



Reverse Auction Nets \$16,500 for Little Swimmers

The 2018 Passion for Polson Celebration was held at the Mission Valley Aquatics Center (MVAC), Friday, August 4, where attendees were invited to tour the facility and see first-hand why Polson's pool is recognized as the most beautiful indoor public pool in Montana.

They also learned about the partnership the Greater Polson Community Foundation initiated with the Polson School District and MVAC whereby 104 Polson second graders learned basic water safety during a series of eight lessons this past spring. Those second graders are now third graders; they will take part in a follow-up series of eight lessons next spring, and current second graders will begin the cycle.

After hearing swim coach Tana Seeley describe the quick progress the children made, a report from the elementary school principal on how the program built confidence and self-esteem in all the youngsters, as well as some sweet thank you letters from the children themselves, auctioneer Bobby Roshon challenged the crowd to raise some money for the program.

He proposed this be done through a "reverse auction" explaining the first bid would be the highest following bid levels decreasing in value. He confidently set the level for the first bids at \$1,000, and bidders were quick to respond. Bid cards flashed all around, and \$10,000 was raised within the first five minutes. The crowd continued to bid as the levels decreased, and at the end of a fast and furious 20 minutes, a total of \$16,500 had been raised helping to ensure the safety of Polson's children.

GPCF Joins Downtown Business Development Partnership

From 2012 to 2014 Polson was involved in the Heart and Soul Project. Two of the overwhelming needs identified by over 20 community gatherings were to have a vibrant Polson downtown and create a vibrant economy. In recent years there has been a lot of growth in Polson, but much of that growth has not been in the downtown area.

The Greater Polson Community Foundation has entered into a one-year contract with the City of Polson working with Polson Redevelopment Agency and Lake County Community Development to hire a part time independent contractor who will work on economic development in Polson. That person will become immersed in the Polson business community and be a catalyst for growth opportunities, to assess needs for improvements, and identify potential new business relocations. We are all very excited about collaboration and the opportunity to have a dedicated person work at bringing new businesses to Polson and revitalize properties downtown within the Tax Increment Finance District (TIF).



A Cheery Welcome to Polson

The traffic island at the intersection of Highways 93 and 35 received a bright and beautiful upgrade this summer. Twenty big pots of hot pink petunias were placed behind the traditional little rowboat also filled with flowers.

Many thanks to Delaney's Landscaping and Envision Polson Beautification Committee for making this entrance to our community so attractive. The Beautification Committee is funded through directed gifts to the Greater Polson Community Foundation.

YES! GPCF Donors Are Making a Difference!

We believe our donors want to know their support of GPCF results in good work in our community. What follows is a brief report from some of the 2018 GPCF grant recipients. A complete list of recipients is in a nearby article.

Food for the Weekend

- It is hard to believe, but there are 71 school children in Polson schools plus nine others attending schools in Dayton and Valley View who dread weekends and long school breaks. During those times school breakfasts and lunches are not available, and they don't have enough food at home. Believing that a "hungry child is not a learning child," volunteers at Polson's food pantry, Loaves and Fish, began providing in 2012 "**backpacks**" of food designed to feed a child for a weekend. These are large zip lock bags filled with approximately three pounds of food purchased from the Montana Food Network. In 2016 the food pantry volunteers decided that these bags did not contain enough food for a middle school or high school youngsters, so they began providing supplemental packs of food weighing approximately seven pounds containing two or three cans of food plus softer packaged food. When it was discovered that middle school kids were throwing away the canned food, it was decided to take a "calories in" approach. The bags are now packed with high calorie food kids will eat such as double servings of ramen noodles and macaroni and cheese cups. High school students appreciate canned ravioli, beef stew and Progresso soups. Cost of the program is approximately \$15,000 annually which largely comes from grants to the food pantry and community donations. This year both the Lower Flathead Valley Foundation and **GPCF awarded \$2,500 to the program.**



We Eat What we Grow

- A \$2500 GPCF grant** made it possible for a Food Corps service member, Elayna Shapiro, to work with the Polson School District on the **Polson Farm to School Education Program**. She says, "My role involves working in three areas: the classroom, (teaching kindergarten, second graders and fourth graders,) the garden, and the cafeteria. I have utilized our garden as an outdoor classroom, and I have also begun doing taste tests featuring items from the state farm-to-school Harvest of the Month program. In September, we featured kale. While kale can deter picky eaters, many were excited to try kale chips which proved

so popular they have been incorporated into the monthly menu at our schools. I am also going to help plan a harvest dinner featuring local food prepared by a culinary class at our middle school."

