BUILDING A BETTER WYOMING

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

30 YEARS BUILDING A BETTER WYOMING
Dear Friends,

Have you ever noticed that the best things are timeless? Meaningful ideas last. Truths hold strong over time. Thoughtful quotes are repeated.

The other day I was looking through some early Wyoming Community Foundation annual reports. It was wonderful to thumb through the yellowed pages. As I did, I soon realized much of what was written 30 years ago, is true today.

WYCF’s first president and one of our founders, John Freeman wrote, “The Foundation’s existence is due to the vision and generosity of our donors.”

His words could not be more true. Then and now.

The generosity of people like you make the nonprofit community a stronger place. You make Wyoming better!

I hope you read this year’s annual report and know you’ve made it possible for a family who needed a helping hand to find it. Your generosity means a small community gets to put on a top-notch music experience. A mother and daughter have a space to create – and to create good.

John Freeman closed his 1989 letter with this, “We hope that, after reading this annual report, you will recognize the Foundation and its affiliates as your foundation. You are a vital part of the Foundation’s work and the reason for its existence.” His thoughts still hold strong today.

Craig Showalter, President
Wyoming Community Foundation
WYCF Grantmaking: Your Generosity at Work

Agency Grants by Region:
- NORTHWEST: $673,985
- NORTHEAST: $236,312
- CENTRAL: $202,854
- SOUTHWEST: $200,423
- SOUTHEAST: $256,050

Statewide agency grants made: $345,916

Donor Advised Fund Grants by Region:
- NORTHWEST: $37,330
- NORTHEAST: $144,340
- CENTRAL: $232,707
- SOUTHWEST: $117,965
- SOUTHEAST: $246,554

Statewide grants made: $82,307
National grants made: $2,434,565

Donor Advised Fund Grants by Fund Type:
- Field of Interest Funds: $1,965,829
- Donor Advised Funds: $3,295,768
- Restricted: $150,317
- Specials: $202,760
- Scholarship: $309,095
- Unrestricted: $224,661

Statewide grants made: $82,307
National grants made: $2,434,565

Total grantmaking: $8,063,950

All Grants by Program Area:
- Education: $2,893,522
- Human Service: $1,143,903
- Arts & Culture: $1,008,050
- Youth & Recreation: $842,048
- Civic Engagement: $748,773
- Conservation: $109,194

Agency Grants by Program Area:
- Education: $859,447
- Human Service: $379,951
- Arts & Culture: $268,984
- Youth & Recreation: $139,105
- Civic Engagement: $98,477
- Conservation: $86,551

Donor-Advised Fund Grants by Program Area:
- Education: $2,301,415
- Human Service: $350,861
- Arts & Culture: $189,198
- Youth & Recreation: $176,019
- Civic Engagement: $156,607
- Conservation: $115,668
- Faith Based: $6,000
“When you grow up in Wyoming, you’re sort of a can-do person,” says Anne Young, Bobby Model’s mom. As kids, Bobby and his sister Faith were two adventurous spirits. They grew up in Cody on a ranch near the North Fork River. It was a place full of beauty and joy. A place the two wandered and explored. Faith says they had “a tremendous amount of independence and freedom.” Something that seems to go hand-in-hand with growing up here. It’s also one of the big reasons Anne thinks Bobby and Faith found adventure in life.

“I trusted them and off they would go,” Anne says.

A Mountain, a Storm and a Camera
The adventurous spirit Bobby had as a child would always be a part of his life. And one of his first life-changing adventures took root while attending the University of Wyoming.

Bobby worked as a teaching assistant in the photography department at UW. He was also involved in climbing. His two passions came together when Bobby was invited on a National Geographic expedition to Pakistan to climb the Nameless Tower. The climbers were caught in a terrible storm and Bobby’s family didn’t hear from him for weeks.

“T was a bit of a wreck,” says Anne.

