

# BUILDING A **better** wyoming

### 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## **DEAR FRIENDS**,

This year's annual report is a tribute to you, our supporters. You make each story we share and every dollar we grant possible. Thank you!

Wyoming may be feeling the pinch these days, but with each gift you give to the Wyoming Community Foundation, you boost the nonprofit community. I know, without a doubt, your action makes a difference.



As you read this year's stories I want you to know your generosity:

- Creates opportunities for dads who are working hard to build a better life for themselves and their families
- Supports an outstanding project that saves countless birds in Wyoming and across the nation
- Allows children to experience incredible performances by top-notch dancers

I want to thank you for trusting us to connect you to the causes you care most about. Whether you have given \$1 or \$100,000 – I've seen the difference each gift makes. Please consider joining us in 2017 as we work with you to build better Wyoming communities. Thank you for making Wyoming a better place for all of us!

Kind Regards,

ray & Steam

Craig Showalter, President Wyoming Community Foundation

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# DADS WORK TO change THEIR LIVES

t's a frigid February day in Cheyenne. The wind is howling. Daniel Lucero and eight other dads are building sheds in a giant shop at the landfill west of town. There is no heat and no one will take home a paycheck. Yet everyone is smiling.

The men here are learning carpentry skills. They have been for months now. They are also learning about themselves and what it will take to improve their lives. It's all part of Dads Making a Difference, a program granted to by the Wyoming **Community Foundation because** of your support.

#### It Doesn't Pay but it Pays Off

"I envision a house where my kids can play," says Daniel Lucero.

A few years ago, Daniel would not have uttered those words. He had three kids. His wife stayed at home to cut back on childcare costs. In order to make ends meet, he was working 60-80 hours a week. A house was nowhere in the equation.

Then Daniel was introduced to Dads Making a Difference, a training-to-work program for low income fathers experiencing multiple barriers to self-sufficiency.

He was told by program directors that the program would be hard.

"One thing keeps me going. My kids. They rush to me and say 'Daddy!

He might struggle at first to make ends meet.

"They told me the program doesn't pay," Daniel says, "but they promised it would pay off. I thought, 'I've got nothing to lose. I'm not seeing my family now as it is.""

He turned in the application the next day.

#### **Daniel Works for a Better Life**

"They tell us that if you empower yourself with education, if you envision it, it will happen."

Daniel and the rest of the dads have learned so much over the past few months from Dads Making a Difference - and not just about carpentry. They've become better people. Better fathers.

"The first thing they ask us," says Daniel, "is, are we ready to leave the childish behaviors behind?"

The dads working this cold day clearly are. They're bundled up and working. After they're done here, most will head to their paying job. Each still has a family to help care for.

While it may be tough, Daniel says, "One thing keeps me going. My kids. They rush to me and say, 'Daddy!'"

Hopefully soon, they will be saying 'Daddy!' in a house of their own.

Year the program began

Graduates

Job placement employment

rate

Average wage increase post-program

Average starting wage/hour



Daniel is proud to be able to help provide a better life for his three kids.

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A helicopter rescue by Star Valley Search and Rescue.

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The Grayback ridge scaled by rescue workers. Photo Credit: Derek Collins

Volunteers train to handle a winter water rescue.

# YOUR GENEROSITY Saves LIVES

SEARCH & RESCUE GET THE EQUIPMENT THEY NEED

he call came in at 2pm. A local guide was hunting Greyback Ridge deep in the Wyoming Range. He had just shot an elk. While he was cleaning it, his knife slipped and he nicked his femoral artery.

Bob Roberts, Commander of Star Valley Search and Rescue, pulled his volunteer crew together. The rescue began immediately. In a place like northwestern Wyoming though, nothing is close and rarely is it easy.

This was no exception. "It was the most strenuous rescue I have experienced," Bob says.

#### A Tough Rescue Made Tougher

The day started out warm – hot almost.

The crew and other volunteers reached the injured guide a few hours into the search. They stitched him up and strapped him onto the Stokes basket. The sled-like contraption would carry him out.

That was the easy part.

Because of the rescue location, the fastest route to a medical facility was hiking over the ridge. The terrain was rough and the climb steep. The basket had to be tied to a pack horse. Another person steadied it with a rope from behind.

The team climbed 3,000 grueling vertical feet. They reached the top at midnight, then the warm weather turned frigid. Rescue workers were pelted with blowing snow.

"It was coming at us sideways," Bob says, "and eight more inches of cold wet snow was in the forecast."

The team plowed on.

