



THE

BROADWATER

COMMUNITY

CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER



Published by BCDC

Broadwater County Development Corp.

bcdc@mt.net

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

July 10, 2024

Organization - Page

STOKE—3

BCT - 3

Rotary - 4

Food Pantry - 5

Fair and Rodeo - 5

Fair Schedule - 6

Backyards - 7

Big Sky Leadership - 7

PTA - 8

United Way - 9, 10

MT Main St - 11—16

Friendship Center - 17—18

Community Organizations

A—C - 19

D—R - 20

S—Z - 21

Hello Everyone.

Welcome back to the Broadwater Community Connections Newsletter. I started this project with BCDC to coordinate all the non-profits in Broadwater County to assist in their fund raising and project coordination endeavors. I'm hoping this newsletter will be a catalyst for any non-profit, board, or community minded citizen to ask for or offer assistance, expertise or funds to benefit other organizations and share their ideas or needs. We all have the same drive and hope that we can make a difference for Broadwater County and, over the years, the little things we have done have made a huge impact for thousands of citizens. But there is so much more we can do. I have added some motivational quotes that I hope will fit the focus of this newsletter. Please share your comments about how this newsletter can grow to meet these efforts. BCDC's email is bcdc@mt.net. My personal email is hahnsupply@mt.net.

I would really like to get this newsletter out to more people. Please share this with as many people as you can. If anyone isn't getting this but would like to be included, please send a request to either of my emails.

The next quarterly publication will be in October with special editions and notifications posted if necessary. I'm open to new ideas or if you would like to help with its production and publication, feel free to contact me.

John Hahn—BCDC co-chairman and treasurer

P.S. If I made any errors, in any of the articles, names and emails or formatting, I apologize in advance. Community organizations submitted and edited their individual submissions. I reserve the right to edit grammatical errors but will strive to preserve pertinent content.

Crow Creek Falls



STOKE

Science • Technology • Outdoors
Knowledge • Entrepreneurship

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

STOKE board members have been working hard, meeting twice a month, to innovate and plan for our next events and programs. We have recently hired Liz Wishman as Development Coordinator, taking some of the workload off the shoulders of our most hardworking board members.

Liz has hit the ground running and is currently working on grants along with participating in board meeting discussions, program student registrations, and assisting in media advertising. New members to the board are Scott Gossard, Carl Amundsen, Sheri Toney, and Lenna Parr. Leaving us will be Alice Brummer, who just graduated from High School, and Christina Hartmann, who is taking a new school superintendent job in Seely Lake. We will miss Alice and Christina greatly.

We just had our first Skateboarding clinic and it was a huge success. We had a limit of ten kids and we were full. With various aged kids and young adults. Isaiah from Missoula and Tyler from Helena taught the clinic along with a few locals to provide extra assistance and support. It was a beautiful day with perfect weather. STOKE board members provided BBQ hamburgers and drinks for all participating in the clinic with ages ranging from 4 years old to twenty. We hope to do this again soon, maybe for an all-girl clinic.

We finally have a finished video, produced and instructed by MAPS Media Institute, a nonprofit based in Montana committed to providing professional media skills for our Montana students and their success has been documented all over the state. We will have a link on our website stokent.org, very soon. The video, produced and shot by our own local youth, has been a point of great achievement and awe. We are very proud of what these kids did, both in producing, directing, script, and actual participation in the video. Please check out our website as this will on it very soon.

We hope to participate in MAPS photojournalism clinic and project of interviewing and documenting many of our local farmers, ranchers and ag community. We are excited to add this to our youth program itinerary. We are budgeting between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for MAPS this year.

We are already planning a very aggressive robotics schedule with plans for a second FIRST Lego League team, additional team members for the FIRST Tech Challenge team, and additional LEGO Tech classes for 2024-2025. More new equipment to augment our other kits and equipment are also in the works. We are budgeting close to \$10,000 for these additional needs in the robotics.

Teddy Lewis is providing a 12' boat and trailer to raffle off for more STOKE Pottery Guild equipment. Teddy hopes to acquire a pugger for the pottery guild. This pugger is used to reclaim used clay to be used again and reducing our need to purchase more. A pugger generally costs around \$4000. Tickets for the boat and trailer can be purchased at Reading Leaves for now. The drawing will be after the Rod & Gun Club's Walleye Tournament, around July 20th. There is a limited number of tickets, 200, so ticket buyers will have a better chance of winning. Tickets are \$20/ ticket or 6 for \$100.

Please check out our new and improved website for new and updated programs. Students can sign up for programs and events right on the website now, or if you just have an interest, please fill out the interest form so we can find out which programs we need to develop for you.

Submitted by John Hahn



BOAT RAFFLE

12' 1990'S Aluminum Boat with Motor and Trailer

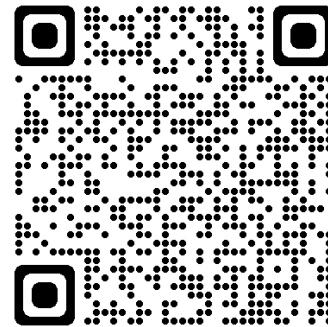
\$20/ticket or 6 tickets for \$100. Only 200 tickets available

Tickets can be purchased at Reading Leaves (can be seen there also)

Tickets will be drawn after the Rod & Gun Club Walleye Tournament in July



stokent.org (website)



Broadwater Community Theater

Broadwater Community Theater has been busy this Spring. We held a Fun(d) Raiser with music by Helena Hand Baskets and a St. Patrick's Day theme fundraiser with lots of fun games and chances to win. BCT is always grateful for all the support and contributions to the arts in our county.

We had Queen City Swing Band down for a dance with over 50 people in attendance. For the last dance, we offered dance classes before that was fun and instructive and they will be back this summer! What a hit!

