

■ Passion for Polson Celebration Raises Over \$30,000

“Wine and Roses Under the Tuscan Sun” was the theme of the fifth annual Passion For Polson Celebration (PFPC), the gala fund-raising event for the Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF). Held Saturday, August 17, the event raised over \$30,000, a record amount. When added to previous donations, these funds allowed GPCF to invest \$50,000 in its permanent endowment this year. The event was attended by 152 guests, also a record number.



Guests enjoy an evening of “Wine and Roses Under the Tuscan Sun”.

This year’s signature cocktail featured limoncello—an Italian-inspired aperitif, mixed with vodka and served to the group of celebrating summer residents and Polson “full-timers.” A variety of hors d’oeuvres preceded the Italian dinner menu. The party theme was further defined by the table centerpieces composed of wine bottles filled with long-stemmed yellow and orange roses surrounded by bunches of grapes and votive lights on gold tablecloths. The Finley Point setting was framed by the Mission Mountains. Polson’s swing band, KC and the Valley Cats, provided music throughout the evening.

A live auction of only seven items, a new addition to this year’s PFPC, generated nearly \$8600. The most popular item, a five-course gourmet Italian dinner to be served in a lakeside home, sold for \$2500. When bidding became intensely competitive, Bob Zimerino, who donated the meal, agreed to prepare two such dinners providing the second

bidder agreed to the price. Thus, \$5,000 was raised from this single item. The item selling for the second highest bid, a flashy fire-engine red Velocity scooter similar to those so popular in Italy, sold for \$1900.

Members of the Polson High School (PHS) cheerleading squad were food servers for the event, and members of the PHS football team provided valet parking.

Proceeds from the PFPC are added to the endowment fund of the GPCF, the earnings from which are awarded as grants to qualifying non-profit organizations who carry out special projects benefiting the community. As the only annual fundraiser for GPCF, the goal is to make each Passion for Polson event as profitable and celebratory as possible for the Foundation and attendees. Many thanks to all who volunteered, donated, and attended! You made a difference!

■ 2013 Grants Awarded

Recipients of the 2013 Greater Polson Community Foundation grants were announced at the annual Passion for Polson Celebration held Saturday, August 17. A total of \$11,000 was allocated among six qualifying non-profit organizations for specific projects benefiting the community.

Helping Hands Fund, the assistance program overseen by the Polson Ministerial Association, received \$1,500 which will be allocated to those needing assistance in paying utility bills or rent shortfalls.

Miracle of America Museum received \$500 to be used to extend the roof over the Paul Bunyon, an historic Flathead Lake working boat.

Mission Valley Aquatics received \$2500 for swimming scholarships based on financial need.

Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana will use \$1500 to update equipment.

North Lake County Public Library District will use \$2500 to establish four more “reading nooks” to encourage reading in places where people have to wait.

Polson Community Development Agency received \$2500, sponsorship funding for the second annual Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC).

GPCF has awarded grants annually since 2009. A total of \$71,177 in grants, donor advised funds, and directed gifts has been given back to the community. See a complete summary on the next page.

Treasurer's Corner

Tax planning season for 2013 is upon us! Congress extended the IRA Charitable Rollover provision which means that donors who are 70 1/2 or older can transfer up to \$100,000 this year in IRA assets to a qualified charity, like the Greater Polson Community Foundation. This is a great way to avoid paying income taxes on the amount of the mandatory distribution. Have your IRA Administrator transfer any amount directly to the Foundation. Also, the IRA rollover gift can be given to our endowment OR to support current programs. The choice is totally yours. The law will sunset again on December 31, 2013. Don't delay, save taxes and support our mission.

Donor Advised Fund Gift Benefits Local Team



A \$2,000 gift from a GPCF donor advised fund equipped the Polson High School football team with the latest in helmets that are designed to help prevent concussions. The photo above shows the details of this safety upgrade.

Grants and Directed Gifts 2009–7/31/2013

2009

Coalition for Kids.....	\$1,000
Mission Valley Aquatics.....	\$1,500
Mission Valley Friends of the Arts.....	\$1,000
North Lake County Public Library.....	\$1,500
Polson Flathead Museum.....	\$2,500
Sandpiper Gallery.....	\$1,000
St. Joseph Medical Center.....	\$1,500
Youth With a Mission.....	\$950
2009 TOTAL.....	\$10,950

2010

CASA.....	\$1,100
Coalition for Kids.....	\$1,000
Foster Grandparent Program.....	\$1,000
Miracle of America Museum.....	\$1,000
Mission Mountain Enterprises.....	\$1,500
Mission Valley Animal Shelter.....	\$500
Mission Valley Aquatics.....	\$100
North Lake County Public Library.....	\$750
PBL Staircase Grant.....	\$200
Polson Loaves & Fish Pantry.....	\$3,864
The Big Arm Association.....	\$1,650
2010 TOTAL.....	\$12,664