Because Ice is Nice

- The first annual Flathead Cherry Street Hockey Tournament brought junior athletes out for six games of spirited play on Saturday, July 21. Organized by the **Mission Valley Ice Arena Association (MVIAA)**, visitors from as far away as Massachusetts joined local youngsters to play during Polson's Main Street Cherry Festival. Each 20-minute game consisted of two 10-minute rounds with a short break in between for water and donuts. There was no charge to play, and each participant got a t-shirt and a Cove gift certificate. The tournament was made possible by **a \$2000 grant from the GPCF**, which enables MVIAA to provide all equipment and "rink" supplies and keep the tournament free for all participants.



Summer of Discovery

- Boys & Girls of the Flathead Reservation and Lake County's** summer program featured a wide-ranging, discovery-based STEM curriculum (science, technology engineering, and math) that enhanced the summer outdoor experience for members. Average daily attendance in Ronan 87; average daily attendance in Polson 44 with a waiting list.

This photo was taken during a week-long trip to Glacier National Park where middle school age kids learned about water quality and water life, the ecology of the park, and how fire affects it. They also learned photography skills. The Glacier Institute and the Udall Foundation assisted. **GPCF Grant: \$2500.**



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The Sound of Music

- **Mission Valley Live (MVL)**, offers quality, professional, live performing arts programs. The artist provides evening entertainment for community members throughout the Mission Valley, educational outreach programs to students in schools from Dayton to St. Ignatius and entertain at senior living facilities. MVL is a proud recipient of a **2018 GPCF \$2,500 grant** which goes toward these educational outreach programs.



- **Leadership Development Program Flathead Reservation** stresses healthy communities require insightful leaders who have the ability to communicate and work effectively with others. The goal is to facilitate the development of local leaders, provide opportunities to interact with other community members, and explore local relevant issues. The 2018-19 year-long program has 28 participants, is sponsored by the Lake County Community Development Corporation, and supported by area businesses and organizations, including the **\$2,400 GPCF grant**.



A Summer of Clean Swimming on Flathead Lake

It was a wonderfully CLEAN summer for Flathead Lake's swimming areas in Polson and on the Flathead Indian Reservation. Directed gifts to the GPCF supported the Swim Guide to monitor the recreational water quality at our local swimming areas. Testing was conducted at Riverside Park, Salish Point, and Boettcher Park as well as the Tribal swimming beaches at Elmo, Wolf Point, and Blue Bay Campground.

Of the 60-plus tests conducted by the Flathead Lake Biological Station, our beaches passed with a 100% success rate and were "clear for swimming" throughout the summer. With the addition of Volunteer Park at Lakeside, Somers Bay, Wayfarer's Park, and the Bigfork City Docks, our citizen science program grew to ten total swimming areas and nearly 100 tests by the end of Summer.

2018 GPCF Grant Recipient's

Mission Valley Live	Flathead Lakers
P.E.A.C.E. (Red Flag Retreat)	Boys & Girls Club of the
Mission Valley Aquatics	Flathead Reservation
North Lake Co. Public Library	7th Ave. Skate Park Assoc.
CASA of Lake & Sanders Co.	Polson Pickle ball Court
Polson Farm to School Program	Project
Miracle of America Museum	Ninepipes Museum of Early
International Choral Festival	Montana
Polson Loaves & Fishes	Lake County Community
Lights Under the Big Sky Event	Development-Leadership
Mission Valley Ice Arena Assoc.	

ESTATE & GIFT PLANNING CORNER

What is a Donor Advised Fund (DAF)?

It is a unique, simple, tax efficient way to give to charities, and here's how it works:

- A minimum donation of \$5,000 grows tax free in an individual's account managed by the Greater Polson Community Foundation until the donor chooses to disburse the funds.
- Donor receives immediate tax benefits with only one tax receipt to retain.
- Distribution of the earnings and/or the principal is directed by the donor: who receives the gift, how much, and when.
- The funds can be disbursed to one or many charities.
- Your charitable giving is kept confidential.
- Charitable giving guidance is available whenever you need it.

