

■ Conversations Begin At Polson Heart & Soul Neighborhood Gatherings



Finley Point and East Shore residents discussed a wide variety of ideas with one another as the Polson Heart & Soul Project held its first Neighborhood Gathering on Sunday, October 21 at Finley Point.

Around 30 neighbors gathered at McCrumb's Barn, some were meeting their neighbors for the first time. As folks introduced themselves and began sharing during a warm-up exercise led by project volunteers, one Finley Point issue was voiced by several residents. In the event of a fire on the point there is only one road leading out. Others in the know said that there is a plan in the works to let all residents know other evacuation routes. These types of discussions are key to the goal for the Heart & Soul Project which is allowing Polson residents to state and discuss what values are important to them. In this case Finley Point residents want a safe environment in which to live.

Those in attendance also wrote their wishes for Polson on small cards. A list of 32 wishes was created. These will be added to the Polson Heart & Soul Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/PolsonHeartSoul>), as will all wishes from neighborhood gatherings. The Heart & Soul web site is under construction and will eventually also hold this and all information about the project.

The core of the gathering was spent in groups of three, taking turns using a guide to be an interviewer, interviewee and note taker. Every

person taking part thus had an opportunity to give his or her opinion on a variety of questions including: Why do you live in Polson? Where would you take a visitor so they could experience Polson? What would you miss in Polson if it wasn't here? What about Polson is important to continue into the future? What about Polson would you change for the future?

At least 20 more Neighborhood Gatherings are planned for the next seven months where folks will be in conversation with one another about what they love about Polson and what their hopes are for Polson's future. Gatherings are being organized by geographic area and will include free food, door prizes, good conversation, and fun. The Heart & Soul Project wants to get input from every Polson resident, especially from those whose voice is not often heard.



Community members from the Finley Point/East Shore neighborhoods actively engage in the small group process during the first official Polson Heart & Soul neighborhood gathering held at the McCrumb barn.

Last December Polson was named one of five small American communities to receive the Orton Family Foundation's Heart & Soul Grant which provides matched funding to plan and carry out a community engagement process. Neighborhood Gatherings are Polson Heart & Soul's method of community engagement. Supporting this effort are the Greater Polson Community Foundation, the City of Polson and many volunteers.

As an end product of the project Polson residents' input will provide a document that enables both the public and policy makers to work together on common ground around issues that affect Polson's future.

■ GPCF Sponsored Speakers' Series Wraps Up

Greg Gianforte, founder of Right Now Technologies, a software company with 800 employees in Bozeman and 1100 worldwide, gave an inspiring talk on entrepreneurship to approximately 300 Polson High School students Wednesday, Oct. 10.

His talk focused on five key points he believes lead not only to a successful life, but a fulfilling life. He stressed the importance of continuing education beyond high school, choosing a career path that is challenging and based on one's own special talents, and the

fulfillment that comes with achievement based on hard work. Gianforte also spoke at Salish-Kootenai College later that evening. He described his process of "bootstrapping" on which he built Right Now Technologies which sold to Oracle, Inc. for \$8.5 billion in December, 2011.

Gianforte is the third speaker to be invited by GPCF to come to our community and participate in the 2012 Speakers' Series. Previous speakers were Jakki Mohr and Denver Holt.

Treasurer's Corner

Because of generous donations, over \$50,000 was added to the permanent endowment fund of the GPCF in FY 2011-2012. The Montana Community Foundation (MTCF) offered a 20 percent cash incentive to any local community foundation achieving this goal. Thus, GPCF has received \$10,000, much of which will be re-granted within our community. Our permanent endowment has now reached \$208,000. Thank you, donors!

More Good News: MTCF is offering the same 20 percent incentive

challenge for FY 2012-2013. If we can add at least \$50,000 to the GPCF permanent endowment, they will once again reward us with \$10,000. What a return on investment! Please consider helping GPCF attain that goal!

Transfer-of-wealth from one generation to the next in Lake County from 2010-2020 is estimated to be nearly \$310 million. Consider what would happen if only 5 percent of that figure, \$15 million, was invested in a permanent endowment. If that investment earned 5 percent, it would mean there would be nearly \$775,000 available EACH YEAR to meet the needs of local communities. Remembering the community you love in your estate plan can make a powerful difference in its future.

GPCF Welcomes Newest Member

Jarrold Shew, Branch Manager of First Interstate Bank in Polson, joined the board of directors of the Greater Polson Community Foundation in June. Jarrod graduated from the University of Montana with a Bachelors Degree in Mathematical Science



Jarrold Shew, Branch Manager of First Interstate Bank

in 1995. He was a math teacher and an athletics coach for three years before joining Glacier Bank in Kalispell as an appraiser in 1999. In 2001 Jarrod was hired as a Commercial Loan Officer at First Interstate Bank in Whitefish. He has served as Credit Officer I in Billings and Commercial Loan Officer II in Kalispell before being named Branch Manager of First Interstate Bank in Kalispell in 2007. He, his wife Lisa, daughter Emma and son J. D., moved to Polson in 2011. Welcome, Jarrod!