They were stuck on a 21,000-foot wall with no oxygen. Luckily, all ended well, and Bobby’s photographs were used in the article. A picture of him climbing was on the cover.

Bobby Model Charitable Fund

This one experience would pave the way for Bobby as a photographer. His career was launched. Bobby traveled the world taking pictures for the magazine. His work was stunning. It captured the beauty of the people and world around him. He connected with his subjects.

“He started to get to know people in different parts of the world,” says Faith. “He had an appreciation for how we’re all really the same.”

Faith witnessed the amazing way he related with others when they both happened to be living in Nairobi – an experience she treasures.

The experience, though, ended abruptly. Bobby and Faith were driving in Cape Town, South Africa when a piece of concrete went through the window. It hit Bobby in the head. Bobby was treated for a traumatic brain injury, and two years later died from complications.

The loss was unimaginable, but Anne and Faith speak
in nothing but positive tones. They describe with joy and gratitude, an incredible son and brother. “Bobby really believed in communicating through his photos that the world is a good place. That the world has so much similarity and there’s so much connecting us,” says Faith.

Bobby’s belief in the good of people and the world were the reason the family looked to the Wyoming Community Foundation to create the Bobby Model Charitable Advised Fund.

“We wanted to do something that would reflect his spirit and what he loved,” says Anne. They’re celebrating Bobby, “by helping people in Wyoming and all over the world with basic needs,” says Faith.

Stats & Facts
Year Fund Established: 2009

Just some of the grants made:
- Youth Clubs of Park County
- Partner’s in Health: Ebola Response
- Northwest Family Planning
- UNHCR to support flood relief in Pakistan
- Wyoming Public Media
- Anne K Taylor Fund: Conservation work in Kenya
- National Geographic Young Explorers Program

Photo by Bobby Model
Designing for All

Two future scientists explore kinetic geography at the Science Zone.
Were you a kid who loved visiting museums? For children especially, museums are supposed to be a place of wonder and discovery. But did you know, that when most girls visit a museum, their experience is different from boys’? Research shows girls are less likely to explore exhibits. This means they’re missing out.

You’re helping solve the issue. Because of your support, the Wyoming Women’s Foundation made a grant to the Science Zone in Casper to tackle the problem.

The Science Zone learned that there are better ways to engage girls in exhibits. Research shows that design qualities like “exhibit labels, exhibit look-and-feel, and exhibit interactions” are fixes to get girls more involved.

Inspired, the Science Zone created a series of mini exhibits that are more welcoming to girls. The design changes bring more girls to the table, but also don’t discourage boys. In fact, the exhibits level the playing field for all children to learn about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Like you, the Wyoming Women’s Foundation wants all women to have the opportunity to be self-sufficient. The grant to the Science Zone lets girls see that STEM is for them, too. A good thing for any girl dreaming of her future.

“Inspiring girls through interactive and hands-on exhibits provides an incredible opportunity to showcase that STEM is for them too. Not just boys,” says Director of the Science Zone, Steven Schnell. “As a society we have a disparity among women in STEM-related fields.”

Steven says the first exhibit is off to a great start. Both boys AND girls are flocking to check out the new designs. Interactive pieces like the sand box teach visitors the concepts of geology, cartography, electronics and physics.

More exhibits designed with girls in mind are scheduled for later this year. This is exciting, not just for girls, but for all of Wyoming’s future scientists and mathematicians.
A performer wows the crowd at last year’s festival.
Big-Time Festival in Small-Town Wyoming

You can almost hear the smile on Emily Kohavi’s face. She lives in Nashville and plays with the band Wild Eyes, and she has wonderful memories of the Oyster Ridge Music Festival. A big festival, in small town Kemmerer.

“I can’t put my finger on it,” she says, “but there was some sort of kinship.”

In 2019, because of your support, WYCF was able to grant to the festival.

Ask just about anyone who lives in Kemmerer and they’ll tell you the festival is pretty special. It’s also the biggest thing that happens there. Kemmerer is abuzz. The population of nearly 3,000 more than doubles for three days of free music.

