

A Gathering of People Helping People

The **ROUNDUP**

Fall 2022

Photo by Kaycee Melton

Central Montana Foundation scholarships total nearly \$340,000 for 2022-23 school year

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) is pleased to announce the award of nearly \$340,000 in scholarships to more than 100 Central Montana students for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The awards are from scholarship funds held with CMF that were established by individuals, families, civic groups and local alumni who believe in giving a boost to generations following in their footsteps. Scholarships include the following:

- **Audra Hegna:** Samantha DeMars, \$1,000.
- **Big Spring Ranch:** Jacy Ayers, Dyauni Boyce, Olivia Geer, Anna Slivka, Matthew Slivka, James Taurman-Aldrich, \$1,500 each; Chane Carlson, Brandon Chavis, Jessica Horan, Brooklyn Nason, Rabeka Wittmier and Quincy Workman, \$1,000 each.
- **Brooks Area:** Evelyn Miller and Kaitlin Sramek, \$2,000 each.
- **Bruce Landru (Hobson High School):** Ashton Deegan and Grace Loose, \$550 each.
- **Bruce Landru (Roy High School):** Carter Pendergrass, \$1,500.
- **Central Montana Foundation Community Service:** Hayley Stahl, \$2,000.
- **Central Montana Manufacturing:** Kaden Siroky, \$1,000.
- **Clarence and Mildred Smith:** Donni Barman, Thomas Brandon, Laurel Carr, Evelyn Miller, Brooklyn Nason, Caden Seaholm, Kaden Siroky, Cadence Tillman, \$1,500 each.
- **Combs Family:** Jacy Ayers, Mariah Fogle and Cialeo Smith, \$1,000 each.
- **David Moodie Family:** Bradley Denton and Mathew Weeden, \$2,000 each.
- **Don Romo:** Emily Newton, \$750.
- **Dorothy Ileene Eklund:** Dakota Auck, Natalie Day, Rebecca DeMars, Chloe Derks, Birtukan Econom, Libbey Fried-Jenness, Samuel Fulbright, Abby Gremaux, Elizabeth Hickey, Danielle Horan, Jessica Horan, Macy Mangold, Abby Pierce, Tanner Trafton and Makayla Bossen, \$1,500 each.
- **Doug Delaney:** Caden Seaholm, \$500.
- **Eck Family:** Sean Kunau, \$1,500.



FHS Salutatorian and scholarship recipient Ash-ton Grover.

- **Elmer Erickson:** Caden Seaholm, \$1,000.
- **Ervin Weinheimer:** Bradley Denton, \$1,500.
- **Evelyn Beatty:** Samuel Fulbright, June LePage, Shelby Sannar and Tanner Trafton, \$1,400 each.
- **Fergus Electric:** Travis Sura and Nolan Fry, \$3,000 each.
- **Fergus Farm Mutual:** Dakota Auck and Cooper Birdwell, \$750 each.
- **Fergus County High School Class of 1935:** Tori Alexander, Jayda Barnes, Laurel Carr, Brandon Chavis, Luke Clinton, Abram Friesen, Nolan Fry, Bryce Graham, Jaynee Jones, June LePage, Macy Mangold, Lane Melton, Evelyn Miller, Ashton Moseman, Paphada Phansombun, Kaitlin Sramek, Jayden Swan, Tanner Trafton, Rabeka Wittmier, Isabella Mecklenburg and Novia Larson, \$1,500 each.
- **FHS Class of 1970:** Brooke Rector, \$1,500.
- **FHS Class of 1995:** Tori Alexander, \$500.
- **FHS/St. Leo's Class of 1964:** Tanner Trafton, \$500.
- **Fergus High School Class of 2019:** Rabeka Wittmier, \$550.
- **Frank and Patty Thompson:** Isabella Mecklenburg, Jayden Swan and Carter Pendergrass, \$1,000 each.
- **Gail Fox Memorial:** Brooke Rector, \$500.
- **Garfield County Endowment:** Walker Colvin, \$500.
- **Garfield County Endowment/Floyd & Sylvia Lilienthal Trust:** Sophia Kreider, Lacey Lawrence, Grace McDonald, Brenna Murnion, Tori Murnion, William Phipps, Abby Pierce and Maggie Pluhar, \$1,650 each.
- **Gibson-Durbin Family:** Lane Melton and Brooke Rector, \$1,000 each.
- **Glenn Vogl Memorial Ag:** Cassandra Smith, \$375.
- **Hannah Bragg:** Brooklyn Nason, \$500.
- **Harold and Bette Coolidge Nursing:** Sydney Wier, \$1,100.
- **Helen Hruska-Schultz:** Laurel Carr and Allison Denton, \$1,000 each.
- **Irene Miller:** Samantha DeMars, \$500.

