committee:** Organized Polson’s annual spring “Clean up; Green Up.” Organized, publicized and awarded winners in the annual “Polson in Bloom Contest,” tidied up main street bulb-outs, and were awarded third place for their float in the Fourth of July Parade. Next project is the “Celebrate the Season of Light” contest, an annual Christmastime event.

**Year-Round Recreation Committee:** Summer was a whirlwind of special weekend recreation, and the committee is now planning winter and fall events such as Flathead Lake International Cinemafest, and fund-raising for the Mission Valley Ice Rink. Looking ahead, the committee is working on the Montana Senior Olympics which will be held in Polson in June, 2017 and June, 2018.

**Youth and Education Committee:** Polson High School is working to implement job-oriented programs for students to get real work experience as they continue to earn graduation credits. The popular internship program designed to experience various aspects of the field of medicine at St. Joseph Hospital is being offered again this year. The model for the internship program is available for other professions or trades.

**Health and Wellness Committee** currently supports and encourages the collaboration effort between local hospitals aiming to reduce/eliminate the high percentage of substance-affected mothers and infants which has been on the increase.

**Vibrant Downtown Committee:** The Polson Business (PBC) organized a new event this fall called the “Decorate-a-Bench Contest” where entrants were invited to decorate one of the downtown benches. The PBC is also planning the annual “shop local” event for the holiday season.



## Interpretive Sign Project Now Complete

The walkway along the lakeshore between Sacagawea Park and Salish Point Park is now enhanced with eight 2 x 3-foot interpretive signs that inform and explain Salish and Kootenai tribal customs, key points of local history, information about early steamship traffic on the lake, fishing, and local bird life.

The interpretive sign project, a collaborative effort between Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the City of Polson, has been a work in progress since 2014. The Greater Polson Community Foundation contributed \$15,000 to the project.

The walk along the lakeshore beyond the signs and out to the end of the Fishing Pier is a wonderful way for residents and tourists to enjoy the view of “The Narrows,” the Mission Range, and beautiful Flathead Lake.

## Project Media Mania Means Kids Really Do “Make the News”

Sixth through eighth grade students at Polson’s Middle (PMS) have embarked on a communications unit called “Project Media Mania” where they learn to do research, filming, writing, and editing news stories for the school newspaper “The Hook,” (and an online digital version of “The Hook”), TV segments, and a yearbook. They also broadcast student-produced news stories on the Pirate News Network (PNN) to the 500 students in the PMS.

As the kids “make the news” they will develop a thriving interest in current events, school activities, and happenings in Polson and other nearby communities. In doing so they not only hone their writing skills, but will learn to work as a team, master the art of recording and reporting, journalistic ethics, and self-confidence.

GPCF donors gave support to this project through a grant of \$1,509 which helped the school buy updated cameras, computers, that handle video editing and new software for students to use to edit their pieces.

# GPCF Donors

May 1, 2016 to November 1, 2016

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 Anonymous  
 Dave & Lois Abell  
 Thomas & Elizabeth Acevedo  
 Nick & Sue Alonzo  
 Bill & Lorie Amass  
 Dennis & Nila Anderson  
 Larry & Dorothy Ashcraft  
 Karen Babich  
 George & Joleen Barce  
 Bill & Tali Barron  
 Jonathon & Megan Beard  
 Hu & Patsy Beaver  
 William & Susanne Beck  
 Ben & Anne Binger  
 James & Pat Binger  
 Marshall & Betty Bjork  
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 Antionette Young

## Coming Up....

Mark the weekend of January 21, 22, and 23 on your calendar and invite friends to join you for the 5th Annual **Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC) 2017**.

FLIC has been a recipient of Greater Polson Community Foundation grants because it is a unique cultural event that generates outside interest in our community and revenue for Polson businesses during the sleepy month of January.

Polson's first inaugural **Winter Festival** will be held in February, 2017, the specific date and location will soon be announced. The Mission Valley Ice Arena Association (MVIAA) plans to host winter activities such as sledding during the early part of the festival, with a Learn-to-Play Broomball session later in the day. Broomball is very similar to ice hockey, but can be played on any surface, making it a perfect sport to get started with if you have any interest in learning to play hockey.

The MVIAA will be working with local vendors to ensure that hot food and beverages are available for purchase to keep our visitors warm.

The goal of Winter Fest is to encourage families to come out and enjoy the many sports and activities available during the colder part of the year, specifically sports and activities that will be made available to the public through the future construction of an ice arena in Polson.

## Contact Us



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