Locals come together with enthusiasm to make the experience top-notch. It’s easy to see they take pride in the festival.

Businesses warmly welcome those who stop in, and motels are booked months in advance. Parks are dotted with colorful tents, with visitors taking advantage of free camping offered for the special occasion.

The Oyster Ridge Music Festival didn’t start out this way. It was 1993 when an impromptu ‘festival’ began.

“A group of people sat around in the grass, playing guitars and mandolins,” says Thomas Lively, volunteer chair of the festival. They must have also done some dreaming and scheming, because the next year, the event officially began. And each year it grows more and more.

Year after year, this free festival continues to bring in incredible performers – even on a shoestring budget.

“We’ve never had money to pull out the big-name acts,” says Lively, “so we look for up-and-comers.” Sometimes those up-and-comers turn into big names. Grammy winners, in fact. Grammy winners like Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines. And they all seem to love the festival.

“All of the bands want to come back, which has been really special,” says Thomas. Wild Eyes is one of those bands. “The people were so friendly, and the scenery was beautiful! Folks cared about putting on a top-notch show. It was probably one of our favorite places ever.”

Learn more about the festival to be held July 26-28, 2019 by visiting oysterridgemusicfestival.com.

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Stats & Facts

1989
Year the Kemmerer Foundation Fund was created.

Purpose of the Fund
To support the entire spectrum of charitable purposes in the towns of Kemmerer, Diamondville and the area known as Frontier.

Grants made since inception
117 totaling $1,146,774
Like you, WYCF Local Board Members love their communities. They work to make the places they live better through grant recommendations and initiating activities to positively impact nonprofits in their area.

## Then...

**Casper Area Local Board**
- **Year Established:** 1990
- **Early Grant:** To ARC of Natrona County in 1996 to support those with disabilities.

**Rock Springs Area Local Board**
- **Year Established:** 1991
- **Early Grant Funding:** A solar-powered irrigation system for the Green River Green Belt’s newly planted landscaping in 1996.

**Evanston Area Local Board**
- **Year Established:** 1996
- **Early Grant:** To create an outdoor Antique Farm Equipment Museum in 2000.

## Now...

**Casper Area 2018 Grants:**
- $397,354 to 43 nonprofits
- **Highlight:** Central Wyoming’s Hospice Transitions program that serves individuals who fall through the cracks—those not yet meeting hospice criteria and are not home-health eligible, but who have no where else to turn.

**Rock Springs Area 2018 Grants:**
- $52,500 to 3 nonprofits
- **Highlight:** Sweetwater County Child Development Center which supports families needing tuition assistance for childcare. The grant supported approximately 42 children and families in Sweetwater County, where the poverty rate is 4 percent higher than the state average.

**Evanston Area 2018 Grants:**
- $40,453 to 8 nonprofits
- **Highlight:** Evanston Youth Clubs for Boys & Girls Career and Financial Literacy Program that implements programming and partners with the community and businesses to get teens career-ready and financially literate.

## 2018 ADVISORY COMMITTEE GRANTS

**Kemmerer Foundation Fund:**
5 grants totaling $80,953 to support charitable work in Kemmerer, Diamondville, and Frontier.

**McMurry Library Endowment Fund:**
4 grants totaling $16,540 to Wyoming public libraries and 30 grants totaling $41,596 for the professional development of Wyoming library staff.

**Hazel Patterson Memorial Endowment Fund:**
6 grants totaling $43,369 benefiting nonprofits in Buffalo and in Johnson County.
Sheridan-Johnson Local Board
Year Established: 1997
Early Grant: To the Tongue River Child’s Place for books, toys, art supplies, science and math materials, and much more in 1999.

Dubois-Crowheart Local Board
Year Established: 2007
Early Grant: To the Dubois Sawmill Site to support the creation of a fishing pond and recreation area for the town of Dubois in 2008.