They hiked through the night – down 3,000 slick feet. In the cold, wet snow hypothermia

began to set in on the injured man. The team was determined to get him out and to safety.

Just as the sun began to rise, the team reached the trailhead where an ambulance awaited. The rescue was a complete success!

#### **Difficult But Worth It**

It's hard to imagine braving such elements.

Bob and his team believe it's worth it knowing they may save a life. In fact, Bob says, "There is a lot of satisfaction in the job. It's a great way to give back."

Star Valley Search and Rescue is able to do the work they do because of people like you.

Your generosity allowed the Wyoming Community Foundation to grant funds to Star Valley Search and Rescue. The group used grant funds to purchase new supplies critical to keeping victims and their rescuers safe.

In 2016:

**30** Emergency calls out There is **NO** off-season

50 Volunteers



# WORKING HARD TO MAKE ENDS *meet*

magine you're a single mother. You're on your feet nearly 50 hours each week earning minimum wage.

Your little boy is often asleep when you get home. It breaks your heart knowing you're missing out on reading him bedtime stories and tucking him in.

You've got family to help you out, but you hate burdening them. It's what you've got to do though to ensure your son does not go hungry.

This is, you think, just the way life is.

The Wyoming Women's Foundation is working to change this situation for single moms and families struggling to make ends meet. In 2016 they funded research to look at self-sufficiency in Wyoming. The research is making an impact.

Policy makers and organizations working for families utilize the

data, along with the Self-Sufficiency Calculator.

The research also guides how the Wyoming Women's Foundation makes grants.

> "Ihese moms want what all of us want...

#### **Still a Ways to Go**

In 2016 the Wyoming Women's Foundation granted funds to Climb Wyoming, a group working to support single moms. A grant like this helps women make a new path for themselves.

"Women in this program work incredibly hard to change the course of their life," says Sarah Chapman, Director of the Wyoming Women's Foundation. "These moms want what all of us want – to be able to take care of their families without worry."

Women in Climb Wyoming make huge strides. They receive job training, counseling and are taught to really evaluate their budget - which can be tough.

Moms in the program often use the Wyoming Women's Foundation's Self-Sufficiency Calculator to plug in costs of living. Molly Krueger, Program Director for Climb says this exercise "can be discouraging as a single income earner."

The moms realize that even with a decent paying job, it takes a lot of saving, and often public assistance, to do something as critical as renting a home.

"We're making strides but still have a long way to go in ensuring women and families in Wyoming achieve economic self-sufficiency," says Sarah.

Thanks to support from people like you, the goal will more quickly become reality.

#### According to the Self-Sufficiency Calculator...

a single mother with two kids...





Monthly Costs:

Housing: \$879 Transportation: \$224Child Care: \$4,256 Healthcare: \$460 Food: \$649 Other: \$347

Visit wywf.org/self-sufficiency-calculator to see what self-sufficiency looks like in your county.

The Wyoming Women's Foundation supports programs like Climb whose moms work hard to create a solid foundation for their family.



# KIDS & FAMILIES IN YOUR COUNTY

The Wyoming KIDS COUNT partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation provides data research about the well-being of kids and families in your community. The 2016 Wyoming KIDS COUNT Data Book takes a look at county-by-county data surrounding kids and families.

See data for your county and all of Wyoming at <u>wyomingkidscount.org</u>.



#### **Children With No Access to Health Insurance**

Percentage of children without health insurance, by age group



Data has been expertly collected and analyzed by the Wyoming Survey and Analysis Center at the University of Wyoming and was based on most recent data available.



#### See all findings at wyomingkidscount.org.





A PRIORITY FUND

# GOING beyond THE THREE RS

he bell rings. It's the end of the school day for kids in Sheridan. Most will gather their jackets and book bags, wave their goodbyes and make their way home.

Others though – hundreds in fact – will continue their day in an afterschool program.

These kids will get their hands dirty painting their next masterpiece. Or find themselves elbow deep in dirt from a local community garden. They'll find a safe space to work and play – all while learning.

"Our teachers love the afterschool programs," says Yvonne Osborne, District Coordinator in Sheridan. "They teach the way they'd love to teach in the classroom if they had more time."

It's true. An afterschool setting lets providers and kids explore far beyond what they might be able to in the classroom. It sounds idyllic, but it's also not without its struggles.

#### Social & Emotional Issues Create Hurdles

You can imagine that even the best lesson can run astray if behavior issues get in the way.

"We get kiddos who struggle with ADHD, or who may be dealing with other things," says Yvonne. "They've been in school all day when they join us. Bless their hearts, but it can be a challenge."