Community Celebrates Passion For Polson

Inland Paradise was the theme of the Greater Polson Community Foundation's (GPCF) annual Passion for Polson fund-raising event held Saturday, August 18 at the lakeside home of Bob and Betty Moore.

The 140 guests dressed in colorful Hawaiian attire raised over \$16,000 for the GPCF permanent endowment fund. GPCF president Penny Jarecki announced \$15,000 has been awarded to six qualifying non-profit organizations in 2012. In the four years the Greater Polson Community Foundation has been awarding grants, \$50,000 has been given back to the community.



Members of the group, Tribal Waves, helped close the evening at the Greater Polson Community Foundation's Inland Paradise fundraiser.

Event attendees were greeted with floral and seashell leis, and were seated at lakeside tables beautifully decorated with centerpiece arrangements of pineapples, palm fronds and dendrobium orchids. While mingling as the party began, guests enjoyed slack key guitar music by Dan Dubuque and luau appetizers, including lomi lomi salmon and taro leaf-wrapped laulau, which was flown in from an Oahu restaurant. The evening's signature cocktail was also in keeping with the tropical theme; with the help of Whistling Andy's distillery, the GPCF Event Committee developed the Inland-tini, made with hibiscus-coconut rum and mango-papaya puree. Guests dined on a buffet dinner of roast pig and island-style side dishes during Jarecki's remarks, which included recognition of past GPCF board members, Arn Hart, Nancy Glueckert, and David Rensvold. After dinner, hula dancers invited guests to join them in a hula lesson, and the evening ended as the sun set on Flathead Lake, with a lively fire dancing performance by local group, Tribal Waves.

GPCF's event committee is already planning for next summer's fundraising event. Jarecki acknowledges that each year, the committee tries to "outdo the previous year and bring a completely new theme to life," which has resulted in the annual party becoming known as one not to miss.

Do You Know?

A Transfer of Wealth study done in 2011 shows that from 2010-2020, \$12 billion will pass from one generation to the next in Montana. But how much of that wealth will stay behind in the communities that helped build it?

Here's How You Can Help

Think about what makes Polson special to you, and consider leaving a legacy gift to the GPCF permanent endowment, our community's "savings account." Setting aside just 5% of your estate for locally controlled community capital means funds will be there for changing needs in the future.

Talk to others about the importance of remembering the community in your plans.

Urge your legislator to renew the Montana Endowment Tax Credit.

■ Envision Polson! It's Making A Difference

Envision Polson! is neighbors working together and giving voice to local concerns about the future of Polson. The result: action committees who have accomplished or are planning some pretty amazing events in Polson. For example:

- **The Year-round Recreation Committee** organized Polson's very first triathlon, the first such event where the swimming portion took place in the open water of Flathead Lake. The response to this event held on a warm and sunny Saturday, August 18, far surpassed the committee's hopes. While organizers hoped for 100 registrants, there were 144 participants in the event. Event organizer Matt Seeley is planning on 200 entrants in the 2013 Polson Triathlon! The date: Saturday, August 17.
- **The Beautification Committee** has inspired a community-wide spring clean up and organized the second annual "*Polson in Bloom*" contest whose purpose is to encourage the community to enhance Polson's "curb appeal" for both residents and our

visitors. Up next: the second annual "*Celebrate the Season of Light*" holiday lighting contest.

- **The Youth Committee**, for the second year, organized Polson's Fourth of July Parade. More local youth participated and more spectators were on hand to enjoy it.
- **FLIC**, the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest committee has been working since January planning a first-ever filmfest whose goal is to "light up" Polson's winter economy. FLIC will be held February 1-3, and includes FLIC Jr., a first-ever film contest for Montana's high school students. In addition to films, organizers are planning a gala opening night party and a festive awards night to wind up the event.

Envision Polson! grew from the GPCF's desire to be a community convener, an effort to bring facets of the community together in order to build on Polson's strengths and prioritize its needs.

■ 2012 Grants Awarded

The Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF) awarded a total of \$15,000 to qualifying local non-profit organizations in 2012. Recipients are:

Cheerful Heart, a cancer patient support group serving Lake County, received \$1,500 start-up funding for a new skin care and massage therapy program for patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation.

The Dayton/Proctor Association received \$500 for a watering system to support new trees planted in the park.

Flathead Lakers received \$2,500 for an education program on plant and insect invaders threatening Flathead Lake.

FLIC, the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest, requested and received \$2,500 to launch Polson's first-ever film festival planned for February 1-3, 2013.

North Lake County Public Library District requested and received \$2,500 for a new outreach program. The funds will be used for comfortable rocking chairs and book shelving to establish "reading nooks" where people spend time waiting, i.e. doctors' offices, car repair shops. The books are those donated to the library, and people will be able to take them home free of charge.



