

Legacy

GPCF Awards \$50,000, Pledges Another \$50,000 to New Polson B&G Facility

The Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF) presented \$50,000 to the new Boys and Girls Club (B&G Club) soon to be constructed in Polson and pledged another \$50,000. This donation is the largest the GPCF has made since it was first organized in 2008.

Toni Young, GPCF President, on behalf of our generous donors, hand-delivered a \$50,000 check to Aric Cooksley, Executive Director of the local B&G Club, at the annual "Great Futures Breakfast" held Tuesday, April 3 at the newly remodeled and expanded B&G Club facility in Ronan, attended by 166 B&G Club supporters.

Another \$50,000 will be awarded by the GPCF in the near future when the B&G Club fundraising campaign committee needs a special "boost" to get them over the goal line of raising the required \$4.8 million, at which time construction of the new Polson facility can begin. GPCF directors and donors see this second installment as a "challenge match" that will inspire other organizations and individuals to get behind a project that will offer so many positive opportunities to our children and teenagers, both now and for future generations. "We are all about permanent investments in our community," said Penny Jarecki, Chair of the GPCF Philanthropy Committee.

This \$100,000 has been accumulating in a special "set aside" fund the GPCF directors and donors created several years ago to jumpstart or complete projects that



Above is the architect's rendering of the exterior of the proposed Polson Boys' and Girls' Club facility; the estimated cost of \$4.8 million includes a gym. \$2.9 million has already been raised. A fund-raising dinner is planned for Sunday, July 14, on the building site across the street from the Middle School. Ground breaking begins when the fund-raising goal is reached.

would make a significant and permanent impact on the greater Polson community. The new Polson B&G Club is exactly the kind of project the directors and donors had in mind because it fills such a vital need in Polson.

Toni Young stated, "Our Foundation has a strong commitment to kids in Polson, giving them the best opportunities possible as well as the potential to change their lives. The entire community of Polson, both young and old, will benefit from the addition of this wonderful facility."



June Syvrud Scholarship

June Syvrud's family is establishing a music scholarship fund in honor of June's true love of music. June was a performing artist as vocalist, pianist, and saxophone player. Her greatest achievement was the 20 years she taught music in the Polson school. Tax deductible donations should be made payable to the GPCF with a note designating the June Syvrud Scholarship. Mail to GPCF, P. O. Box 314, Polson, MT 59860. Donations may also be made online at the GPCF website:

www.greaterpolsoncommunityfoundation.org.



Infusing Energy Downtown

Polson, like other small rural towns, is fighting for relevance and community vitality. In October, 2018, the GPCF awarded a \$10,000 grant to help fund a one-year partnership with the City of Polson, the Polson Redevelopment Agency (PRA), the Polson Chamber of Commerce, and Lake County Community Development Corporation (LCCDC) to infuse energy and focus in the Polson economy, build on existing ideas, and to collaborate with downtown businesses to develop projects in the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district while promoting long-term business interests in Polson.

Amber Blodgett, Polson Chamber of Commerce Manager half-time, was hired in March 2019, as the Business Development Coordinator for this collaboration. The goal: To highlight and increase the capacity and visibility of the Polson Chamber as a “One Stop Shop” for business resources, tourism, and community information. Recent accomplishments:

- A new-to-Polson business that received technical assistance in business development from LCCDC, project funding from a local bank, further assistance from the PRA, Polson Chamber of Commerce, and Polson Rotary and is locating at 21 Main Street. Watch for grand opening of Recreate Designs soon.
- The Polson Chamber of Commerce Visitor and Relocation Guide is now available.
- A list of commercial business spaces and vacant lots ready for investment in the TIF districts is scheduled for release soon.

For more information on this collaboration or for more information on business services or the eligibility for Polson Redevelopment Agency funding, contact Amber at the Chamber office: 406-883-5969 or email Amber.blodgett@lakecountycdc.org.

Help Preserve Montana's Future

From 2010 to 2060, approximately \$123 billion will transfer from one generation to the next in Montana. If only 5% of this wealth was permanently endowed and just 5% distributed per year, it would mean a potential of \$307 million in annual grants to keep in our state, the place we love to call home.

- For information on creating your own legacy contact the Montana Community Foundation: email info@mtcf.org; call 406-443-8313; visit their website mtcf.org.
- The Montana Legislature has extended the Montana Charitable Endowment Tax Credit for another six years. Montana is one of only a few states providing this opportunity for donors to support charities and also receive significant savings in their taxes through planned gifts. Questions? Contact the Montana Community Foundation: 406-443-8313 or info@mtcf.org.