Scholarships awarded . . .

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Color sponsorship for this issue provided by First Bank of Montana

First Bank of Montana is the generous supporter of the full-color in this edition of *The Roundup*, a joint publication of Central Montana Foundation (CMF) and Medical Center Foundation (MCF).

First Bank of Montana has a long tradition of giving in Central Montana. They're among a long list of local businesses that are faithful supporters of CMF and many other non-profit organizations working to improve life in our region.

First Bank (formerly First National Bank) is also responsible for jump-starting nine of the 11 community foundations (see list on Page 6), and continues to support a growing list of projects in Central Montana communities.

"Our bank's philosophy has always been to give a certain percentage of our income back to the community," said First Bank President Dean Comes. A great example of that spirit of giving is a program that First Bank, along with Allied Steel and Central Montana Variety, set up a few years back in which they help about 400 local students and their families by providing cinch sacks with school supplies. "This event has really mushroomed and our staff is all-in when it comes to



First Bank of Montana staff put together cinch bags of school supplies to give away to local students.

stepping up to put that together and ease the financial burden on families with school-aged children."

Dean praised his staff and board of directors for making their own investment in Central Montana by volunteering with service organizations and other community projects. Dean, who has been a CMF director since 2003, practices what he preaches by volunteering countless hours to CMF and has served as its president since 2015. "The Foundation has grown exponentially in recent years. CMF Directors and staff are so proud to be affiliated with a community foundation that has done so much good – and we are always cognizant that our successes

are only because of the generosity of donors who love Central Montana as much as we do."

First Bank of Montana is part of the Glacier Bank system. Dean oversees First Bank of Montana in Lewistown, as well as Choteau, Fairfield, Vaughn, Fort Benton, Chester, Chinook, Big Sandy and Conrad. His duties come with a fair amount of travel, but Dean said he always looks forward to coming home. "I'm so proud to be part of this community; it's really something special." ❖

Enbridge Inc. grants to CMF earmarked to help at-risk populations

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) has been the conduit for a number of targeted gifts in the last few years from Enbridge Inc., an energy delivery company with storage and pipeline facilities in Central Montana.

Enbridge supported CMF's COVID-19 Relief fund, gave a gift to help Rural Fire Districts recover following three major fires in 2021, and granted \$5,000 to CMF's General fund last year to be used to help at-risk populations.

Enbridge's Public Affairs Advisor Cheryl Howard extended another invite to CMF to apply for an additional \$7,500 in funding, and CMF was recently notified that the request was successful. This grant through Enbridge's Fueling Futures program will also be earmarked to



Central Montana Community Cupboard volunteers Megan Bartel and Tony Gies thank Trina Salvisberg (center) for Enbridge Inc.'s funding to help at-risk populations.

help at-risk populations.

CMF Directors awarded a \$4,999 grant from the Enbridge funding in August to Central Montana Community Cupboard for emergency food supplies.

Community Cupboard collects and distributes food to families and individuals facing emergency situations. The Cupboard's Treasurer Megan Bartel said their food costs have nearly tripled while the number of those seeking assistance has doubled in the last year. "This help from CMF and Enbridge will help us keep up with those demands."

Enbridge's Trina Salvisberg, who is the Buffalo District Supervisor, said Enbridge's partnership with CMF allows them to give back to the communities where they have a presence, and that's an important part of Enbridge's Fueling Futures program.

To learn more about CMF's grant program and eligibility requirements, call CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.535.6130. ❖

Dr. Hollis Lefever remembered through memorials to MCF

Dr. Hollis Lefever spent most of his 40+ year career in medicine as a family physician in Lewistown, and according to his daughter Debra Gill, he found great satisfaction in hearing from former patients and knowing that they went on to live healthy, happy lives.