More Attractive than Ever...Charitable IRA Rollovers

A total of up to \$100,000 can be transferred directly from your individual retirement account to the Greater Polson Community Foundation each year. Charitable IRA rollovers avoid federal income tax, even if you no longer itemize under the new tax.

Additionally, funds given in this way count towards satisfying your required IRA minimum distribution for the year of the gift. How it works:

- You must be 70 1/2 or older at the time of distribution.
- The total amount an individual taxpayer can make in charitable IRA rollover gifts in any year is limited to \$100,000.
- Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the charity.

Let us know if we can help.

Greater Polson Community Foundation,
P O Box 314,
Polson, MT 59860
Email:gpcf4723@gmail.com (406) 883-4723

And the Winning Bidders Are.....

The live auction featuring a short list of unique items at the annual Passion for Polson Celebration generates significant support for GPCF as well as rewarding the winning bidders with a lot of fun.

For example, Frank and Cheryl Thomas won a five-night stay in a Trump Tower condo over-looking Central



Park and the dazzling New York City skyline.

Edgar and Cheryl Maldonado and Terri Srch were top bidders on a package that included a round trip flight to Seattle in a private jet, piloted by Larry Ashcraft, tickets to the Seattle Seahawks vs. L.A. Rams football

game and a \$300 gift certificate for a gourmet dinner at the Metropolitan Bar and Grill.

Bob and Amy Zimorino's auction prize was two tickets to the Denver Bronco/ Jets game and two nights in a downtown hotel.



GPCF President Attends Red Lodge Convening

In mid-September the Montana Community Foundation hosted the annual Convening in Red Lodge: Connecting the Dots - Building Resilient Communities for Montana. All sessions on learning about transitioning economies, ways to revitalize communities, engaging strategies to strengthen governing boards, economic and fiscal trends, and sharing knowledge and ideas.

GPCF President, Toni Young, was honored to be asked to make a presentation on some of our grant recipients whose projects have positively influenced Polson's economy. She shared the six-year history of the Flathead Lake International Cinemafest, the recent collaboration and matching grant program with Polson Schools and Mission Valley Aquatics with the "learn to swim" program, and the GPCF matching grant with the Polson Youth Soccer Association to finish work on the concession stand, fencing, and parking lot.



BIG Sports Academy Hosts FIRST Track & Field Camp

In July, the BIG Sports Academy hosted the first annual Girls' High School Track and Field camp in Polson, MT. Athletes attending the camp stayed onsite at Polson High School, where they trained with world-class/Olympic track and field coaches and formed lifelong bonds with fellow campers. In addition to their physical training, the campers also worked on healthy living habits and examined both emotional and mental aspects of their sport. Other portions of the camp involved paddle board yoga, mountain hiking, and community engagement, including an afternoon participating in the Flathead Secchi Dip-In with the Flathead Lake Biological Station and a visit to the People's Center in Pablo to learn about local history from members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

The BIG Sports Academy is grateful for the generosity of the Greater Polson Community Foundation who allowed community members to donate through the Foundation enabling the camp to provide scholarships to athletes in need of financial assistance. Local community members as well as local businesses such as Glacier Bank, Wash-n-Go, Riverside Recreation, The Cove, and Flathead Boat Company, also provided support for camp operations and room and board for visiting coaches.

The success of this camp has created a desire to make it an annual event. We will again be taking donations through GPCF and would love to see even more involvement! Since 2016, the BIG Sports Academy has fostered and developed Balanced, Impactful, and Growth-minded young people through a holistic approach to athletic and leadership development, and we are so grateful to be a part of a community who invests in their youth!

2019 Calendar of Events

Grant Workshops: February 16th & 21st @ Noon at GPCF

Grant Applications Due: April 26th by 5 p.m.

Passion for Polson Dinner-Dance & Auction: Thursday, August 1st at 6 p.m. at the Finley Point Barn



GPCF: The Bedrock of What is Great in Polson

Film festivals don't just pop up without an enormous amount of support from the local community. The

Greater Polson Community Foundation and other generous local sponsors have been the bedrock beneath the Flathead Lake International CinemaFest (FLIC) from its genesis some 7 years ago. FLIC was the brainchild of the Envision Polson! Year-round Committee, formed under GPCF to create year-round events for the community as well as attract off-season visitors to boost the local economy.