2011

Boys and Girls Club.....	\$1,375
Community Garden.....	\$1,000
Foster Grandparent Program.....	\$825
North Lake County Public Library.....	\$1,375
Polson Community Development—Streetscape.....	\$1,100
Polson Flathead Museum.....	\$1,375
Polson Loaves & Fish Pantry.....	\$1,900
Ross Memorial Foundation/Red Cross Swim.....	\$2,000
2011 TOTAL.....	\$11,775

2012

Big Brothers, Big Sisters.....	\$830
CASA.....	\$100
Cheerful Heart.....	\$1,500
Dayton/Proctor Association.....	\$500
DOVES.....	\$835
Flathead Lake International Cinemafest.....	\$2,500
Flathead Lakers.....	\$2,500
Mission Valley Animal Shelter.....	\$835
Mission Valley Aquatics.....	\$3,820
North Lake County Public Library.....	\$2,500
Polson Loaves & Fish Pantry.....	\$2,000
2012 TOTAL.....	\$17,920

2013

Big Brothers, Big Sisters.....	\$1,000
Boys and Girls Club.....	\$2,468
Flathead Lake International Cinemafest.....	\$2,500
Helping Hands.....	\$1,500
Miracle of America Museum.....	\$500
Mission Valley Animal Shelter.....	\$1,000
Mission Valley Aquatics.....	\$2,500
Ninepipes Museum.....	\$1,500
North Lake County Public Library.....	\$2,500
Polson Chamber, Beautification Committee.....	\$400
Polson School District.....	\$2,000
2013 TOTAL.....	\$17,868

2009-2013 GRAND TOTAL..... \$71,177



■ New Directors

GPCF welcomes three new board members (l. to r.) Garry Pitts, DDS, Toni Young, and Lou Marchello. Dr. Pitts was in private practice for ten years and worked in public health for 25 years before taking his current position as Division Manager of the CS-K Tribal dental program. Toni Young has a background in marketing and advertising and is a very active community volunteer. Lou Marchello has been in business in Polson for over 40 years, has served on the City Commission, and is a former Polson mayor.

■ Heart & Soul Update

Polson Heart & Soul is a two-year project co-sponsored by GPCF and the City of Polson for the purpose of reaching out to all members of the Polson community to engage in conversations about Polson's future.



Following the initial months of project planning and preparation, much of the past 12-month period was spent facilitating 19 neighborhood discussions throughout the greater Polson area, gaining input at local events, and amassing dozens of hours of video input - and now all that data is being sorted into a workable spreadsheet.

"It's gratifying because the purpose of the work is to make sure people's thoughts about and wishes for our community are heard," commented Randy Holm, one of the Data team members who is working on a master spreadsheet to provide organization to the input. The spreadsheet will be an important tool in an October workshop to evaluate collected information and draft a set of value statements for the City of Polson. Residents interested in participating in the analysis and values identification workshop should contact the Heart & Soul office at 270-8258 now. Following the workshop, value statements drafted by participants will be vetted within the community by use of surveys and other methods.

"We hope to have arrived at a final set of values statements by the end of this year," said the project's Co-coordinator Darlis Smith. "And then in our remaining grant time we hope to work with the City and other organizations in the community to determine how the value statements can be used to help guide decisions and actions in our community in the long term." By spring 2014, a publication featuring stories, photographs, and results of the Polson Heart & Soul Project will be available. Neighborhood summaries can now be viewed at www.polsonheartandsoul.org.

■ GPCF's Third Role: Community Convener

In addition to increasing the size of the permanent endowment fund and awarding grants in the community, GPCF serves as a community convener through the Envision Polson! project, composed of eight committees whose volunteer members serve in a variety of ways. For example:

Year-Round Recreation Committee organized the second annual Polson Triathlon with over 150 participants. In addition to providing lots of fun and excitement for both racers and spectators, over \$1,000 in proceeds from the race will go to the local swim team.

Also the 2014 **Flathead Lake International Cinemafest (FLIC)** will

be held January 24-26, a festive event designed to spark our winter economy. The goals of the FLIC committee:

1) double the number of screens where movies will be screened; 2) double the attendance through increased advertising, and 3) increase the number of films screened by one-third.

The **Beautification Committee** organized the annual community-wide spring clean up and the annual Polson in Bloom Contest. Winners in the Best Bloomin' Residence were Marshel Fox on Hillcrest Drive, Kim Christopher on Seventh Street, and Karen Lenz on Third Avenue. The Best Bloomin' Business awards went to Richwine's Drive-In, Lakeview Family Chiropractic (both on

Hwy. 93) and Hallmark/Navigator Travel on Main Street.

Dr. Linda Reksten, Superintendent of Polson School District 23 and member of the **Youth Committee**, presented the high points of the "Graduation Matters" program and discussed the new goals the school board set for the school district at the September meeting of Envision Polson!.

A committee made up of representatives of the Polson Chamber of Commerce, Salish-Kootenai Tribes, Envision Polson!, and business owners is working on a project to install new signs welcoming visitors to Polson.



Greater Polson
Community
Foundation

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GPCF Donors

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