Montana

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John Cowan's Legacy

By Penny Jarecki, GPCF Past President

Those who attended John Cowan's funeral in March, 2019, were not surprised to learn he had planned his own services. While he did ask his sister to write his obituary, he

selected the hymns that were sung, the scriptures that were read, the pianist, and even the food that was served at the reception following the service.

That was how John operated. He envisioned the job that needed to be done, and then, always a stickler for details, he made careful plans on how to accomplish his goal.

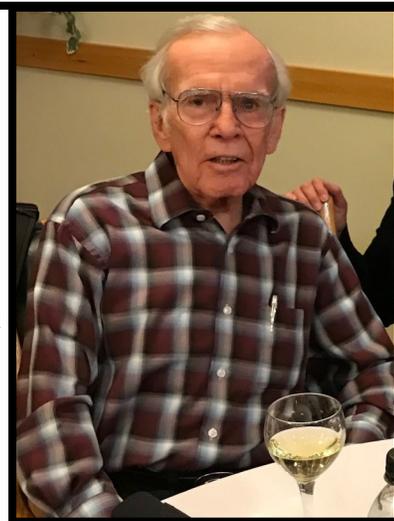
He served for nine years as advisor and treasurer for the Greater Polson Community Foundation (GPCF). Because of his experience as a CPA, his work ethic, and his vision of GPCF's potential, he established solid accounting practices, was instrumental in writing workable by-laws and the policy for awarding grants. In many ways, John built the “foundation” for the GPCF. Always planning for the future, John trained his successor before officially retiring as treasurer.

Other non-profit organizations in our community also asked John for his advice; he helped them identify their goals and strategize their fund-raising.

His belief in good planning is further exemplified in his estate plan. While he made provisions for his children, he also included the community he loved. His gift has been added to the GPCF permanent endowment, (invested and managed by the Montana Community Foundation), the earnings from which will benefit the Polson community forever.

John's well thought estate plan is in sharp contrast to the “norm” in Montana where only 7 out of 10 people have a will.

I hope by reading of John Cowan's example, others will be inspired to include a bequest to the Polson community, a place where we have either had jobs, built businesses, raised our children, or have come here to enjoy a peaceful retirement. By doing so, we too, will be part of the long-remembered legacy in this beautiful community we love.



GPCF Welcomes New Board Members

Three new members were recently added to the GPCF board of directors.

Ron Bone spent his career in the pharmaceutical supply business working 41 years for McKesson Corporation. His last ten years at McKesson were spent working with Congress to pass comprehensive legislation to enhance the security of the pharmaceutical supply chain from manufacturer to pharmacy with the goal of eliminating counterfeit drugs. Ron is now a consultant for the Healthcare Distribution Alliance in the area of pharmaceutical traceability and security working with industry and the FDA to implement the Drug Supply Chain Security Act by 2023.



He received his BS and MBA degrees from San Jose State University. His wife, Colleen, has her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from USC, and their daughter Jacqui just graduated from the University of Washington with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree.

Ron has enjoyed being a member of Polson Rotary which focuses on helping the community. He and Colleen are very happy to call Polson their home and look forward to investing their time, energy and resources in the community.

Linda Fisher was raised in the small town of Britton, S.D. She met Travis Fisher while attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, and after she graduated with a B.A. in Commercial Economics, the couple married. They then called Vermillion, S.D. home for ten years while Travis furthered his education.



In the fall of 2001, they moved their little family to Polson and haven't looked back since! Linda has worked in the loan department at First

Interstate Bank since 2001, becoming a loan officer in 2012. She believes in giving back to our wonderful community by currently volunteering as a Polson Chamber Ambassador and as a board member of the Mission Valley Youth Foundation, as well as serving on several annual fundraising committees for various non-profits in the community.

Travis and Linda have been blessed with two

children, Mollie, who is attending college pursuing her nursing degree, and Samuel, a sophomore at Polson High School.

Jim Simpson grew up in a Navy family, moving every two to three years until he graduated high school and moved to Missoula to study forestry. He worked for several companies as a forester and a manager until retirement. His forestry career required long hours, long weeks and a few moves. He and his wife have three adult children.