It was because of his long-time commitment to his patients that following his death on June 25 of this year at the age of 91, his family asked that memorials be directed to Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) Foundation's General fund.

"His passing should be noted and honored," said CMMC Foundation Director Abby Franks. "He made Lewistown forever better while he was here."

Dr. Lefever was a native of Wichita, Kan., and following his high school graduation in 1949, went on to earn his pre-med degree at Ottawa University and his medical degree from University of Kansas in 1953. He interned at Wesley Hospital in Wichita and became board certified in Family Practice in 1963. While at Ottawa, he met the love of his life, Ruth Anne Tucker, and they married in 1954. Together, they raised four children: twins Paul and Walter, Stanley, and Debra.

Dr. Lefever practiced in Glendive beginning in 1958, then moved his family to Lewistown in 1961, where he built a very successful medical practice from which he retired in 1996.

Debra recalls that when she was a young girl, she would accompany her father to the old St. Joseph's Hospital, "and the nuns would play jacks with me on the floor while he was making his rounds!" He was committed to building the new hospital, CMMC, which opened its doors in its current location in 1977. Ruth served with the hospital auxiliary and she and her family spent many hours helping with the coupon drive to raise funding for the new facility.

Debra said her father was dedicated to being able to diagnose and treat his patients and provide the best integrated care he could. "In a small town, you didn't have the luxury of being a specialist - you needed to know a little bit of everything. It was a different day in medicine."

Dr. Lefever was a medical pioneer in Lewistown. Debra described how her father engineered the first cardiac care unit monitoring tower so patients wouldn't have to go elsewhere for their care.

Three of the Lefever siblings chose healthcare-related careers. Paul was an IT specialist who often tested healthcare software;



The Lefever family pictured enjoying a get-together a few years back, (back row, from left) Paul, Debra, Stanley, (front) Hollis, Ruth and Walter.

Walter was a respiratory therapist at St. Patrick's in Missoula, and Debra spent many years as the director of Bozeman Health Foundation and now runs a philanthropic consulting business focused on healthcare. Stanley enjoyed a successful career in electrical engineering with Boeing.

Many area residents will remember that Dr. Lefever was also a talented musician and was the founder of the Missouri River Jazz Band in 1979. He also honed his skills as a photographer during his retirement.

Barb Berg was just beginning her nursing career in 1973 when she came to Lewistown, and 49 years later, she's still working at CMMC and has seen a great evolution in healthcare. She knew Dr. Lefever well and said, "He was a good man who was very community minded,

and he cared about the hospital here, and he cared about his patients having good care."

Dr. Lefever was one of five physicians who served the area in those early years. "They were always on call, they worked on rotation in the ER, they did surgeries, they did it all. Dr. Lefever visited patients in the nursing home, made house calls, stopped in to check on his elderly patients when he was worried about them; there was no home health nursing back then. Those doctors filled all those needs."

Barb recalls that Dr. Lefever "was a physician who cared a great deal about his patients and wanted the very best for them." He followed them through birth, childhood, school sports, then having their own families; generation by generation.

When the Lefevers left Lewistown, they built their dream cabin at Goose Bay Marina on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and continued to make trips back "home" to Lewistown. The matriarch of the Lefever family, Ruth, died in 2018.

"With dad's legacy in Lewistown, it was important to our family to have some sort of lasting tribute to him there, so dedicating memorials to the Medical Center Foundation made so much sense," Debra said. "Philanthropy is something my family believes in, and we wanted to make sure the community had the chance to express their appreciation through memorials."

For more information about giving a memorial gift for Dr. Hollis Lefever, see the giving form on Page 14 or call Abby in the CMMC Foundation office, 406.535.6309.



CMF Directors increase community service scholarship award

For many years now, Central Montana Foundation (CMF) has awarded scholarships to Fergus High School students who have



Winner of this year's Central Montana Foundation Community Service Scholarship, Hayley Stahl.

documented at least 100 hours of community service. CMF Directors decided that it was time to increase the amount of the scholarship to \$2,000, and to expand the applicant pool to include graduating seniors throughout Central Montana.