Yvonne wants nothing more than for kids to be successful. She also needs tools to tackle the social and emotional issues that lead to success.

That's where the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance comes in.

"We hear more and more from out-of-school-time providers that they need support for dealing with social and emotional issues," says Linda Barton, Director of the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance.

Because of your generosity, the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance hosted a conference in 2016 to give teachers the tools they need.

#### **Great Lessons Learned**

"We're always asking ourselves, 'How do we help children succeed?" says Yvonne. "Troubling behaviors are not reflective of who these kids are inside."

Linda agrees. She gathered some of the foremost experts on social and emotional learning to share their research, knowledge and experiences at the 2016 Wyoming Afterschool Alliance's annual conference.

"We really try to give providers the resources they need to bring out the best in students. Kids are remarkable and we need to ensure providers have the resources to reach them."

Yvonne attended the conference and returned to Sheridan motivated and armed with tools for success. She and her staff are implementing the lessons learned.

In Wyoming: 14



62 Providers

19,855 students remain unsupervised in the afternoons

# LOSS leads TO A PLACE OF COMFORT

WALDNER HOSPITAL HOUSE PROVIDES HOME AWAY FROM HOME DURING TREATMENT

en had been complaining about his stomach. The doctors thought for sure it was his gall bladder. They scheduled him for outpatient surgery. It would be quick. He'd be feeling better in no time.

On surgery day Emma and Verne, Ken's parents, figured they'd catch up with him later to see how things went.

The next call was from their daughter in law, Hope. She was sobbing.

#### "We will not cure you, but we will give you a little time."

It was cancer. And it had spread too far. Ken would need treatment in Fort Collins on a regular basis to extend his life, but he would not be cured.

He and Hope rented a place in Fort Collins and began intensive treatment. Ken was always so happy to come home to Wamsutter when he could. He felt better when he got home. But driving back and forth to Colorado more frequently would have been exhausting, if not impossible.

Treatment was difficult. When Emma thinks back on it though she says, "I believe God put Ken where he needed to be." She smiles as she recalls some of the memories. "The hospital staff just loved on him and Hope."

A year after he was diagnosed, Ken passed away. Emma says at that point, "He needed to be released to God."

As difficult as Ken's situation was, Emma also believes he was incredibly fortunate in many ways.

"There are many people who get cancer and so many who can't afford it," says Emma. "But if your child gets sick, you don't care if you lose your house or car, you just want your child to be well."

#### **A House to Help Others**

Shortly after Ken passed, Emma, Verne and Hope talked about how to best honor his life. Hope said that if Ken had survived, they probably would have started a house for people to stay during treatment.

The idea seemed just perfect.

A new cancer treatment center had opened in Rock Springs. Verne and Emma wanted to make sure those traveling from out of town to receive treatment would have a free place to call their own.

They used their Waldner Family Fund at the Wyoming Community Foundation to purchase a house close to the hospital. They donated the house to the Sweetwater County Hospital Foundation. Emma and Verne got the ball rolling, but many in the community have contributed, too.

Emma says the Waldner Hospital House is up and running. It is there for anyone to use, not just those with cancer. And, she says it feels really homey.

Out of the blue, she also adds, "I miss his bear hugs."



Families have used the Waldner Hospital House in its first five months of being open. "...you don't care if you lose your house or your car. You just want your child to be well."- Emma



*Above left:* Ken pictured with his parents, Emma and Verne.

*Above right:* The Waldner Hospital House

Ken sits with his dog, Harli.

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Creating the greatest good by connecting locally. The Wyoming Community Foundation Local Board members love where they live and make grant recommendations to help their communities thrive.

#### 2016 LOCAL BOARD GRANTMAKING: 87 GRANTS TOTALING \$639,170



#### CASPER AREA LOCAL BOARD

### 34 grants totalling \$368,370 to area nonprofits

*Highlight:* A grant made to Wyoming Dementia Care means families dealing with dementia will have the resources and help needed as they deal with this heartbreaking disease.



#### DUBOIS/CROWHEART LOCAL BOARD

### 12 grants totaling \$46,150 to area nonprofits

*Highlight:* Outdoor recreation is a big part of the Dubois/ Crowheart community. A grant to the Dubois Association for Recreation and Trails helps volunteers groom and care for trails at Deception Creek.



#### EVANSTON AREA LOCAL BOARD

### 7 grants totaling \$31,850 to area nonprofits

*Highlight:* A grant made to the Hungry Children Backpack Program ensures under served kids in the community don't go home hungry. A weekend's worth of food is sent home with them each Friday.