Sublette Local Board
Year Established: 2011
Early Grant: A start-up grant in 2012 to M.E.S.A Therapeutic Horsemanship to provide equine-assisted therapy for emotional, cognitive, or physical reasons.

Sheridan-Johnson 2018 Grants:
$105,350 to 19 nonprofits
Highlight: Wyoming Wilderness Association’s Sheridan High School Outdoor Club which provides 9th-12th graders outdoor educational, recreational and stewardship opportunities.

Dubois-Crowheart 2018 Grants:
$88,550 to 13 nonprofits
Highlight: Expansion of Duffy Physical Therapy & Fitness Center, which is the only facility with dedicated services to support the health and wellness needs of Dubois residents.

Sublette 2018 Grants:
$76,644 to 12 nonprofits
Highlight: Funding to provide picnic tables for a park recently constructed along Highway 189 outside of Marbleton, giving travelers a nice place to stop.

Gordon and Edna Sykes Endowment Fund: 6 grants totaling $64,000 to nonprofits in South Big Horn County.

Story Community Fund: 4 grants totaling $14,000 to benefit nonprofits in the town of Story.

Upton Economic Development Fund: 26 grants totaling $28,727 to support economic development in the Greater Upton area including Weston County.
At an afterschool program in Rawlins, nine-year-old Nina enters a small, horse-sized trailer parked just outside. She pulls out wooden drawers filled with materials. She uses batteries, plastic pieces, string and more to explore and to ‘make.’

Nina is experiencing the first of many mobile maker labs in Wyoming. She’s learning about science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). All possible because of your support of the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance.

At an afterschool site in Thermopolis, 15-year-old Abel is introduced to thousands of different careers. How? He’s job shadowing. And he’s doing it online, with access to hundreds of day-in-the-life videos.

Abel takes a quiz to assess his strengths. He watches videos that explore jobs of all sorts. Abel soon learns that engineering and teaching are both great career options. So, too, are airplane repair and set design.

In another corner of the state, Michael and Lizzy learn about entrepreneurial opportunities and financial literacy.
Wyoming Community Foundation

skills. Their afterschool program will soon introduce them to businesses who will share what goes into running a business.

Not only that, the two will also take courses to learn to budget – a critical skill they’ll need before heading out into the real world.

Abel, Nina, Michael and Lizzy are all part of afterschool programs that make sure Wyoming kids are workforce ready. It’s part of the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance’s Innovations in Learning for an Emerging Workforce in Wyoming’s Changing Economy.

Innovations in Learning is showing youth all around the state they can do anything! It gives afterschool programs the tools to prepare young people for our workforce. The programs also aim to introduce kids to jobs of all shapes and sizes.

Because of your support of the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance, youth in afterschool programs are getting a chance to dream big about their future, right here in Wyoming!

The mobile maker lab in Rawlins is ready for kids to explore.

Stats & Facts

2007
Year the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance became a priority fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation.

24
Number of Wyoming pilot programs supported by WYAA to support college and career readiness.

14,000+
Number of children in afterschool programs in Wyoming.

For students in elementary through high school, more than 80% of their time is spent learning outside of school – at afterschool and summer programs, in libraries, museums, science centers, at home or in the community. Just 20% of their 16 waking hours are spent in school.

72%
of parents say afterschool helps young people gain workforce skills.

www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/detail.html#/WY/demand

70%
of parents agree that afterschool programs can help kids gain STEM-related interests and skills.
Standing thigh-deep in the river, Ben learns to fish. The sun on the water sparkles as he casts with confidence. Ben is only nine, but he knows what to do. He’s had a special learning experience and is now on a new life-long journey.

Your support of the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation helped make that happen.

Because of you, the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation made a grant to Joey’s Fly Fishing Foundation in Sheridan. Joey’s introduces children to fly fishing while fostering a passion and appreciation for the outdoors. They also develop a supportive relationship between children and mentors.