Jim says, "In 1999, my wife, Joanne, and I settled in our last best place, Polson, and we started to become members of this community. I now realize how important community is and how important it is to improve a community. That is why I am proud to be serving on the Greater Polson Community Foundation Board."

Dave Abell, Penny Jarecki, and Lou Marchello have recently retired from the GPCF board because of term limits or health reasons. GPCF very much appreciates their years of service and dedication to the mission of GPCF.



Working Together is a Big Deal for Polson Pickleball!

It was a cold, chilly day, but it was a big deal for the GPCF, board members of the Friends of Regional Parks & Trails (FORPAT) and local Pickleball enthusiasts to gather and celebrate recent project milestones. With a grant from GPCF matched with funds from FORPAT and a donation from Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, the City of Polson Parks & Recreation Dept. completed three Pickleball courts which included fencing, surfacing and painting. Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports nationally, and its growing popularity in the greater Polson area showed there was clearly a need for public courts dedicated strictly for that use. For more information about the Pickleball courts, call City Hall at 883-8200.

Grant Recipients Report



The 2018 **Lights Under the Big Sky** event was held three weekends prior to Christmas, 2018, with 24 total operational hours and approximately 3,500 attendees. An estimated 1,350 children participated in crafts, games, and visits to Santa. Adults of all ages enjoyed musical entertainment and a diverse Christmas market. "The GPCF grant helped make 'Lights Under the Big Sky' a glowing success!" Sjaan Vincent, project chairman stated.

Gil Mangels, President of the **Miracle of America Museum (MOAM)**, is grateful for the GPCF grant which made it possible to install a state-of-the-art security system in the antique gunsmithing building in the fall, 2018. At least two of the four cameras catch any movement and record on the loop tape for a period of two weeks. Along with security bars and panels, we can rest assured that the MOAM collection is safe and has been enjoyed by many visitors.



Get Charged up at the Library

A grant from the GPCF funded three charging stations at **North Lake County Public Library** where patrons can charge their cell phones, iPad and other electronic devices. A popular and much appreciated addition to are used every day.



Kathy Senkler, Associate Director of the **Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana** says, "Our museum has received two grants from the GPCF. In 2017 we received a grant to improve our security measures. The museum houses over 2,000 artifacts and periodic upgrades are necessary to ensure the safety of these items. The 2018 grant went towards a new website design which allows us to add our own updates and photos and generally maintain our own set for the first time. The support provided to fund our nonprofit is greatly appreciated, but it is also very gratifying to know how seriously the GPCF directors view their obligation to be careful stewards of GPCF funds."



Congratulations to the first graduating class of **Leadership Flathead Reservation**. They've spent two years developing leadership skills and building a network of leaders throughout the area and they're dedicated to working together to make our community an even better place to live. This ongoing leadership program is now in its third year and is supported by grants from the GPCF. Contact Lake County Community Development Corporation for more information at 406-676-5901.





“Learn to Swim” Program Completes Second Year

The Mission Valley Aquatics and Fitness Center, in a four-year partnership with Polson Schools and the Greater Polson Community Foundation, launched the “Learn to Swim” program in April 2018, by providing a series of eight swim lessons to all of Polson’s second graders.

In April, 2019, the same group came back as third graders for another series of eight free-of-charge lessons. From the moment they jumped in the water, it was clear they had not forgotten what they had learned, and because they were now older and stronger, they quickly progressed with just a little guidance. The 106 students were divided into small groups of five to seven, based on ability and experience so that each child was getting quality instruction.

They learned water skills and basic safety rules for when they are in boats or in lakes or rivers, as well as the importance of wearing life jackets. Tana Seeley, MVA board member, said, “I’m confident that all third graders are going to be safe around water this summer.”

Then in late April, 2019, a new group of 110 second graders started their first series of eight free lessons that were scheduled two to three times each week. They, too, were divided into small groups, and by the end of the series had developed confidence in the water and greater self-esteem in general.

Because our community is surrounded by the lake, a river, and irrigation canals, drowning is a real danger for our children, yet in the past, many children have not had access to swim lessons. The GPCF donors are pleased to offer a challenge match to help fund this opportunity so every child can learn how to swim, a skill that will last a life time.



Summer is Here at Last

“Polson’s hanging baskets are the most beautiful,” is a comment often heard from our visitors. Funding for the planting, watering and upkeep can be made with a directed gift through the GPCF, a 501 c 3 organization. Mail checks to GPCF, P. O. Box 314, Polson, MT 59860. Donors will receive a receipt for tax deduction.