August 9 and 10th will be the annual **Summer Youth Theater**. Amanda Hazlett and Destani Spencer are directing this year's presentation: "Fairy Tales go to Court" at The Lodge of Townsend.

BCT has meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm, held at The Lodge of Townsend. All are welcome to come. Meetings are held to an hour.

Submitted by LaRinda Spencer



BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Slice of Summer



The Rotary Club of Townsend's first 2024 *Slice of Summer* family fun event will be held on Thursday, July 18 in Heritage Fun Park.

Slice of Summer includes Youth Activities that run from 2:00-5:00 pm and Family Activities that run from 5:00-8:00 pm. Rotary is paying for free youth swimming from 1-4 and 6-8 pm. Other youth activities will include a free bouncy house, face

painting, and/or tattoos, games, etc. Family activities include free musical entertainment and reasonably priced food and drink. Food and drinks will be served by Rotary, Interact, and the Lions starting mid-afternoon for families through 8 pm. Live music begins at 5 pm and goes to 8 pm.

Live music for the July Slice of Summer will feature Phatt Lipp. Phatt Lipp is a three-piece band from Canyon Ferry Montana featuring Dave Ohler on guitar and vocals, Dan Corbett on bass and vocals, and Mary Tripp on percussion and vocals. Dave and Dan were the founding members of Gramaphatt, a high energy rock and roll dance band that played throughout western Montana for 20 years, and Mary performed off and on with the band over the years. Gramaphatt disbanded in 2020 and reincarnated as Phatt Lipp in 2022.

Phatt Lipp is an acoustic trio featuring the vocals of Dave and Mary. The band plays an eclectic variety of music from bluegrass and country to old and new rock including original material. The band covers artists such as Johnny Cash, Zac Brown, Alison Kraus, Grateful Dead, John Prine, Bruce Springsteen, and Adele. Come and enjoy this wonderful **free** music provided by Rotary



Slice of Summer started after Broadwater County High School students mentioned in interviews for Rotary scholarships that Townsend needed some summer fun events for families like the *Alive at Five* event in Helena.

If you have any displays, events, or activities you would like to show off at *Slice of Summer* please let Rotary know.

Rotary needs some volunteers to help pull off this great family event. If you can help or if you have any questions, please call Patrick Plantenberg at 431-4615.

About Rotary

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit <https://www.townsendrotary.org/ownsendrotary.org> or [Rotary](https://www.rotary.org)

Circus Exceeds Rotary's Expectations!

The Rotary Club of Townsend sponsored the fantastic Culpepper and Merriweather Circus on Wednesday, June 26th at the Broadwater County Fairgrounds. Rotary's goal this year was to provide free \$8 circus tickets for all children ages 2-12 years of age in Broadwater County. Rotary supplied \$2,000 and raised another \$900 in donations and was able to give away over 350 free children's tickets! Over 150 people attended each of the two shows.



Rotary president Jeanine Stone was the local ringmaster. Rotary's District Governor Rick Powers and his wife Nikki attended the circus from Anaconda. It was so great to see the kids enjoying the circus clown and other acts as well as the pony rides, bouncy houses, etc. And of course, there is always highly **malnutritious** food at circuses like cotton candy, snow cones, hot dogs, etc. Circus management was very happy

with the turnout, and they want to come back again in two years. See you at the circus in 2026!

Thank you for your support! Rotary-it's about helping our kids!



Submitted by Pat Plantenberg



BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Broadwater Food Pantry

The Broadwater Food Pantry is temporarily being housed two doors down from its original location due to water damage. The address is 321 Broadway, Suite B (where J Rock Jewelry was previously located).

Monetary donations would be appreciated at this time to help with restorations.

Hours of Operation remain the same:

1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays for distribution of food to clients and to receive donations 9:00-10:45am

Fridays (before the open Saturdays) to accept donations from 9:30 to 11:00 am

The Food Pantry has increased its food donations to clients. We also have hygiene and toiletry supplies. Vouchers for diapers are available as well. Vouchers can be redeemed at Bob's Supermarket only on the date of issue.

The Broadwater Food Pantry is an all-volunteer organization which provides supplemental food assistance to residents of Broadwater County. The volunteers are from the local churches and community. The Food Pantry relies on local donations for food and operating funds. It is able to operate without regulation by State and Federal Food Bank Networks. No personal information leaves the food pantry.

Distribution outside of the normal hours is for emergencies and on an individual basis. Emergency food needs can be distributed by contacting one of the board members listed below.

Temporary Location: 321 Broadway, Suite B, Townsend
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1164, Townsend, MT 59644

Contact Information: Karoline Nelson, Operations Manager 438-3981 and Daryl Blumhagen, Board President 980-0800

Submitted By Anne Inghram



2024 Broadwater County Fair and Rodeo

We are so excited to be showing off our 'Cowboy Boots and Country Roots' with the **2024 Broadwater County Fair and Rodeo, July 31st-August 4th, 2024.**

We will be kicking off our fair and rodeo week with a FREE concert! Bring your chairs or blankets and come watch Bluebelly Junction in the vendor area on Thursday August 1st at 7:30pm. Because of our wonderful community and sponsors, this concert is free for everyone!



New for this year, we are sponsoring a boot decorating contest! You can have fun and show off your country roots by decorating a boot! Bring your boot (single boot only- no pairs) to the 4-H Building on Wednesday, July 31st between 10-Noon. Boots will be judged Wednesday afternoon and then on display throughout the exhibit building the rest of the week! There will be prizes!

This year's entertainment list should not disappoint! We have JRock Jewelry at the grounds on Thursday, August 1st from 3-6pm offering a chance to make your own jewelry. The schedule for Friday August 2nd is full, starting at 10am-



1pm with a pottery and ceramics demo by STOKE, 3-4:30pm music by Jasper Eshelman and



at 5:00pm the stick horse rodeo. Saturday August 3rd starts early with a Paint Party with Julie Faris from 9:30am-Noon, a Pie eating contest from 11:30 -1:30, music by Travis Ragen from 2-4pm and to close out the night we will have the Family Dance with music by DJ Ty Steele from 9-midnight.

