

CAUSES THAT MATTER



WYCF.ORG
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Lending a Compassionate Hand

Healthcare is a Right in Albany County

Multifund Grantmaking at WYCF: Kresge Unrestricted Endowment Fund, Susan McMurry Samuelson Donor Advised Endowment Fund, and Wyoming Intertie Project Community Impact Fund

For most people, navigating the healthcare system is overcomplicated and confusing. Now imagine handling all that red tape with a language barrier, no transportation, and no insurance. Mary Burman (UW School of Nursing) and Diana Esteve (Albany County Public Health) saw this gap of care in their Albany County community and decided to do something about it.

The Downtown Clinic (DTC), based in Laramie, opened its doors in 1999 with a handful of staff and a dedicated group of volunteers. The clinic has provided high-quality, integrated healthcare to uninsured individuals experiencing poverty for nearly three decades.

Thanks to your generosity, the Wyoming Community Foundation (WYCF) can support the vital work of the DTC. Grants from WYCF help with the growing needs of services provided by the clinic in Albany County.

Care provided at the clinic comes at no cost to patients.

“We firmly believe that healthcare should be about taking care of our community and providing the best care possible, not turning a profit,” said Amy Robohm, the DTC’s Staff Nurse Practitioner.

“Health is affected by much more than just physiological processes in the body.



The DTC’s community garden offers vegetables and flowers, a calm place to talk, and a mural by artist Dan Toro.

We treat the whole person, addressing social determinants of health and mental health as key components of wellness.”


Inside the clinic, patients receive more than just personalized healthcare. The lobby has free books, healthy snacks and hygiene products for clients. Outside, there is a community garden that serves as a calm place to talk with a provider.

Patients are connected with community resources, and most importantly, treated with dignity and respect.


“Many of them tell us that we have provided them with one of their first positive healthcare experiences,” said Amy. “Working at the Downtown Clinic has allowed me to pull out of burn out and remind me why I wanted to be a nurse in the first place.”

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STATS & FACTS

In 2025, the DTC avoided over  **300 ER visits** saving **\$192,000+** for local healthcare.

Provided care to **11,000+** individuals since 1999.

\$525,000 in prescription medications dispensed last year, without charge. 

Care provided:

- Primary Care
- Nursing
- Social Work
- Specialty Care
- Counseling
- Medication Dispensing
- Vaccinations
- Referrals



Keeping Buffalo Warm

Clear Creek Wood Bank Gives Back to the Community

Multifund Grantmaking from WYCF: Hazel Patterson Fund and the Buxton Sarver Fund

Solutions for Community

On Tuesday afternoons in Buffalo, cars begin lining up before the “doors” even open at the Clear Creek Wood Bank. Neighbors wait as volunteers greet drivers and help load each car with firewood for the week.

For many, that firewood means staying warm without choosing between heating and eating. For others, it means staying in their homes. The Clear Creek Wood Bank helps make that possible by providing free firewood to people who need it.

Cutting and hauling firewood isn’t always possible or affordable for older adults, people living with disabilities, veterans, or those living on fixed incomes. The wood bank helps many people who rely on wood as their main source of heat.

They don’t turn anyone away.

“We saw a need in our community and knew we could help fix the problem,” said Kelly Norris, who co-founded the organization with her husband, Nick Norris, and her father, Paul Mumm.

Because of generous people like you, support from the Wyoming Community Foundation (WYCF) helps the wood bank thrive.

Grants from funds at WYCF serving Johnson County, including the Hazel

Patterson Fund and the Buxton Sarver Fund, helped provide operating support as the organization, and the need, has grown.

“Heating costs can drop from \$500–\$600 a month to around \$100, that’s life-changing for some,” said Paul Mumm.

Connection and Checking-In

What started as a clear need in rural Johnson County has become a true community-wide effort. It didn’t take long for people to step in and help.

“Kelly and I have always been dedicated to giving back,” said Nick Norris.

What is built at the wood bank goes far beyond stacks of firewood. Community members step in to help their neighbors--picking up and delivering wood for those who can’t leave their homes or make the trip themselves.

For some, a visit may be their only social interaction that week.

“When people come to get firewood, others know them and check in,” said Kelly Norris. “That’s how communities thrive, we take care of each other.”

“We have nearly 50 adult volunteers, plus students. It’s creating a culture of service in our community,” said Kelly.

Support from the Wyoming Community Foundation continues to play an important role.