### WYCF ADVISORY COMMITTEES: 57 GRANTS TOTALING \$355,833

**BP COMMUNITIES ENDOWMENT** 8 Grants; \$95,677 GORDON AND EDNA SYKES ENDOWMENT 12 grants; \$71,467 HAZEL PATTERSON ENDOWMENT 8 grants; \$40,802

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#### ROCK SPRINGS AREA LOCAL BOARD

### 7 grants totaling \$44,067 to area nonprofits

*Highlight:* Because of funds granted to the YWCA in Rock Springs, thousands of visitors to the Springland Park/Pool just outside of the YWCA building will now have access to a covered picnic area.



#### SHERIDAN/JOHNSON LOCAL BOARD

### 17 grants totaling \$71,305 to area nonprofits

*Highlight:* A grant made to Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Big Horns will help ensure an area mom and her three children have a place of their own to call home.



### SUBLETTE LOCAL BOARD

### 10 grants totaling \$77,428 to area nonprofits

*Highlight:* A grant to the Sublette County HIstorical Society will continue to celebrate the history of the area with locals and visitors alike by presenting the incredible story of fur trapper, Hugh Glass.

**KEMMERER FOUNDATION** 3 grants; \$52,070

#### MCMURRY LIBRARY ENDOWMENT

8 grants totaling \$74,840 to public libraries

18 grants totaling \$20,977 to library employees and board members



 Craig Johnson, Author of the Longmire novels, on the fate of birds trapped in vaulted toilets

*Right:* Poo-Poo screens ventilate year-round.







# DEVICE Saves THOUSANDS OF BIRDS

s he perched in a nearby tree, a small Saw-whet Owl spotted the roosting spot. "Perfect!" he thought.

The pipe was dark, warm, narrow. Definitely out of the wind. One really couldn't ask for something better. The owl made his way down.

Soon he found himself in a dark, filthy space. His perfect roosting spot was actually a ventilation pipe on a selfcontained, vault toilet in the woods. He was now on the other end of that pipe: the "basement." And he was trapped.

#### **Working for a Solution**

Thousands of cavity-nesting birds get trapped and die in vault toilets each year, but that is changing.

Because of your support, the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation granted funds to the Teton Raptor Center's Poo-Poo Project. The project addresses this tragic situation with a simple fix. But it didn't start this way. "Initially we covered vents with flat, expensive screens," says David Watson, Development Director of the Teton Raptor Center. "The manufactured screens cost \$100 each," he says.



"They were also difficult to install and there was really no ventilation if we got any snow."

There had to be a better way.

#### **Poo-Poo Project**

In 2013 the Teton Raptor Center developed a new screen: durable, easy to install, superior ventilation and affordable. Installations started small and locally – the national forest as well as Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. The screens were such a success that news of the simple, effective devices spread quickly.

Today dozens of other national parks, forests and recreation areas in Wyoming have hopped on board to protect the cavity-nesting birds. The screens are also saving birds in 32 other states. The hope is the remaining 18 states will soon follow suit.

"It's been great to partner with groups like the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation," says David. "Partnerships and support like this help create more awareness across Wyoming."

"Can we make Wyoming the first state to have all its vault toilet vents covered with Poo-Poo Screens?" he asks.

With the support we've seen from people like you, we sure think so.

In 2016 the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation granted over \$61,000 and partnered with other organizations to distribute grants of nearly \$619,000.

\$8,000 Wyoming Game & Fish Department Access Recognition Awards \$610,875 Wyoming Governor's

Big Game License Coalition Wyoming Youth for Natural Resources \$33,879

Wildlife Grants from Endowments

# 2016 WYCF GRANTMAKING: OVER \$8 MILLION



**DONOR ADVISED FUND GRANTS: \$1 MILLION** 



STATEWIDE/NATIONAL GRANTS: \$440,700

**AGENCY GRANTS: \$1.4 MILLION** 



STATEWIDE: \$144,200

#### DONOR ADVISED AND AGENCY GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA



\$243,450

**FAITH BASED** 

\$136,740



















**ARTS & CULTURE** \$618,900

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT HUMAN SERVICE \$403,020

\$136,640

YOUTH & RECREATION CONSERVATION \$489,260

**EDUCATION** \$434,740

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## DONORS

A heartfelt thank you to each of you who gave in 2016! We strive to ensure we recognize each supporter in our annual report. If your name is incorrect or missing, please contact us at 307.721.8300 so we may correct the error in our records.