Winnett High School graduating senior Hayley Stahl was the recipient of this year's CMF Community Service Scholarship. Her 109 hours of community service included volunteering in the library, with 4-H, Operation Christmas Child, and other activities. She also was awarded the Petroleum County Community Service Scholarship. "I was glad I could serve my

community by doing what I enjoyed," Hayley said.

Hayley is attending Sheridan College, where she is majoring in General Agriculture. Besides a long list of school activities with band, choir and student council, she's been a stand-out in 4-H, public speaking and livestock showing.

"Hayley is a very worthy recipient of the CMF Scholarship," said CMF President Dean Comes. "She and other scholarship winners exemplify why we have hope in our future." For more information on the scholarship program call the CMF office at 406.538.6130. ❖

Scholarship awards . . .

Continued from Page 1

• **Jack and Shirley Hughes (Grass Range High School):** Kaden Siroky and Caden Seaholm, \$1,000 each.

• **Jack and Shirley Hughes (Winnett High School):** Hayley Stahl, \$1,000.

• **Jay and Janette Henderson:** Brandon Chavis and Taylin Trafton, \$1,000 each.

• **Jerry Bergum Memorial:** Cadence Tillman, \$2,000.

• **Julie Kalin Memorial:** Rachael Simons, \$2,000.

• **Leonard and Edith Brooks:** Brody Geer and Zander Wichman, \$500 each.

• **Lewistown Art Center:** Brooklyn Nason, \$500.

• **Lewistown Bowling Association:** Brandon Chavis, Ashton Grover and Katie Wise, \$500 each.

• **Lewistown Kiwanis:** Ashton Grover and Paphada Phansombun, \$1,250 each; Thomas Brandon, Laurel Carr, Brynn Jolma, Cadence Tillman and Malorie Woolett, \$1,000 each; Kaitlin Sramek, \$500.

• **Little Belt Snowmobile Club:** Cialeo Smith, \$500.

• **Maiden:** Danielle Horan, \$950.

• **Marion I. Burke:** Ryder Knox, \$500.

• **Moore Sisters:** Dyauni Boyce, Anthony DeMars, Rebecca DeMars, Samantha DeMars, Trinity Edwards, Brody Geer, Olivia Geer, Madeline Heggem, Ryder Knox, Anna Slivka, Matthew Slivka, Cassandra Smith, Cadence Tillman and Zander Wichman, \$410 each.

• **Maude Del Pimlott:** Sean Kunau, Macy Mangold and Paphada Phansombun, \$1,500 each.

• **Neils and Helen Kirkeminda:** Donni Barman, Brianna Bergum, Maddie Fischer, Danielle Horan and Cole Martin, \$12,000 each.

• **Norman Asbjornson Educational:** Dyauni Boyce, Anthony DeMars, Rebecca DeMars, Brody Geer, Olivia Geer, Madeline Heggem, Ryder Knox, Anna Slivka, Matthew Slivka, Cassandra Smith, Cadence Tillman, Tatum Tillman, Jayda Wichman and Zander Wichman, \$3,065 each.

• **Oakley Woody:** Jessica Morgan, \$2,500; Shelby Sannar, \$1,000.

• **Pat Descheemaeker:** Samuel Fulbright, \$500.

• **Petroleum County Endowment:** Brynn Jolma, and Hayley Stahl, \$1,000 each.

• **Rachel Schaffer:** Macy Mangold, \$550.

• **Ray and Nikoline Marr:** Thomas Brandon, Brooklyn Nason and Malorie Woolett, \$3,000 each; Shelby Sannar, \$1,500; Ashton Grover, \$1,400; Kaden Siroky, \$700; Donni Barman, Anthony DeMars, Madeline Heggem and Carter Pendergrass, \$500 each.

• **Rich and Donna Dengel Donor Advised Fund:** Abby Gremaux, \$3,000; Riley Chapman, McKenzie Plummer, Brooke Rector, Connor Stanghill, Lorianne Stulc, Deanna Thompson, Wendy Tintzman, Madisen Wheeler, \$2,000 each; Sydney Wier, \$1,500.

• **Slaterbright:** Ashton Grover, \$2,300.

• **Stewart and Catherine Thomas:** Ashton Deegan and Grace Loose, \$650 each.

• **Walt and Wilma Kunau Memorial:** Cooper Birdwell, \$400.