Free activities for the kids on Saturday include a 56' Obstacle Course inflatable from 2pm-5pm and the Girl Scout STEM van from 11-6. Don't miss out on watching the 4-H animal shows while you are at the grounds.



Stroll through the livestock barn and check out what Broadwater County 4-H'ers have been working on throughout the year. Also, don't miss taking a stroll through the 4-H Exhibit building to check out the 4-H and Open Class exhibits. We will have lots of food and commercial vendors on site also. Entry to the Fair activities are free. Visit the fair on your way into watching some exciting rodeo action!



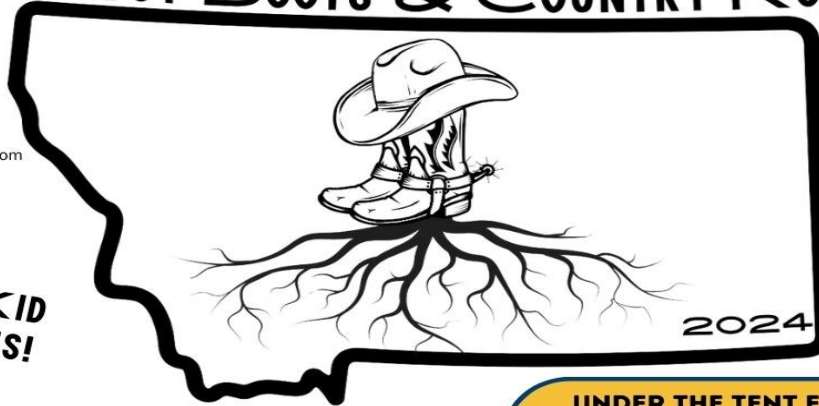
For questions or concerns please contact Jessica Erickson, Fair Manager at 406.266.9242 or email fair@co.broadwater.mt.us.

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

BROADWATER COUNTY FAIR AND RODEO COWBOY BOOTS & COUNTRY ROOTS

Find us on Facebook
www.townsendfairgrounds.com

Follow us on Instagram



**FREE KID
ACTIVITIES!**

**MUSIC!
VENDORS!
4-H
SHOWS &
SALE!**

MONDAY JULY 29TH

10:00 am– 6:00 pm Sign up Northern Rodeo Association (NRA) Townsend Rodeo– Call Central Entry 406.998.6788; Call Backs Tuesday July 30th Noon-6pm

TUESDAY JULY 30TH

1:00 pm 4-H Horse Show
6:30 pm 4-H Dog Show

WEDNESDAY JULY 31ST

9:00-Noon Open Class Entry Check In
10-Noon Boot Decorating Contest Entries Due

THURSDAY AUGUST 1ST

1:00 pm 4-H/FFA Small Animal Show (Rabbit, Pocket Pet, Cat)
3:00 pm 4-H/FFA Poultry Show
3 pm-9 pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public
6:00 pm Broadwater Western Days Rodeo– Youth Division
7:30 FREE Concert - Bluebelly Junction- in the vendor area

FRIDAY AUGUST 2ND

8:00 am 4-H/FFA Swine Show
9:00 am NRA Rodeo Slack
12-9 pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public
STEAM Activities ; Sandbox Treasure Hunt
1:00 pm 4-H/FFA Sheep & Goat Show
5:00 pm 4-H Rabbit Agility Show– under the Entertainment Tent
5:30 pm Stick Horse Rodeo (Children ages 3-8)
Sign up 5:00 East of the Tent
7:00 pm NRA Rodeo

SATURDAY AUGUST 3RD

8:00 am 4-H/FFA Beef Show
9:00 am Team Roping
10:30 am 4-H/FFA Round Robin Showmanship
11-9 pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public
STEAM Activities; Sandbox Treasure Hunt
3:00 pm 4-H/FFA Buyers Dinner
4:00 pm 4-H/FFA Market Livestock Sale
7:00 pm NRA Rodeo
9-Midnight Family Dance- Open to the public (All ages)

SUNDAY AUGUST 4TH

10:30 am Sign ups for the parade– at Massa Park on Broadway
12:00 pm Grand Parade on Broadway
1-5 pm Commercial & Exhibit Buildings Open to the Public
2:00 pm Broadwater Western Days Rodeo

UNDER THE TENT ENTERTAINMENT:

THURSDAY 3-6PM
AUG. 1ST Jewelry Class with J Rock Jewelry

FRIDAY 10AM-1PM
AUG. 2ND Ceramics & Pottery Demo by ST OKE
3-4:30PM Live Music by Jasper Eshelman
5-6PM Stick Horse Rodeo

SATURDAY 9:30AM-NOON
AUG. 3RD Paint Party with Julie M. Farris
11:30AM-1:30PM Pie Eating Contest
2-4PM Live Music by Travis Ragen
9-MIDNIGHT Family Dance - DJ

THANK YOU TO OUR BEST OF SHOW AND PURPLE RIBBON SPONSORS!



**FREE INFLATABLES
SATURDAY NOON-5PM**

**FREE
STEAM
ACTIVITIES**

**PIE EATING
CONTEST
SATURDAY**



**FREE CONCERT
THURSDAY
7:30PM
IN THE VENDOR
AREA**

bring your lawn chairs!

BOOT DECORATING CONTEST

Sponsored by the Broadwater County Fair Board

1. DECORATE A SINGLE BOOT
2. BRING IT TO THE 4-H BUILDING ON 7/31 FROM 10-NOON.
3. BOOTS WILL REMAIN ON DISPLAY IN THE 4-H EXHIBIT BUILDING THROUGHOUT FAIR WEEK.
4. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

Backyards of Broadwater

Tickets are now on sale for Backyards of Broadwater! The date is Saturday, July 27th from 9:00-2:00. Tickets are \$5.00 per person with kids 12 and under FREE. Tickets are on sale at the Extension Office, Goosebay Glass, Townsend Hardware, Chadwick's Nursery and Birds & Beasleys. When you purchase your tickets, you will receive a map, garden descriptions and details for the tour. Then you can simply enjoy the tour at your own pace!

