

CAUSES THAT MATTER



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A Desire for Literacy

Books for the Wind River Reservation

McMurry Library Endowment Fund

The Moby Bookmobile, a small white trailer named after Herman Melville's elusive white whale, has been operating on the Wind River Reservation since 2021. If you happen to be at the Fort Washakie Post Office on Friday afternoons, chances are you will see the trailer and a table stacked high with books set up in the lobby.

Thanks to a grant from the McMurry Library Endowment Fund at the Wyoming Community Foundation, the Moby Bookmobile gives away 25-35 books to people on an average day.

"Fewer than 50% of our patrons have internet access and transportation is often inadequate," says Robin, Librarian for Fort Washakie School. "What our community needed was a way to get books into the hands of our families."

Traditionally, bookmobiles are lending libraries and work like public libraries across our state. You check out a book and return it in a few weeks. The Moby Bookmobile is special because they give books away for free.

"We wanted to make sure that people can bring books home and keep them," says Robin. "More than 12,000 books have been adopted into the homes of our tribal families. There is such a desire for literacy."

One of their biggest goals is providing books from Native authors & perspectives.

"It's invaluable for folks to see themselves represented in the literature they read," says Robin. Fortunately, there are more Native authors than ever before.

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The Moby Bookmobile travels on the Wind River Reservation to bring books to tribal families.

STATS & FACTS

12,000
books given
since 2021



25-35



books given on
average per day

Robin's Reading Recommendations:

*Killers of the Flower Moon
by David Grann*

*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the US
by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz*

*There There
by Tommy Orange*

Robin (pictured right) is proud that every donation goes straight to buying books and increasing literacy on the reservation.



The Road to Care

Medical Transport in Rural Wyoming

Wyoming Intertie Community Investment Program

The Wyoming Intertie Community Investment Program (WICIP) at the Wyoming Community Foundation (WYCF) was established by Grid United in 2023 to support communities in Albany, Carbon, and Platte Counties during the development of their transmission line. WICIP is dedicated to partnering with communities their transmission line will impact and created this program to fund projects that enhance quality of life in rural Wyoming.

Rural healthcare is a constant struggle in Wyoming. For people in Platte County, intense medical care, like chemotherapy or dialysis, must take place outside of the county. From Wheatland, cities with this

type of care are at least an hour away on some of the windiest stretches of highway in the state.

Platte ParaTransit (PPT) offers Wheatland and surrounding towns a safe and reliable option to travel to their medical appointments outside of Platte County. Rain, shine, or snow, volunteer drivers pick up patients as early as 7:00 AM and rarely get home before the evening. PPT has four vans, and they run transport services three days a week to different cities in the region.

Thanks to a grant from WICIP, Platte ParaTransit bought a new handicap accessible van that allows them to better serve their community.

The old handicap van PPT owned could only be driven on days with the best weather and by volunteers who were strong enough to get the ramp out and push someone up. “It shook, rattled, and rolled. Everything was out of balance, and it was only used out of desperation,” says Gail Thompson, Board Member of PPT.

The new van has an automatic ramp with a gentler incline, making boarding easier for passengers. It’s also more fuel-efficient and easier to drive. This upgrade has improved service for volunteers and patients alike.

“Just this week I drove a van,” says Pastor Joshua Bruns of Covenant Lutheran Church and President of PPT’s Board. “In the last few months, we have driven patients to Casper, Cheyenne, Greeley, and Scottsbluff.”

With support from WYCF grants, PPT ensures access to life-saving medical treatments for Wheatland and surrounding communities.

“It’s such an important service,” says Gail. “I’ve had personal friends who completely relied on the service. When they have dialysis three times a week



Top: Patients are at dialysis appointments for hours multiple times per week. Family is often unable to take that much time off work.

Bottom: When PPT got the Intertie grant, their partner at a local car dealership found them a used van with low mileage in only a couple of months.

in Cheyenne, their family can’t take off work to travel with them.”

“The grants from WYCF and Intertie are saving lives in Platte County,” Joshua says. “We provide necessary medical transport to our community and couldn’t have done it without the support of these funds.”

STATS & FACTS

Platte
ParaTransit
schedules



rides, coordinates schedules,
and matches volunteer
drivers with riders

FREE for all
ages

55-100 riders per
month



Regular People Doing Remarkable Work

Donor Advised Funds at the Wyoming Community Foundation

James H. & Ann S. Ruble III Donor Advised Fund

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) offers a flexible way to give while allowing donors to support the causes they care about most. Donors set up a fund, receive an immediate tax benefit, and advise on grant distributions while WYCF handles the administrative details.