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## **MEMORIALS**

Those being remembered appear in orange, all others have given in their memory.

#### **Bob Ammann**

Charl & Danny Sanchez Kevin & Susann Ward

Fay Bloom Anthony Polvere

Diane Bonner Bradley Bonner

Albert Bradbury Diane Dunn

#### **Brenda Bundy**

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# **LEGACY MEMBERS**

Legacy Members establish a permanent endowment with WYCF through their estate plan. This ensures the charities and causes most important to them are taken care of, forever.

Anonymous William and Teresa Ankeny Gary and Ann Cazin Carol Chapman Paul Etchepare John F. Freeman George and Linda Gault James and Jenny Gersack Bonnie Hunter Kay Pappenheim Claudia Pearson Lollie Benz Plank Greg and Martha Ptasnik Susan and Doug Samuelson Craig and Carmen Showalter Press and Shirley Stephens Tommy and Betsy Wagner Roger L. Williams Wayman Wing Terry & Lynn Zumbrennen

## **KEY CLUB**

Key Club members help facilitate a major gift or the establishment of a new fund with WYCF.

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Engaged, former board members strengthen the Wyoming Community Foundation. President's Circle members make outstanding contributions that build a better Wyoming.

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# SUMMARIZED financial INFORMATION

#### STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	2016	2015
Cash and cash equivalents	8,490,185	8,782,409
Investments	115,461,232	102,825,742
Other receivables and other assets	5,502	239,671
Prepaid expenses	25,097	27,592
Property & Equipment, net	541,351	603,877
TOTAL ASSETS	124,523,367	112,479,291
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable	93,919	125,396
Accrued expenses	50,978	39,129
Grants payable	2,091,271	2,242,117
Security Deposits - Tenants	500	500
Funds held as agency endowments	209,681,799	16,932,547
Funds held in trust	7,088,395	7,950,106
TOTAL LIABILITIES	219,006,862	27,289,795
TOTAL NET ASSETS - UNRESTRICTED	(94,483,495)	85,189,496
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	124,523,367	112,479,291

#### **TOTAL WYCF EXPENSES 2016**



#### THE POWER OF ENDOWMENT



#### **STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES**

Support and Revenue	2016 Total	2015 Total
Contributions	11,872,740	9,642,140
Amounts received for agency endowments	(2,939,895)	(1,785,126)
Other Income	1,946,293	1,856,600
Investment Income	8,865,036	(2,269,276)
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	19,744,174	7,444,338
Expenses		
Grants	7,452,494	5,274,225
Grants made from agency endowments	(668,483)	(567,702)
Administration	569,224	543,327
Program Expense	2,764,657	3,026,805
Fundraising Expenses	434,504	389,962
Investment fees	211,149	206,738
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,763,545	8,873,355
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	8,980,629	(1,429,017)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	85,189,496	86,618,513
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	94,170,125	85,189,496

#### **15 YEARS OF TOTAL ASSET GROWTH**



#### **GROSS CONTRIBUTIONS**



The above information is summarized from our records. To receive a copy of our audited financial statement, contact us at 307-721-8300.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2016/2017 VOLUNTEER BOARDS!

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hat was awesome!" The young boy's voice carries across the auditorium. He is in awe of what he's just experienced: a dance performance like none he's ever seen.

Imagine yourself as a 4th grader. Seated in a beautiful room with hundreds of fancy seats and even a balcony. The lights go down and lively, percussive West African music fills the auditorium. Dancers travel across the stage. Their strong, rhythmic movements leave you on the edge of your seat.

The music stops. The dancers come to a rest. The energy that they brought to the stage is now dancing inside of you.

That is just what happened when ARTCORE invited the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Company to perform for kids in Natrona County. Your support of the Wyoming Community Foundation made this happen.

#### Bringing art and education to the masses

The dance performance is not just entertainment, but also a sort of pop-up classroom with lessons on dance, history and geography. The children who attend are learning about the world around them.

The dance company performs for a full hour. The children do not get antsy, and in fact are visibly inspired. It's amazing to see.

At multiple points in the show, students are asked to dance along with the professionals on stage. The looks of pride and joy on the children's faces is priceless: twenty or so kids, lined up and interacting with the pros. The spotlight is on them. They are beaming.

This experience is possible because of you. Your generosity means the Wyoming Community Foundation was able to grant to ARTCORE. Thousands of children, 900 at this event alone, are benefitting.



Casper students share the spotlight at an Artcore event.

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