This year's tour features gardens in Townsend and along Hwy 12 on the backside of the lake. There are six gardens, highlighting the following people: Don & Ginny Schaubert, Brenda Banks & Mike Philpott, Zach & Lacey Jepson, Donna & Steve Haynes, Shannon & Tony Woodward and Teri & Jim Gunderson. There is something for everyone on the tour. You will have the opportunity to see a variety of different gardening styles including vertical gardening and greenhouses. You'll see gardens with

a vast amount of history and visit with people who have a passion for growing their own food. You'll visit gardeners with a variety of different goals including developing habitat for birds and wildlife, preserving food, soil health, commercial growing and cultivating pollinator habitat. You'll hear about the transformation and journey these yards went through over the years and trials and tribulations along the way.

New features on the tour this year include presentations by Patrick Plantenberg, Townsend Tree Board Chairman, on planting and caring for young trees, free educational resources and Backyards of Broadwater souvenir bags. The canvas bags are available for purchase on several locations on the tour for \$20 each.

Thank you to our sponsors: Broadwater Blooms, C Hanging C Mercantile and Creamery, Haynes Ranch, Infinite Hope Counseling, Lane Construction, Most Wanted Reality (Jenni Fellenz), Sod Works Turf Farm, and Broadwater County Master Gardeners. Also, thank you to the committee members Becky Flynn, Teresa Artz, Debbie Flynn and Donna Haynes. We couldn't do it without you! For more information, follow "Backyards of Broadwater" on Facebook or visit www.msuxextension.org/broadwater/. Hope to see you on the Backyards of Broadwater!

Submitted by Allison Kosto

Big Sky, Big Leadership, Broadwater County

A forth session of Big Sky, Big Leadership in Broadwater County is set to launch this fall! This is a statewide community leadership initiative developed by MSU Extension and offered at the county level. It seeks to address the need for leaders in rural communities and help participants develop skills, increase understanding of local community dynamics and improve awareness of local issues.

Through the program, participants will:

- LEARN – Broaden understanding of issues and opportunity in Broadwater County.
- ENGAGE – Experience our community through fun, interactive sessions.
- DEVELOP – Challenge yourself as an individual to enhance your leadership skills.
- CONNECT – Establish relationships with a diverse group of people.
- ACT – Develop a personal commitment to become involved in the community.



The program consists of monthly daylong sessions from September to May. Each session includes leadership skill development and a community experience. Leadership topics include communication, conflict management, personality styles, group formation, generational differences, leadership styles and effective meetings. The purpose of the community experience is to increase awareness and understanding of local community resources and issues. Each session features an on-site visit, guest speaker or panel to present critical information on a topic. Proposed experiences include tourism, natural resources, agriculture, manufacturing, local government, education and mining. Another unique feature of this program is, over the course of the program, the group meets throughout the county including Wheatland, Toston, Radersburg and Winston.

Submitted by Allison Kosto





PTA Fun Fair

Carnival-style games,
hair tinsel, balloon
animals, prizes & snacks!

**Saturday
AUG 3rd
11 am - 7 pm**

This event is the Townsend Parent
Teacher Association's (PTA)
Fundraiser for 2024-2025 School Year.

**AT THE BROADWATER
COUNTY FAIR!**



of the Lewis and Clark Area

Helena Resource Advocates

- 12 Meetings
- 139 Informational Emails Shared with 200+ Community Members

Annual 2023 Report

MT 211

- 1,848 Calls
- 1,261 Visits to Website
- 53.2% for Mental Health & Addiction Support
- 23.9% Other Support
- 6.7% for Housing Support

Showers to Empower

Showers Provided: 708
Individuals Helped: 140

Housing First Helena

"When I first met Lisa, she had just been pushed out of a van with her meager belongings scattered across the sidewalk. Distraught, she welcomed our help. A partner and I helped her gather her things. She was taken to jail when she learned she had a warrant out for her arrest. Three months later, Lisa reached out and inquired about getting help for her addictions at a local treatment center. We offered to give her a ride. She has been living in this program successfully and sober for five months. She is currently the necessary skills for independent living."

~Jeff Buscher
Community Impact Coordinator

Emergency Food & Shelter Fund
\$36,196.50 in Funds
Passed Through to 12 Nonprofits



2024 Kids Art Winner

**Spirit of Service
2024**

- 127 Volunteers
- Helped at 15 Homes
- Worked 665 Hours

**Point in Time
Survey Results:**

2024: 181
2023: 164
2022: 133

Volunteer Helena

- 45 Volunteer Opportunities Daily
- Over 1,600 Potential Volunteers

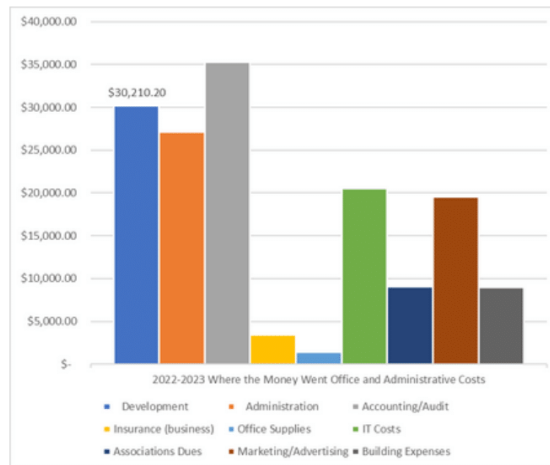
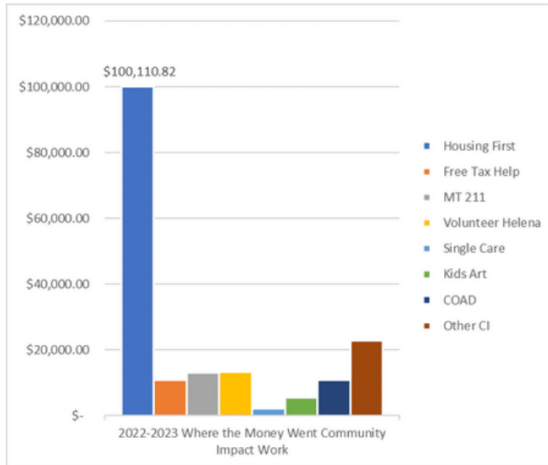
**Free Tax Help
2023-2024**