The relationship can lead to a lasting bond and positive learning. Over the years, as the kids learn, they are then tasked with becoming mentors themselves.

For Ben, the program has been life-changing. His creativity was sparked as he made a fly rod—choosing the colors to use in his design. He feels a sense of pride each time he catches a fish with his own rod. He’s gained a mentor too.

You see, Ben has connected with someone he can look up to.

**Casting Farther**

Joey’s Fly Fishing Foundation has been a part of the Sheridan community for years. Seeing the impact of the program, Joey’s decided it was time to expand to Johnson County, but they needed help.

A grant from the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation let them move from plan to reality. Joey’s can now offer more youth the opportunity to attend Joey’s Summer Camps.

The camps have a lasting impact. Because of your support, they are changing more lives.

“Just three weeks ago I got a phone call from California. A young man let me know he had just graduated from boot camp,” says Joey Puettman, Director and Founder of Joey’s Fly Fishing. “The first thing out of his mouth was, ‘I’ll be home Monday. Do you need any help?’ It brought tears to my eyes.”

The young soldier was back in Sheridan that weekend. He and Joey went out fishing.

The Wyoming Wildlife Foundation is proud to be able to fund programs like Joey’s. It’s because of gifts from people like you that we can.
Number of new students who will learn the art of rod-making and fly fishing.

WWF GRANTS MADE IN 2018
- Wyoming Wildlife Foundation Funds: $73,338
- Wyoming Governor’s Big Game License Coalition Funds: $699,895
Total grants made: 74

“Fishing is an educational process that lasts a lifetime. Its diploma consists of the fish you catch and the memories you make, but not necessarily in that order.”

– Criswell Freeman, Author
The Book of Cowboy Wisdom
Working for All: Interfaith Good Samaritan

The work of Interfaith is fueled by volunteers.
hen I first started volunteering in January 2017, there was a man who had trouble walking and had so many other health problems,” says Interfaith Good Samaritan Director Mike Vercauteren. “He sometimes walked in his stocking feet in winter.”

The man was in his 40s and worked more than 50 hours a week at two fast food restaurants. He had a wife and two kids. He was in terrible health and very depressed.

He needed help and turned to Interfaith Good Samaritan in Laramie. Interfaith works hard to meet the needs of those in poverty. It serves as both a food pantry and assists people with financial needs.

Because of you, WYCF granted funds toward something that’s giving real insight into the families who visit Interfaith: a new database system.

“What we’re learning,” says Mike, “is that all people who struggle with poverty don’t have the same needs.”

Mike says poverty may look different to different families. “One family may need a $10 gas card each month. And another might need help with rent,” he says.

Mike believes it’s important to track poverty and homelessness in Laramie – last year about 1,400 people came through their doors. But his work is about far more than the numbers. It’s about the people. It’s about building relationships and being there for people.

“We stuck with the gentleman and the town came together to help the whole family,” says Mike. “We partnered with the school district and downtown clinic. And we got the mom into vocational rehabilitation.”

When the father was in a wreck that totaled the family’s car, Interfaith called the local dealership. They donated an older Subaru.

“It’s a true story of the community coming together,” Mike says warmly about community support for this family and so many others.

And how is the gentleman doing today?

“When I saw him last, his hair was combed, and he was clean. He had color in his face,” says Mike. “He said to me, ‘Mike, for the first time my wife is working, I’m working. And for the first time in a very long time we are caught up on bills.’”

Interfaith brings the community together around helping people.

The LEK Unrestricted Fund

Fund Creator

Lollie Benz Plank, a co-founder of the Wyoming Community Foundation and generous philanthropist.

Purpose of the fund

To meet needs across the state.

Why an Unrestricted Fund?

Lollie believes that the Wyoming Community Foundation knows communities. She trusts WYCF to distribute money from her fund to help communities and support programs that have the greatest need.