STATS & FACTS

The Clear Creek Wood Bank is a project supported by their 501c3, **The Oversized Heart Foundation.**

2024 & 2025 Grant Amount: **\$13,500**

Last winter, the Wood Bank distributed **128 firewood cords** to **892 households.**

74% retired
36% with a disability
26% veteran households



“The Wyoming Community Foundation was one of our first grants, and that support was incredibly important, especially in those early years,” said Kelly. “This is keeping people in their homes.”



Strengthening Community Through Food

Slow Food in Fremont County

General Operating Support: Fremont Endowment Fund and the Dudley Creek Fund

Fremont County residents have long fought a battle similar to any resident of Wyoming; the nourishing food from the local farmer's market lasts only a few short summer months, but the need for it persists throughout the year.

A Lander-based group set out to change that.

In October 2023, Slow Food Wind River (SFWR) began operating with the goal to bring “good, clean, and fair” food for all. It was important to

the founders of SFWR to help those experiencing food insecurity while supporting local farmers and ranchers.

Thanks to your support, grants from the Wyoming Community Foundation (WYCF) help SFWR operate Meadowlark Market & Kitchen. With that support, SFWR connects Wyoming farmers and producers with people in Fremont County through high-quality, local goods.

Meadowlark Market & Kitchen is a brick-and-mortar located in an old café in Lander with a fully licensed commissary kitchen.

“We saw a local food market being one of the missing factors of what we wanted in the town that we lived in,” said one of the founding board members, Hannah Darrin. “It was important to us to have access to good food and to foster community building around food.”

At Meadowlark, shoppers can buy local groceries and producers earn money for items sold, strengthening local and regional food systems. SFWR staff wanted Meadowlark to be a one-stop-shop, or “farm stop”: a place where you can get all you need while having a pleasant grocery experience.

Shoppers can find local meat, cheese, milk, produce, flowers, and more. The market recently started carrying wholesale beans and grains year-round to help fill in gaps during the offseason.

The kitchen is a shared-use space used for food preparation, rental, and community classes and aids a critical mission of SFWR.

“There are generally 1-2 classes a month hosted at Meadowlark Kitchen with the goal of food and nutrition



Meadowlark Kitchen is used for food prep, rentals, and community classes.

education for adults,” said Hannah. “These classes often sell out and teach anything from making your own kimchi to preparing and cooking an entire chicken.”

Funding from WYCF makes more projects possible.

Last year SFWR hosted a harvest festival, which included tours of local farms with activities and education along the way.

“This event was important for our community,” said Hannah. “It gave people a chance to shake hands with their farmer and learn how food ends up on their table.”

The work of SFWR is ongoing, and staff hope to create change in their community and help build a resilient food system in Fremont County.

“Right now in our society, there is a disconnect between people and where their food comes from,” said Hannah.

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STATS & FACTS

SFWR is a chapter of Slow Food USA, a national nonprofit organization.



100+ local producers

1,700+ seasonal products



80% of every dollar spent goes back to producers in the community – strengthening regional food systems.



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Recent funding from WYCF helped to support an intern who assists the 25% of the DTC clientele who speak Spanish.

Jaron, the translation intern, serves as a first point of contact for patients when they enter the DTC, providing interpretation services that support our Spanish-speaking community. Jaron hopes to study medicine with the goal of returning to Wyoming to provide care.

“I think of WYCF funding not only as an investment in the DTC but as an investment in an amazing person (Jaron) who wants to return to a community in Wyoming as a healthcare provider,” said Pete Gosar, the DTC Executive Director. “Investments in the next generation of Wyoming’s caregivers is critical and I appreciate WYCF’s foresight.”



A harvest from the DTC’s community garden.

The clinic is giving community-centered care in Albany County, treating patients creatively and filling the gaps our current healthcare system does not or will not provide.

“I love being a part of a team of like-minded people who recognize that our society is letting our patients down,” said Amy. “We all have a responsibility to take care of our community.”

“Strengthening Community” continued

“I think the ability to humanize our food system and meet either the animals or the land that our food is grown or raised on is a transformative experience for people.”



Meadowlark Kitchen brings community together around food.

Follow us on Social Media!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Grant Applications for WYWF

Deadline: May 15, 2026

Visit wywf.org to apply

Wyoming Nonprofit Conference

MAY 19-21, 2026

Wyoming Nonprofit Conference, Casper.



Wyoming Women’s Antelope Hunt Auction Dinner

OCTOBER 9, 2026

TA Ranch in Buffalo.

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.

Photos provided by WYCF grantees and staff.



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