- Taxes Done in UWLCA Office: 20
- Total Tax Refunds: \$32,960
- 2 Other Tax Help Sites

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

\$435,043
Raised FY23
\$1,100,487*
Raised FY24
for United Way
Programs
& Partners

*Housing First Campaign for the purchase of the Helena Inn in FY24 increase in donations



75 E. Lyndale Ave.
Helena, MT 59601

of the Lewis and Clark Area





 **COMMERCE**


MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

REVITALIZING DOWNTOWNS THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

BACKGROUND

The Montana Main Street program (MMS) is administered by the Montana Department of Commerce and is supported by a grassroots network comprised of more than 35 member communities throughout the state.

As a state coordinating program within the Main Street America® network, the MMS program awards competitive grant funding to communities focusing on planning and/or implementation projects directly related to downtown revitalization, development and historic preservation that contribute to Montana’s unique sense of place.

VISIT  WEB PAGE



PROGRAM IMPACT

Since the MMS program’s inception in 2005, it has awarded more than \$1.7 million dollars in grant funds to support more than 90 projects across the state. Local MMS member communities have experienced significant social, civic, physical and economic impacts that include:

- The creation of more than 1,070 businesses and the addition of 3,150 employees.
- The completion of more than 1,900 building improvement projects leveraging more than \$4.5 million dollars in private and public investments.
- The utilization of nearly 660,000 documented volunteer hours.





MEMBER COMMUNITIES

*Butte, Glasgow, Shelby, Sheridan, Townsend, Hardin, *Kalispell, Billings, Dillon, Glendive, Lewistown, Libby, Whitehall, *Anaconda, *Great Falls, Boulder, Deer Lodge, Terry, *Helena, Cut Bank, Miles City, Hamilton, Thompson Falls, Twin Bridges, Red Lodge, Roundup, Ennis, Livingston, Baker, Ekalaka, Havre, Lincoln, Polson, Forsyth, Ronan, Sidney, Broadus, Bozeman

An asterisk designates National Main Street America® communities.

MMS IS A RESOURCE

MMS offers a variety of services and training opportunities to help build the capacity of local revitalization efforts. MMS traditionally opens competitive application rounds annually to support these local efforts. The MMS program offers technical assistance to communities striving for economic vitality while maintaining local historic integrity, quality of life and a sense of place. Such goals are best met by uniting larger community ideas and efforts with program organization, coordination and resources.

PROGRAM APPLICATION

It's important to understand the MMS program and its requirements prior to application. The program may not be right for all communities at any given time; acceptance is competitive and based on community preparedness and resources available from the Montana Department of Commerce. Basic application requirements and ongoing accreditation processes include:

- A broad base of public support for the Main Street district revitalization efforts.
- Organization focused on the Main Street district revitalization efforts.
- Long-term commitment to Main Street district revitalization demonstrated through continuing submission of quarterly statistics.

Photos by: Blackfoot Valley Dispatch (front); KLJ Engineering (back, left); Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture (back, center); Downtown Billings Association (back, right)



This document is printed at State expense. Information on the cost of producing this publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.



COMMERCE

MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM REVITALIZING DOWNTOWNS THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

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Photos by: Downtown Billings Association (front); KLJ Engineering (back, backdrop)

Montana Main Street

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

2005

Montana joined the Main Street America® network

660,000

documented MMS volunteer hours

PROGRAM FUNDING

\$1.7 million

in grant funding utilized across the state

\$4.5 million

received in private and public investments

ECONOMIC SUCCESS

1,070

businesses have been created as a result of MMS

3,150

jobs have been created as a result of MMS

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

90

MMS projects have been supported across the state

1,900

building improvement projects completed

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COMMERCE



MONTANA MAIN STREET PROGRAM REVITALIZING DOWNTOWNS THROUGH GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

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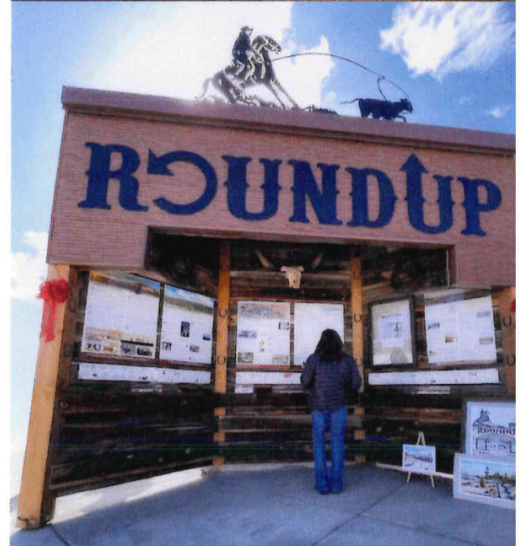
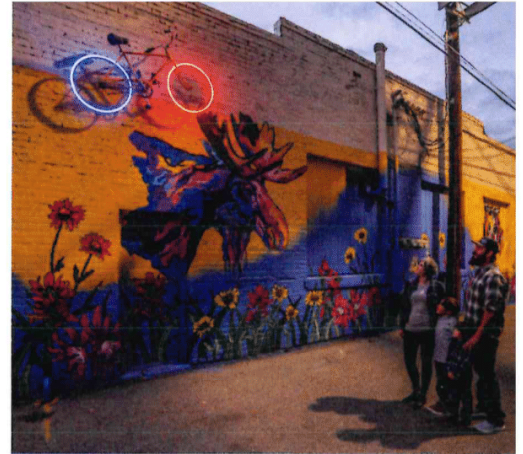
- A broad base of public support for the Main Street district revitalization efforts.
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APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following steps are suggested for a community considering MMS; use each one as a decision point to move forward or determine alternative downtown revitalization strategies or opportunities:

- Review MMS and Main Street America® websites to access basic program information and materials at commerce.mt.gov and mainstreet.org.
- Contact MMS for additional information pertaining to the program, application cycle, process, etc.
- Convene a core group of local downtown stakeholders, community leaders, city representatives and development groups to discuss downtown revitalization.
- Invite MMS to your community to discuss the program requirements and other downtown revitalization strategies.
- Discuss the MMS program and opportunities with downtown business and property owners.
- Visit MMS communities to explore other downtown districts and talk to local leaders about MMS experiences.
- Reconvene the core group to discuss the outcomes and lessons learned from visits. Gain consensus before moving forward.
- Host a town meeting to discuss the MMS program and its benefits/expectations. Gain consensus before moving forward with the application process.
- Stay in touch with MMS throughout the process.

Photos by: Lincoln Art and Music Festival (front); Downtown Billings Association (back, top); Montana Department of Commerce (back, middle); Beaverhead Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture (back, bottom)



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Working With Our Community to Prevent Re-Assault

Our understanding as a society of intimate partner assault and sexual violence has come a long way in recent decades. One of the most profound shifts in the way we approach these forms of violence in the U.S. occurred when the landmark *Violence Against Women Act* was passed in 1994. Beyond calling for intervention and prevention of domestic violence, the legislation appropriated funding for programs addressing it at the state and local level. It also tasked the CDC with administering violence prevention efforts—positioning intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and stalking as not just crimes, but serious public health issues.

The significance of seeing interpersonal violence as public health and safety concerns cannot be overstated. By approaching these crimes less like random instances of private violence, we remind each other that perpetrators are among those we know and trust and—because many of them are serial offenders—the harm they do is rarely isolated to a lone survivor. When we discuss these violent crimes in the context of public health, we also empower communities to see them as preventable. However, their sheer prevalence presents persistent challenges for criminal justice personnel as well as agencies like The Friendship Center who work with survivors.

As recently as 10 years ago, an article in the *American Journal of Public Health* estimated that 12-14 million individuals were victims of rape or sexual violence in the U.S. annually. For comparison, the article's authors highlight that figure as about 2.5 times the annual incidence of cardiovascular disease, cancer diagnosis, diabetes diagnosis, and contraction of HIV/AIDS combined. They also make the point that though the economic impact of rape and attempted rape was higher than it was for any of those diseases, public funding to research and address sexual violence remained many times lower.

The general saturation violence in the U.S. is staggering—any health factor so widespread has a variety of causes. It did not reach epidemic levels overnight, so it's not going to be eliminated quickly, nor by any single agency acting alone. We know, for example, that most sexual assault cases won't go through the justice system since more than 60% are never reported to law enforcement. Stalking and intimate partner violence are similarly underreported—underscoring a need to consider the role of every system, not just law enforcement, in supporting survivors and preventing violence. The good news is that communities are getting better at working together, and there are promising tools that can help prevent the worst outcome of intimate partner violence: fatality.

Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell is a trailblazer credited for what's known as the Danger Assessment—a tool developed in 1985 to help determine

someone's risk of being killed by their intimate partner (a metric we often refer to as **lethality**). Before Campbell's Danger Assessment, evidence-based lists of warning signs for domestic violence lethality were sorely lacking. As a result, many professionals who interacted with homicide victims likely missed telltale indicators that they were at extreme risk of being killed before they could help with services or safety planning. Put simply, risk assessments can save lives—especially when the various systems that respond to domestic violence cases can put them into action. The Friendship Center is excited to be part of a multi-disciplinary group of professionals that is starting to implement one such assessment tool in our community.

A New Risk Assessment Tool for Our Community

This past June, our team joined staff from several local agencies, including law enforcement, county and city attorney's offices, the Office of Public Defenders, Child and Family Services, the Child Advocacy Center, Pre-trial Services, judges, Department of Corrections, and others to learn how to use a lethality risk assessment tool that's currently used statewide in Arizona. Known as the **Arizona intimate Partner Risk Assessment Instrument System (or APRAIS)**, the tool measures a perpetrator's likelihood to commit a severe re-assault within seven months that would result in serious injury or death to their victim. APRAIS builds on Dr. Campbell's groundbreaking danger assessment with questions that reflect current data and can help assess risk for victims of any gender. This update is notable: While the dynamics of an abusive relationship are fairly consistent and predictable regardless of a victim's gender identity and sexual orientation, Campbell's Danger Assessment was based specifically on data for femicide victims.

Although Arizona's application of APRAIS has been tailored to meet state-specific logistical and legal considerations, it's intended to be adapted to suit broad community efforts to respond to intimate partner violence. In Helena, local law enforcement is already trained to use a voluntary lethality risk assessment when they respond to reports of domestic violence. When victims show a high risk, officers call The Friendship Center's 24/7 crisis line from the scene, giving the victim an option to speak directly with an advocate about our services and any immediate safety concerns they might have. Research has proven that this timely connection with an advocate can decrease the frequency and severity of violence in the months following the incident. It also increases the likelihood that a survivor will access services—so we know the value of risk assessments in supporting a survivor's safety. What sets APRAIS apart is that it expands a community's use of lethality assessment results from the immediate response to violent crimes to their prosecution.