Since 1994

181 grants totaling $880,640 have been distributed.
The well-being of Wyoming children and families is important to all of us. The 2018 Wyoming KIDS COUNT Data Book reports the most recent county data available on child and family well-being.

The Wyoming Community Foundation utilizes the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center at the University of Wyoming (WYSAC) to analyze data. The information can be used to help make decisions that best support all of Wyoming’s families. You can find more detailed county-by-county information at wycf.org/kids-count-data-books.
HOT SPRINGS
Births where the primary source of payment was Wyoming Medicaid average: 33%.

BIG HORN
79% Related children living in a married household Wyoming average: 72%.

WASHAKIE
75% Fourth graders with proficient or advanced reading capabilities Wyoming average: 64%.

JOHNSON
19% Births to unmarried moms Wyoming average: 33%.

CAMPBELL
23% Births delivered via cesarean section Wyoming average: 27%.

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75% Fourth graders with proficient or advanced reading capabilities Wyoming average: 64%.

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CAMPBELL
23% Births delivered via cesarean section Wyoming average: 27%.

SHERIDAN
11% Related children in families living below the poverty line Wyoming average: 13%.

CROOK
95% High school students graduating within four years, on-time Wyoming average: 80%.

NATRONA
28% Mothers who self-reported WIC (Women, Infants, Children) enrollment Wyoming average: 29%.

CONVERSE
9% Related children in families living below the poverty line Wyoming average: 13%.

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A few times a week, you can find a mother-daughter duo at the Natrona County Library. You might not find them among the books, though. Instead, they’re sewing makeup bags to sell online.

After a family member experienced a stay in an ICU, the two saw how care packages can lift someone’s spirits. Now they’re using money earned from their online sales to help others. They’re raising money to make care packages for the NICU.

Without the Creation Station at the Natrona County Library, these two wouldn’t have the space to work. Or to pay it forward.

**A Place to Make Meaning**

Libraries were once thought of as places to check out books. Quiet places to read. Today, they’ve grown into something much more. Libraries now have a huge variety of resources like the Creation Station.

The makerspace movement isn’t new, but it is changing the role of libraries in a community.

“It’s a place where people can engage with each other,” says Lisa Scroggins, Executive Director of the Natrona County Library. “It moves a library away from being just a collection and focuses on a learning experience.”

Because of your support, the Wyoming Community Foundation made a grant to fund the makerspace. The space is free and open to the public. In fact, it’s the only public makerspace in Wyoming.

Patrons can bring in their own materials or use the materials provided. At Christmas time, handmade Christmas gifts are created. Leatherworking classes are offered each month. And recently, over 60 people attended an essential oils class.

“We’re doing a lot of community building,” says Betsy O’Neil, Adult Services Manager at the library.

She shares that patrons come into classes and become friends. They bounce ideas back and forth.

Libraries have always been about learning. But now people are working with tools and technology instead of just books. Sometimes, in the case of the mom-daughter duo, they’re getting a chance to make a difference.

“It’s a place where people make meaning,” says Lisa.
Circuit exploration is also part of the library’s maker space.
Gifts Made in Honor of

Michael Brown in honor of Bobbi Barrasso
Susan Frye in honor of Mary Burman
John and Jodi Guerin in honor of Coal Creek Coffee and Tap
Willow Belden in honor of Ken Cramer
Kristin Strid in honor of Karin Ebertz
Amy Spieker in honor of Vicky Garcia
Carolyn Gillette in honor of Janet Glaeser
A anonymous donor in honor of Grace Gosar, MD
Sally and Michael Sarvey in honor of Marilyn Ingram
Lili Turnell in honor of Mary Luken
Ruthann KlineSmith in honor of Kathy Mancuso, Abigail Siegal & Rebekah Smith
Susan Sharp in honor of Lorraine Muesel
Barbara Fanos in honor of Mother
Erin Harvey in honor of Alma Olson
Billie L. Addleman in honor of Micah Richardson
Jim Toma in honor of Sophie Rittenhouse
Anonymous donor in honor of Kathryn Sall & Jake Perkinson
Melanie Arnett and Dan McCoy in honor of Press Stephens
Theodore Tietjen in honor of Kate Tietjen
LeeAnne M. Bell in honor of Jessica Tschetter
A anonymous donor in honor of Tony Woodell