During the weekend of January 25, 26 and 27th, 2019, FLIC will celebrate its 7th year of sharing a broad array of films from the far reaches of the globe with northwestern Montana. FLIC's mission is to provide makers of all film genres a venue through which they enrich themselves and their audiences by engaging with film. The Showboat Cinemas has graciously hosted FLIC for 6 years running and will again in 2019. Thanks to Polson Theatres' Gary and Becky Dupuis for their ongoing generosity.

FLIC 2019 promises to be the best yet, featuring a strong slate of films and special guests. In addition to about two dozen filmmakers who will join us in person for the festival, our special guests will include:

Tim Ryan Rouillier: PBS stations across America are currently showcasing Tim Ryan Rouillier's symphonic memoir musical, "My Grandpa's Fiddle" The Soundtrack of My Life," which will air on MT PBS this December. Tim shares this



special 1-hour concert with FLIC at 7pm on Friday evening, January 25th. He will then chair a Q&A following the screening.

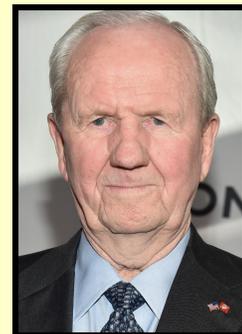
Tim is an award winning artist/writer, music producer and studio musician. He has recorded for CBS, RCA and Warner Brothers Records. Tim has written songs for George Strait, Phil Vassar, Randy Travis, Ty Herdon, Kenny Rogers, Trisha Yearwood, Deana Carter and many others. His songs have sold millions, including Number 1 song "Last Day of My Life" recorded by Phil Vassar, Platinum Selling: Number 1 Album - "Somewhere Down in Texas" by George Strait, "Song of the Year" Golden Harvest - Farm Journal and American Folk and a Number 1 Song in the Southwest Market, "Let's Dance in Circle's" as an artist on CBS Records.



Adam Yenser: Adam Yenser is a comedian and Emmy Award-winning writer for The Ellen DeGeneres Show. A native of Pennsylvania, he began performing stand-up at the UCB Theatre in New York. He has

appeared on Conan and FOX Laughs, has written for The Oscars, and has been a freelance contributor to SNL's Weekend Update. He can be seen on Ellen in the recurring segment "Kevin the Cashier Played by Adam." Adam is a graduate of Penn State University where he served as a commencement speaker in 2017. Adam will join us at 7pm on Saturday, January 26th for FLIC 2019, sharing some of his Ellen bits as well as his comic wit and cultural insights.

Gerald R. Molen: Great Falls, MT native Gerald R. Molen has been in the top film production business since 1957. He served as producer of a long list of top Hollywood films, including Rain Man, Jurassic Park, Hook, Minority Report, Schindler's List and may of others.



On Sunday, January 27th, which is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Mr. Molen will present Schindler's List - which he produced -- and then chair an audience Q&A following. His stories about his adventures in film production are the stuff of legend. Never afraid to stand up to even the biggest [headed] movie stars, he's the consummate professional and gentleman.

The Library of Congress selected Schindler's List for preservation in the National Film Registry in 2004. In 2007, the American Film Institute ranked the film 8th on its list of the 100 best American films of all time.

Since the beginning, FLIC's committee meetings have been held at the GPCF offices. Since the beginning, the GPCF has been hands-on with financial aid each year as well as with enormous help from present and former board members like Toni Young, Penny Jarecki, Gerry Browning, Debbie Larson, and others. It is with hearts filled with gratitude that FLIC thanks the GPCF for its financial and moral support, forward-thinking vision, and big hearts. Without the GPCF, a familiar movie sequel might be screening over that January weekend instead of dozens of entertaining and inspirational independent films from all over the world.

Join FLIC the last weekend of January, 2019 for another rich celebration of independent cinema.

Questions: Please contact David or Jessica King at 406-883-1678.

GPCF Donors

June 1, 2018 through November 1, 2018

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GPCF Vision Statement

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.

Check out our website, greaterpolsoncommunityfoundation.org, and/or facebook, email us at gpcf4723@gmail.com or call us at 883-GPCF(4723)

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