• **Willems Family:** Halle Bacon, \$2,500; Johnny Mysee, \$1,500; Raelynn Heggem, Kinsey Warner and Rachael Woodward, \$1,000 each.

Scholarship recipients included graduating seniors, post-graduate and graduate students from Central Montana who are attending vocational schools, college and universities throughout Montana and the nation. "Central Montana Foundation now administers nearly 70 scholarship funds," said CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth. Most of the scholarship funds are permanent endowments, which earn dividends and income and are a perpetual source of funding for scholarship awards.

On behalf of CMF Board of Directors, Carrie thanked the many volunteers who served on various scholarship selection committees and to Fergus High School and Lewistown School District Number One for working with CMF and the Central Montana Scholarship Clearinghouse to keep the process running smoothly.

To see a list of the scholarship funds held with CMF and criteria set up by funders for each, go to www.centralmontanafoundation.com under the Scholarship tab.

Scholarship applications for the 2023-24 academic year will be available on the Fergus High School and CMF websites in December.

For more information about establishing a scholarship fund or the CMF Scholarship Program, call Carrie in the CMF office in Lewistown at 406.538.6130. ❖

Dana Dengel voices support for CMMC Cancer Center

Dana Dengel spent part of the last day of the year in 2020 checking her annual mammogram off her "to do" list.

She was committed to doing annual mammograms, and Dec. 31, 2020, was the first time she was able to have a 3D Mammogram with Central Montana Medical Center's (CMMC) new equipment. There's no history of breast cancer in her family, so she was shocked when she received a call after the Jan. 1, 2021, New Year's holiday from Geri Rector in CMMC's Radiology Department asking her to come back in for a biopsy.

Dana has worked as an RN, so she fully understood that the follow-up indicated something worrisome had shown up on the 3D Mammo. She immediately went back to CMMC for the biopsy, and her primary physician Dr. Annette Comes called her with the results that there was a spiculated breast mass, with spikes that extend out from the main mass, and she had Stage 1 breast cancer.

"It was so small that I couldn't feel anything," Dana said, adding that she had been diligent about doing monthly self breast exams, and she credited the 3D Mammo equipment for the early detection. CMMC Oncology Nurse Navigator and Cancer Care Services Coordinator Amy d'Autremont visited with Dana about her treatment options and she began working with a team from Billings Clinic's cancer center.

"I wanted to do the most aggressive treatment possible and just be done with it with the least amount of stress on my kids and the best assurances I could give them that I wasn't going to die," she said. She opted for all-inclusive care, which would include surgery, chemo and radiation, and began treatment in January 2021. After two lumpectomies at Billings Clinic and five months of chemotherapy, she scheduled reconstructive surgery



Cancer survivor Dana Dengel (center) surrounded by her family, (from left) Jade, Jon, Henry, Ava and Maya.

in Seattle in August. She was devastated when cancer cells were found again during a pre-op biopsy.

"Cancer isn't a fair player," she said, as she talked about the trauma of learning that the battle wasn't over. She started radiation Sept. 21, which was her twin daughters' Jade and Maya's 12th birthday, and finished her treatments on her daughter Ava's 15th birthday on Oct. 18, 2021. During that time, her husband, Jon, drove her to Billings for radiation treatments. The youngest of the children, Henry, was 10-years-old during her treatment.

She explained that they chose to drive home every night after her radiation treatments at Billings Clinic because she wanted to maintain a sense of normalcy with her children. "When kids hear 'cancer' they think you're going to die; it's very scary."

Dana said she was exhausted during the radiation and the daily travel was taxing. She worked when she was able as the team manager at her family's business, Smart Flooring, and was thankful for the people who pitched in bringing meals. Nearly two years later, there's no sign of cancer and Dana takes daily oral medication and monthly injections at CMMC.

She's thrilled that CMMC will soon have a cancer center providing comprehensive cancer care to local patients. "It would've been a blessing to just head to the top of the hill and stay home! I wouldn't understand the need if I hadn't experienced the exhausting task of balancing work, mom, wife and cancer patient - but now I'm beyond passionate to make this project a reality so others can be at home for their cancer care."

CMMC Cancer Center is still in the planning stages, but donations are coming in steadily. For more information, call Medical Center Foundation Director Abby Franks at CMMC, at 406.535.6309. ❖

Leo Barrick family earmark memorials to help patient comfort at CMMC

Leo Barrick spent the final days of his life surrounded by his family at Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC).