Pictured above (l. to r.) Penny Jarecki, president Greater Polson Community Foundation; Marilyn Trooper, librarian, North Lake County Library; Daniel Smith, Flathead Lake International Cinemafest; Robin Steinkraus, Flathead Lakers; Tammy Walston and Valerie Lindstrom, Cheerful Heart; Brian River, Loaves and Fish Food Pantry.

Polson Loaves and Fish food pantry received \$2,000 to purchase high quality protein foods to go with the largely carbohydrate foods donated to the pantry, thus providing a more balanced diet to those coming to the food pantry for assistance.

A special gift of \$3,500 was given to the Mission Valley Aquatics to help finish construction of the pool.

GPCF President Penny Jarecki said that in the four years GPCF has been awarding grants, \$50,000 has been given back to the community through qualifying non-profit organizations. These funds are from earnings from the GPCF permanent endowment fund and incentive grants from the Montana Community Foundation.

■ GPCF Donors March 1 - October 1, 2012

Dave and Lois Abell
Thomas and Elizabeth Acevedo
John and Marilyn Adams
Susan Alleshouse
Lorie and Bill Amass
Anonymous
Dorothy and Larry Ashcraft
George and Joleen Barce
Hu and Patsy Beaver
William and Suzanne Beck
Jake and Jan Block
Richard M. Blumberg
Joe and Gerry Browning
Susan J. Carstensen
Jim and Donna Caras
Deborah Kim Christopher
Jules and Ann Clavadetscher
Community Bank
Cathy and Ned Cooney
John S. Cowan
John and Carol Cummings
Wes and Twila Delaney
Don DuBeau
Dean and Tarri Duncan
Robert Finke
First Interstate Bank
First Interstate Bancsystem
Foundation, Inc.
Cynthia and Daniel Forsch
Sam and Nancy Gary
John and Nancy Glueckert
Jens and Jackie Gran
Bill and Jeannette Gregg
Lois and Arn Hart
Boyd and Patricia Henneman
John and Diane Hensler
Greg and Kate Hertz
Denver Holt
Roberta and James Horne
Toby Tobias Hunter
Jeffrey and Margaret Heutmaker
Jane Irwin

Charles and Henrietta Jarecki
Inger and Gene Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Eindride Karlsgodt
Kurt and Molly Karlsgodt
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Kennedy
James and Lorrie Kiser
Becky Koskinen and Doug Coffey
Craig and Ellen Langel
Jane Laraby and David Swayne
Valerie Lindstrom
Daniel Lilja
Carol and Charles Lockwood
John and JoAnne Lowell
Bruce and Lynn Lowry
Brian and Marie Mahugh
Lou and Irene Marchello
Jon and Elizabeth Marchi
Ray and Kathy Mathews
Susan and Jack Mayfield
Paul J. McCann Foundation
Helen and Ron McClellan
Sue and Greg McCormick
Keith and Myrt McCurdy
Tom and Teresa McDonald
John and Tina Mercer
Graydon Moll
Constance and Gary Monell
Bob and Betty Moore
Carmine Mowbray
Sally and Tom Myhre
Coleen Kennedy Nelson
Gerald and Karol Newgard
Ken and Jeanne Newgard
Dermot O'Halloran
William and Margaret Olson
Dorene and Merle Parise
Nori Pearce
Jeannette Phillips
Garry and Christine Pitts
Connie and Murray Potter
Steve Powell
Jerry and Helen Raunig

Daniel and Katrina Rausch
Dave and Mary Rensvold
Bryan and Marie River
Pat and Kitte Robins
Marion Rosa
Urban and Donna Roth
Richard and Elizabeth Sawyer
Tana and Matt Seeley
Joslyn Shackelford
Steve and Lynn Sherick
Jarrod and Lisa Shew
Gayle and Helen Siemers
Darlis and Daniel Smith
Duane Smith
Roger and Libby Smith
Ted Smith
Jim and Barbara Sohm
Ann Solomon
Nancy Stewart
Ralph and Annette Stewart
Catherine Still and Charles Baxter
Jim and Phyllis Strosahl
Nancy Belle Teggeman
Frank and Cheryl Thomas
KT and Carol Thuerbach
Keith and Sue Urbach
Mary and Doug Wadman
Shelton and Lois Williams
Jim and Cindy Willis
Ann and Ray Wooldridge
Gail Wright
Buck and Toni Young

In-Kind Donors

Grant Myhre
Connie Plaissay
Polson UPS Store
St-Char-Ro Rents

Memorial Honoree

Vernette Karlsgodt

Our Vision & Mission – *The Greater Polson Community Foundation was organized in 2008 to create a permanent endowment fund to support community needs by: 1) gathering and wisely investing permanent funds, 2) offering donors various gifting options, 3) awarding grants, 4) developing partnerships through collaboration with others, 5) promoting philanthropy, and 6) inspiring community pride and unity.*



Greater Polson Community Foundation
Making Polson the Gem of Flathead Lake

P.O. Box 314
Polson, MT 59860