Gifts Made in Memory of

In memory of Jonathan Atkinson
Anthony and Tina Mediate
In memory of Robert Babcock
Vickie and Rick Quisenberry
In memory of Levy Bain
Jesse L. Hankins
In memory of Susan Baker
Janet and Scott Suzor
In memory of Geri Berg
Patricia and Kenneth Kennedy
In memory of Claudie M. Bernhardt
Anthony M. Polvere
In memory of Shawn Berrigan
Anonymus
In memory of Leslie Blyth
Linda Witko
In memory of Shirley Castle
A anonymous donor
In memory of Judy Ann Cobb
Dan G. Cobb
In memory of Charlie Culver
Billie Culver
In memory of Ann Cyrus
Lisa Strid
In memory of Beverly A. Coles
Anonymus
In memory of Leslie Blyth
Linda Witko
In memory of Shirley Castle
A anonymous donor
In memory of Judy Ann Cobb
Dan G. Cobb
In memory of Charlie Culver
Billie Culver
In memory of Ann Cyrus
Lisa Strid
In memory of Eleanor Richardson Denman
Cathryn Denman
In memory of Richard Denman
Cathryn Denman
In memory of Fred & Elora Dilts
Fred W. Dilts III
In memory of Trudy Esquibel
Ann and Ralph Redman
In memory of Kathy Etchepare
Etchepare Family Foundation
In memory of Teigen Finnerty
Ronald J. Amundson
A anonymous donor
Ronald A podaca
Brian and Kim Artery
Judith Ash
Daniel and Julie Ballek
Tim and Margaret Barkhurst
Dave and Beth Bashor
Bath Chaps, Inc.
George and Sue Bauer Jr.
Becky Berggren
Jeffery and Carol Billing
Joel Bladow
Linda and Mike Boughton
Robert Brockman
Chuck and Katie Brown
Cody Brown
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Mom and Dad never talked about themselves,” says Jackie Dean of her parents Beverly and John Coles. “They did nice things because they wanted to, never for the recognition.”

It should come as no surprise then that years ago Jackie’s parents, Beverly and John Coles, quietly created the 21st Century Fund with the Wyoming Community Foundation. So quietly, in fact, Jackie and her siblings only recently realized it exists.

“We learned of the fund quite by accident,” says Jackie.

Last year Beverly passed away. Her kids were at the house sorting through things when they found a Wyoming Community Foundation fund statement. None of them were quite sure what it was about.

They’d soon learn about their parent’s generosity and the incredible impact the fund has had on Evanston’s nonprofit community.

**Giving Comes Naturally**

Beverly and John Coles ranched outside of Evanston. Ranching was tough and the family sometimes struggled to make ends meet. John took correspondence courses from UW to earn his teaching degree and got a job as a teacher with the Wyoming State Hospital.

Beverly worked at the bank and eventually the two worked for the Wasatch National Forest.

“At some point they found natural gas on Mom and Dad’s land and that turned everything around,” says Jackie.

It gave Beverly and John the freedom to travel and enjoy life more. It also meant they could be more generous to the causes important to them. Including the Evanston community.

“Giving was a natural thing for them,” says Jackie. “There may be something else out there that they gave to that we don’t know about.”

What we do know is that Beverly and John’s fund inspired a huge amount of giving in the community.

Nearly 280 gifts ranging from $15 to $521,000 have been added to the fund since the two created it. The size of the gifts may be different, but the goal behind each gift was the same: to make the Evanston community a better place.

Over the years it’s done just that. Since 1996, 57 grants have been made totaling $200,000 to nonprofits. We have John and Beverly to thank for that.