His widow, Marilyn Barrick, and the rest of the family expressed their appreciation to CMMC staff for the excellent care he received. "That care was not only given to Leo, but to all members of our extended family. We were welcomed day and night at the CMMC Hospital. We appreciated the support that we received, and we want to help the CMMC staff financially provide that level of kindness to other families in need. We will be forever grateful to have been able to have our entire family with Dad during his final days."

The family chose to ask that memorials be given to CMMC and earmarked for "comfort care." CMMC

Foundation Director Abby Franks explained that this would encompass items like the food cart and drinks - item that contribute towards providing a comfortable space for family to be with their loved ones at CMMC.

Leo died at the age of 82 on May 25, 2022. He was known for his willingness to help in any situation, and for how he supported his family and community with a wide smile and helpful heart.

Leo's family said, "We chose CMMC Comfort Care as a designee for memorials because of the high quality of care and comfort the nurses, doctors (especially Dr. Sura), and staff provided."

For more information on contributing to comfort care at CMMC, call the Medical Center Foundation office at 406.535.6309. ❖



Leo Barrick, 1938-2022

Hobson American Legion receives funding for Veterans Memorial Park

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) and Hobson Endowment have both committed grant funding to help Hobson American Legion Post #76 in its quest to build a Veterans Memorial Park.

Clay Killham and Bob Waite of the Hobson American Legion said the idea to install a memorial to honor the many generations of veterans who called the greater Judith Basin home goes back a number of years.

"Earl Grove talked about it before he died in 2013," Clay said. Earl was one of the post's most active members and Clay said he was the one who recruited him to join the Hobson American Legion.

Even though it took some time to get the ball rolling, the small but mighty crew in Hobson has momentum now and is determined to

get the project done within the year.

Besides a grant of \$3,800 from CMF and \$1,000 from Hobson Endowment, Hobson School has pledged another \$1,500 and they've applied for other grants. The CMF grant will help purchase bricks for the memorial, which will be sold and engraved with the names of veterans, branch and dates of services, etc.

The Hobson Veterans Memorial Park will be on Central Ave. next to the Legion's building. The park will feature the U.S., Montana State and POW/MIA flags, surrounded by the engraved bricks, and the memorial will have solar lighting.

"We never want to forget the service and sacrifice of our veterans," Bob said. "This is a way to keep

Veterans Memorial. . .

Continued on Page 8



Bob Waite (left) and Clay Killham of the Hobson American Legion Post #76.

Community Endowment Contact List & Fund Balances

as of August 31, 2022

- **Denton Endowment, \$139,300; Denton Ambulance, \$24,220**
Josh Webber, Farmers State Bank, P.O. Box 1047, Denton, MT 59430, phone, 406-567-2226
- **Garfield County Endowment, \$26,318; Jordan Swimming Pool, \$10,077; Library Fund, \$1,504**
Holly Harbaugh, PO Box 395, Jordan, MT 59337, phone, 406-557-2324
- **Grass Range Endowment, \$74,580**
Debby Olson, 401 7th Ave. So., Apt. 208, Lewistown, MT 59457, phone, 406-366-0370
- **Hobson Endowment, \$32,475**
Hobson End. School, \$8,326; Philbrook Cemetery, \$1,937; Pride of the Judith, \$9,515
Bill Hesselbart, PO Box 433, Hobson, MT 59452, phone, 406-423-5369
- **Judith Basin County/Stanford Endowment, \$229,155; Stanford Pool, \$3,369**
Tess Brady, PO Box 221, Stanford, MT 59479, phone, 406-566-2633
- **Judith Gap Endowment, \$40,284**
RoseMary Mitchell, PO Box 127, Judith Gap, MT 59453, phone, 406-366-1654
- **Moore Endowment, \$123,692**
Gary Greenwood, PO Box 133, Moore, MT 59464, phone, 406-374-2363
- **Petroleum County Endowment, \$155,798**
Gari King, PO Box 125, Winnett, MT 59087, phone, 406-429-5821
- **Roy Endowment, \$31,074**
Shelly Willmore, River Route, Roy, MT 59471, phone, 406-464-7411
- **Wheatland County Community Endowment, \$54,669**
Mandie Reed, PO Box 733, Harlowton, MT 59036, phone, 406-240-1954
- **Winifred Endowment, \$112,982**
Jamie Wickens, PO Box 92, Winifred, MT 59489, phone, 406-462-5612