“Regular people don’t think of themselves as philanthropists,” says Ann Ruble, donor and advisor to the James & Ann Ruble Donor Advised Fund at the Wyoming Community Foundation. “But everything you do for the public good is philanthropy.”

Ann and her husband Jim created their fund at WYCF over ten years ago, but they have been philanthropists for much longer. From volunteering as young adults to starting their DAF, they have always been thoughtful in their efforts to give back to their community.

They share that passion for giving back with their teenage sons, who help pick out nonprofits they want to support. Because Ann and Jim have taught their kids the value of giving back, their sons can continue this legacy long after they are gone.

“At some point, our sons will be the advisors to our fund. So we want them to start thinking charitably today,” says Ann. “We are helping them find meaning and fulfillment in giving back.”

One way Ann involves her sons is getting their suggestions of places to give, like the Wyoming Symphony Orchestra or Platte River Trails. Plus, they talk as a family about programs their fund supports. The Rubles strongly support the Casper area and

hope to also support more projects and nonprofits in Carbon County.

Thanks to the Ruble Donor Advised Fund, Ann and Jim have the flexibility to support many causes they care about.

Recently, the Rubles made a grant to the Jae Foundation through their fund at WYCF. The Jae Foundation is a suicide prevention organization that gives cowboy boots to high school seniors and faculty. After they get the boots, students and faculty are encouraged to do a “Boot Check” each Friday and talk about mental health and suicide awareness with peers and trusted adults.

The grant from their fund supported boot purchases for Natrona County high schools. Ann went to Kelly Walsh High School to help distribute boots recently. “I’ve gotten so much joy out of the conversations I’ve had with teens about the boot check and mental health,” Ann says.

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Ann and Jim with recipients of the Ruble Family Endowed Scholarship at the Colorado School of Mines. This scholarship focuses on aiding students from Wyoming who plan to study chemical engineering.



STATS & FACTS

Fund started in **2015**

41 grants since inception



\$137,000+ granted in 2024



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Thanks to donors like YOU, the Bookmobile can give away books written by Native authors to all age groups.

Board books and picture books for the youngest pre-readers are the most popular. But there are plenty of adults and elders who have made the Bookmobile part of their weekly routine.

The Bookmobile is set up every Tuesday at the Ethete Health Service Clinic and every Friday at the Post Office. "We reach people where they are," says Robin.

They also partner with many other community organizations to set up at health fairs, school events, senior centers, and have even made permanent "Pocket Libraries" in some of the

credit unions in Shoshone, Riverton, and Lander where people can help themselves to available books.

Grants like these from the Wyoming Community Foundation will continue to help foster a love of reading on the Reservation, courtesy of the Moby Bookmobile.



Two men pick out books for themselves and their family from the shelves of the Moby Bookmobile.

"Regular People" continued

The Rubles, and donors like them, appreciate the added value and flexibility of a community foundation. The Wyoming Community Foundation respects donor intent, makes sure grants from the funds are well placed, and accepts a wide range of more complex planned gifts.

"One thing I love about working with WYCF is I know I can trust their staff," says Ann. "Partnering with WYCF for our DAF is like having our own family foundation without having to manage it. They support investments that do the most good for my community."

When generous donors like Ann and Jim partner with WYCF, they ensure the Wyoming communities they love thrive for generations to come.

Follow us on Social Media!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Register now for the 2025 Wyoming Nonprofit Conference MAY 20-22, 2025



Little America in Cheyenne, WY. Visit wynonprofit.org/conference or scan the QR code to register.

Wyoming Equal Pay Month Proclamation Signing APRIL 10, 2025, 3-4 PM

Ceremonial Signing Room at the Capitol Building in Cheyenne, WY:
facebook.com/WYWomensFoundation

Thank you! You've helped Wyoming communities thrive.

Across the state of Wyoming, people like you have an unprecedented opportunity to make a difference in the quality of life in our communities for generations to come. In so many ways, charitable giving is essential to the fabric of our communities. Reach out today to learn about our "5 to Thrive" initiative to leave a legacy to the causes you care about the most. Contact Rachel Bailey, Director of Philanthropy, at rachel@wycf.org



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