How Others See Us

Testimonial by Kathy Kuberka

I moved to the Polson area six years ago after having lived and worked in the Colorado Springs area for 20 years. I was accustomed to public recreation and youth facilities being funded only through tax dollars and sometimes through voter approved tax increases.

While in the Polson area on vacation a few years before actually building our home, my husband and I heard about the plan to build an aquatic center in Polson and the fund-raising efforts that were happening. We looked into the project and thought what a wonderful addition this facility will be to the community and said we need to contribute to this project.

After living here for six years, I have been absolutely amazed by what projects happen in this area without tax dollars used for construction costs. Completed projects like the Mission Valley Aquatics and the Boys and Girls Club in Ronan; and now current projects like the Boys and Girls Club in Polson and the Mission Valley Ice Area are well on their way to achieving their financial goals and adding two more much needed facilities to the area.

It is truly wonderful to see a group of people identify a community need, create a concept for a facility, and achieve the goal through financial support from individuals, businesses, and organizations like the Greater Polson Community Foundation which has contributed to so many projects in its 11 years of existence.

GPCF Donors

November 1, 2018 to June 1, 2019

Dorothy & Larry Ashcraft
Jacob & Jami Baumann
Ray & Connie Beck
Terry & Bernice Bergren
Ben & Anne Binger
Ronald & Colleen Bone
John & Jill Campbell
John Cowan
Dean & Tarri Duncan
Ryan & Krista Gage
John & Nancy Glueckert
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Marc & Marla Gullickson
Gretchen & Edward Heffernan
Kristin & Terry Hughmanik
Jane Irwin
Charles & Henrietta Jarecki
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Gene & Inger Johnson
Kathryn Johnson
Tim & Martha Kelly
Kevin & Linda Kennedy

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Richard & Barbara LaPiana
Josh Maki
Edgar & Cheryl Maldonado
Robert & Mary Martin
Malcolm McCallum
Debra McClenahan
Rod & Gwen McRae
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Marget Newman
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Jonathon & Margaret Parsons
Terry & Patt Payne
Kitty Pedersen
Elizabeth C & Jay Sr. Preston
Dr. Dan & Katrina Rausch
Dave & Suz Rittenhouse
Marion (Mickey) Rosa

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Roger & Libby Smith
Jim & Barbara Sohm
Terry & Kathy Souhrada
Francis & Lulu Stock
Rosemarie Strobe
Gary & Nancy Teggeman
Shirlee Thiebes
Audrey Thorsrud
Ron Tjaden
Marc & Becky Vergeront
Richard & Jo Weaver
Jerry Whealon
Shelton & Lois Williams
James & Marion Woitdtk
Antoinette Young

Passion for Polson Celebration, August 1

It's the best summer party: friendly people, fabulous dinner, live and silent auctions, dancing to the music of Grateful Dads all to benefit our community. Watch the mail for your invitation or call 883-4723 for details.

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.

Board of Directors

Toni Young, President
Jake Baumann, Vice President
Dorothy Ashcraft, Secretary
Kathy Kuberka, Treasurer
Ron Bone
Linda Fisher
John Mercer
Jeanette Phillips
Garry Pitts
Jim Simpson
Roger Smith
Marcus Vergeront
Penny Jarecki, Past President

Estonian & Catalanian Choirs to Give Free Concert in Polson on July 16 at Polson High School

The Polson community will have an opportunity to hear the accomplished Eller Girls' Choir from Estonia and the Veus-Cor infantile Amics de la Unio from Spain Ellerhein Girl's Choir on Tuesday, July 16, at 7:00 p.m. at the Polson High School auditorium. These choirs are travelling to the United States to participate in the International Choral Festival in Missoula (held once every three years.)

The choir's performance in Polson is being sponsored by Missoula's Festival as part of their "Outreach" program, which is made possible through a grant from the Montana Arts Council's Cultural Trust and the Greater Polson Community Foundation.

Missoula's Outreach program is devoted to fostering cultural exchange and good will through the universal language of music by bringing world class choirs to other Montana towns before or after the main Festival in Missoula (July 17-20, 2019.)



Contact Us



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Instagram: Polson Community
Foundation
Find us on Facebook:
Greater Polson
Community Foundation



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