How does it work? Prosecutors and judges are given the results of the assessment that indicate whether a victim falls into one of two risk categories:

High Risk: Victims that answer “yes” to at least four of seven first-tier questions have a 10.5 times higher risk of re-assault than those with fewer risk factors. An estimated 15% of victims in this category will experience re-assault within seven months.

Elevated Risk: Victims that answer “yes” to two or three of the first-tier questions have a six times higher risk of re-assault than those with fewer risk factors. An estimated 9% of victims in this category will experience re-assault within seven months.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CORNER

In Arizona, a state law enacted in 2015 requires that judges consider the results of a risk or lethality assessment in a domestic violence charge presented to the court. Many states have laws allowing or requiring courts to use various pre-trial risk assessment tools in determining release conditions for certain crimes, but Arizona is one of the only states with a statute requiring courts to review assessment results specific to domestic violence charges. While there's no such law requiring Montana courts to consider risk assessment results, prosecutors can consider a victim's APRAIS risk category when advocating for conditions of a perpetrator's release like bail amounts, restricting contact with the victim, and prohibiting firearm possession. Judges can consider the risk categories as well for setting bonds or determining whether to hold a suspect in custody until formal charges can be filed.

Why a Multi-Disciplinary Approach Matters

In Arizona's case, APRAIS was born from a recognition that domestic violence cases are complex. Many entities interact with a survivor following a reported incident or assault, and many of those agencies were using their own risk assessment tools. Whether the results of those assessments were consistent or evidence-based mattered little when a different agency or official would review them. Judges in particular expressed frustration with not knowing how to weigh information from risk assessments when setting bail. As part of the APRAIS training, legal and criminal justice personnel learn about the empirical basis of the questions used to determine somebody's risk.

In addition to aiding decision-making in the criminal justice process, assess-

ment tools like APRAIS can be immensely helpful in empowering survivors to understand their risks and take safety precautions. They can also be eye-opening for the public, helping us all better recognize the high-risk signs of abuse that may be affecting us or somebody we know.

Part of the reason risk assessment tools like Dr. Campbell's 1985 Danger Assessment were so revolutionary is that they were at the forefront of detecting warning signs for the worst possible outcomes of domestic violence. Those risks are better known now in the systems that work most closely with survivors, but some factors can manifest before a survivor ever interacts with an advocate or the criminal justice system. It's devastating when we hear that lethality factors were present in a relationship after a homicide has already occurred. Risk assessment tools like APRAIS can empower us all to understand what survivors face, offer support, and make decisions that promote safety before it's too late.

Visit thefriendshipcenter.org/aprais to find a version of this story with additional information and resources, including links to the ASU Family Violence Center's page on the APRAIS program, where you can learn more about risk factors for severe re-assault.

If you or someone you love is experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking, The Friendship Center has advocates available 24/7 to help. Visit thefriendshipcenter.org to explore resources for survivors and advocates, learn more about our services, and get connected with one of our advocates

Waechter R, Ma V. Sexual Violence in America: Public Funding and Social Priority. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2015 Dec;105(12):2430-7. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2015.302860. Epub 2015 Oct 15. PMID: 26469639;

Partner Risk Assessment*
DOB _____ Booking No. _____
Report No. _____
Incident Date _____

1. Has physical violence increased in frequency or severity over the past six months? Alternate wording: Is the pushing, grabbing, hitting, or other violence happening more often

2. Is he/she violently and constantly jealous of you?

3. Do you believe he/she is capable of killing you?

4. Have he/she ever beaten you while you were pregnant? (e.g. hit, kicked, shoved, pushed, thrown, or physically hurt with a weapon or object)

Has he/she ever used a weapon or object to hurt or threaten you?

Has he/she ever tried to kill you?

Has he/she ever choked/strangled/suffocated you?

Has this happened more than once or 3 Tier 1 questions or more

NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organization Name	Contact Name	Email Address
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	Katie Levine	klevine@afsp.org
American Legion Auxiliary Broadwater Unit #42	Debbie Westfall	alawestfall@gmail.com
American Legion Broadwater Post 42	Larry Westfall	broadwaterpost42@gmail.com
Association of Montana Turf, Ornamental, and Pest Professionals	Trudie Southwick	amtopp@amtopp.org
Big Sky Autism Project	Monique Prevel	bigskyautismproject@gmail.com
Billings Clinic Broadwater	Shiene Spatzierath	sspatzierath@billingsclinic.org
Billings Clinic Broadwater Auxiliary	Donna Harper	vdoshowcase@yahoo.com
Boy Scouts of America	Josh Dutoit	joshua.dutoit@scouting.org
Broadwater Christmas Connection	Bret Anderson	bret.anderson77@yahoo.com
Broadwater Community Foundation	Carole Plymale	carole.plymale@gmail.com
Broadwater Community Health Foundation	Kwinci Tatarka	kktatarka@gmail.com
Broadwater Community Library (School and Public)	Angela Giono	agiono@townsend.k12.mt.us
Broadwater Community Theater	Destani Spencer	destanispenncer54@gmail.com
Broadwater Conservation District	Diane Johnson	broadwatercd@gmail.com
Broadwater County 4H Council	Karen Noyes	jknoyes@MT.net
Broadwater County Cattle Women	Melanie Kimpton Weyant	broadwatercattlewomen@gmail.com
Broadwater County Development Corporation	John Hahn	bcde@mt.net
Broadwater County Fair Board	Jessica Erickson	fair@co.broadwater.mt.us
Broadwater County Farm Bureau	Gail Vennes	glvennes@.mt.net
Broadwater County Lions Club	Richard Heida	iimimby@gmail.com
Broadwater County Public Health	Ruby Taylor	rtaylor@co.broadwater.mt.us
Broadwater County Search & Rescue	John Hedstrom	hedstromautorepair@gmail.com
Broadwater County Social Services Committee	Jill Flynn	jflynn@townsend.k12.mt.us
Broadwater County Trust Board	Aubra Lewis	aubra.lewis@co.broadwater.mt.us
Broadwater County Victim Witness Advocate	Brooke Dolan	bdolan@co.broadwater.mt.us
Broadwater County/City of Townsend Recreation Board	Dr Adam Six	broadwaterrecreation406@gmail.com
Broadwater Educational Foundation	Jackie Smith	BroadwaterEdFoundation@gmail.com
Broadwater FFA	Jemma Loughery	jloughery@townsend.k12.mt.us
Broadwater FFA Alumni and Supporters	Hugh Braaten	hugh@bestsod.com
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Broadwater Historical Society & Museum	Brian Kimpton	bkimpton57@gmail.com
Broadwater Mental Health Local Advisory Council	Mary Ellen Schnur	meventures@3riversdbs.net
Broadwater Rod and Gun Club	Brad Peck	debi.randolph@gmail.com
Broadwater Rodeo and Fair Association	Wynn Meehan	broadwaterrodeo@gmail.com
Broadwater Rural Fire District	Ed Shindoll	bcrfdfire@live.com;
Broadwater Shrine Club	Chuck McLane	cegamelane2@gmail.com
Broadwater-Missouri Water Users	Daniel Davis	bmwu@mt.net
Bulldog Pups Preschool	Jennifer Olinger	teamolinger5@gmail.com
Canton Church Restoration Inc.	Chris Wright	cwright12587@gmail.com
Canton Valley Woman's Club	Bonnie Berglund	
Canyon Ferry Physical Therapy	Dr. Wanda Lambott	canyonferrypt@mt.net
City of Townsend	Kari Williams	kari@townsendmontana.net
Crimson Bluff's Chapter of Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Mike Castleberry	radersburger@gmail.com

NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organization Name	Contact Name	Email Address
Deep Creek Cemetery Association	John Hahn	hahnsupply@mt.net
Elkhorn Community Fellowship Church	Eric Crusch	icrusch2003@yahoo.com
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Friends in Fellowship - Townsend	Paul Kroeger	pkroeger@itstriangle.com
Girl Scouts of America	Melissa Meissner	melissagunderjohn@yahoo.com
Helena Playable Playgrounds	Stacy Sommer	playablepark@yahoo.com:
Helping Hands Townsend	Dee Gannon	deedaleame@yahoo.com
Holy Cross Catholic Church	Father Cody Williams	frcwilliams@holycrossmt.org
Infinity Hope Counseling, LLC	Jennifer Beatty	jennifer@infinitehopellc.com
Knights of Columbus	Richard Majszak	richard.majszak@gmail.com
Missouri Valley Marketing	Nichole Brown	planning@co.broadwater.mt.us
Motion and Mind	Katherine Humphrey	mnm3hab@gmail.com
Mountain Valley Church (Formerly Alliance Bible Church)	Eric Krueger	erickruegercma@gmail.com
MSU Extension – Broadwater County	Allison Kosto	broadwater@montana.edu
MT Business Assistance Connection	Brian Obert	bobert@mbac.biz
MT Peer Network	Melinda Holum	Mholom@co.broadwater.Mt.us
MT Youth Apprenticeship Partnership Program	Kelly Creswell	kcreswell@reachhighermontana.org
Old Baldy Recreation Association (Old Baldy Golf Course)	Kory Bakkum	
Pathfinder Childcare	Amanda Hazlett	Amanda.Hazlett@myvillage.com;
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Radersburg Baptist Church	Richard Summerlin	
Radersburg Cemetery Association	Brandon Hossfeld	
Radersburg Historical Preservation Inc.	Alan and Deb Smith	alndeb1956@gmail.com;
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Rocky Mountain Breeders Association (RMBA)	Jan Finn	2684hwy284@gmail.com;
Rocky Mountain Development Council (RMDC)	Samara Lynde	slynde@rmdc.net;
Rocky Mountain Development Council, Head Start	Ashley Pena-Larsen	apena@rmdc.net;
Rocky Mountain Development Council-Area IV Agency on Aging, Montana Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)	Michele Mathot	mmathot@rmdc.net
Rotary Club of Townsend	Jeff Langlais	jclangl@yahoo.com;



NON-PROFITS AND OTHER BENEFICIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Organization Name	Contact Name	Email Address
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Sarah Holland Daycare	Sarah Holland	hollandbigsky@q.com
Serenity Point Assisted Living	Heather LaCotta	heather@serenitypointliving.com
Set Free Christian Fellowship Townsend, Inc.	Bill Bergstad	bbergstad@gmail.com
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church	Daryl Blumhagen	dumb@mt.net
Shoot for the Cure Montana	Mary Huth-Al Bodle	bodlehuth@gmail.com
Silver Sage Counseling	Teddy Lewis	teddylewis65@yahoo.com
Silver Springs Assisted Living	Jason George or Tiffany Rauser	silverspringsassistedliving@gmail.com
Songbird Pediatric Speech Therapy	Julie Swanson	
St. Peter's Townsend Clinic	Todd Wampler MD	townsendclinic@sphealth.org
STOKE: Science,Technology,Outdoors,Knowledge,Entrepreneurship	Tina Homann	albertinahomann@gmail.com
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Aaron Christensen	aaronchristensen406@gmail.com
The Friendship Center	Gina Boesdorfer	gina.b@thefriendshipcenter.org
The Learning Place	Chelsea Rauser	chelsearauser@gmail.com
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Townsend Senior Club	Carol Anderson	
Townsend Seventh Day Adventist Church	Craig Vietz	cargo3b@yahoo.com
Townsend Skating Rink, LLC	Joe Horne	natjoehorne@gmail.com
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Townsend United Methodist Church	Rev. Melelupe Moa	mele@fumcsl.org
Townsend Wrestling	John O'Dell	jodell@townsend.k12.mt.us
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United Way of the Lewis and Clark Area	Julie Swanson	
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