**11 Rural
Community
Endowments
Funds Total:**
\$1,079,275
**\$78,000+ in
Grants Awarded
in 2021!**
**Improving
the quality
of life
in our
Central
Montana
Communities!**

Executive advisors have shared commitment to Medical Center Foundation

Jim Wier, Sr., and Bob Bjelland both began serving on the Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Advisory Board in 2011 and have expressed their commitment to continuing their support of the organization's mission to support healthcare in Central Montana.

MCF Advisory Board saw a number of changes in the last year with many new faces coming on board and a new director, Abby Franks, at the helm. "It's invaluable to have their experience and history at the table," she said of Jim and Bob, so the MCF Advisory Board elected them as MCF's first executive advisors.

Both men were on CMMC's Governing Board prior to their service with MCF, and Jim's involvement goes back in farther as he worked from 1971-75 as the assistant administrator at Saint Joseph's Hospital before CMMC was built. He then served as CMMC's Governing Board vice chairman for many years. He said he's always been committed to making sure Central Montana has quality healthcare, and medical issues over the last few years have only strengthened that resolve.

"I'm a firm believer in this facility and will put all of my efforts into helping people be able to stay here for treatment," he said.

Bob served on the CMMC Governing Board for about 12 years, before his appointment to the MCF Advisory Board. "I've always had a strong interest in the success of CMMC, both from a financial and a



Medical Center (MCF) Foundation Advisory Board's executive advisors (from left) Bob Bjelland and Jim Wier, Sr.

patient care point of view."

He added, "I am excited to get the new Cancer Center project started, with the many benefits it will bring to the people of Central Montana."

"I find it incredible when people have served their entire professional working life and then retire to only serve and give more," Abby said. Jim was the owner/operator of Wier Furniture for many decades before turning the reins over to his son, Jim Wier, Jr. Bob retired as president of Fergus Federal Credit Union at the end of 2019 after a 35-year career there.

As MCF executive advisors, Jim and Bob will be part of executive committee meetings and continue to chart the direction of MCF Advisory Board. For more information about MCF, call Abby at 406.535.6309. ❖

Medical Center Foundation grants total \$91,000 over the last quarter!

Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Advisory Board of Directors has recommended \$91,000 in grants over the last few months that will help emergency medical services personnel with their mental health, support EMT training, help screen patients for osteoporosis and help with the acquisition of two more vehicles for use in Hospice/Home Health.

Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) Governing Board approved the following grants from MCF funds:

- **Friends of First Responders:** A \$5,000 grant was awarded to Mental Resilience for Volunteer Emergency Medical Services from the Friends of First Responders fund. This is a new organization that will provide mental health counseling to EMS volunteers in the tri-county area of Fergus, Judith Basin and Petroleum Counties.

- **Dexa Scanner:** A grant of \$41,000 was awarded from the 3D Mammography fund for the purchase of a Dexa Scanner. MCF Director Abby Franks said this is a screening tool to check for osteoporosis, providing information on how much calcium is used up in the patient's bones. "This isn't just used for women after menopause, but in fact it is also commonly used for patients who have

been on medications for breast cancer, younger folks struggling from eating disorders, or those who have been on steroid medications."

- **EMT Education:** A \$5,000 grant from the Friends of First Responders fund will be used to help two EMTs earn their paramedic certificates. "A special thank you goes out to Rich and Donna Dengel, who are the original donors that helped set up special funds for EMT training needs," Abby said.

- **Hospice Vehicles:** Another \$40,000 was awarded from the Hospice fund for two vehicles to be used for Home Care and Hospice personnel traveling thousands of miles every year to provide care throughout Fergus and Judith Basin Counties. Abby said donations to Hospice have provided the needed funding several times this year to acquire safe and reliable vehicles for staff to continue providing patient care.

These grants to support healthcare were made possible thanks to the generosity of donors to MCF funds. See the list of funds on Page 15 and contact Abby in the MCF office at CMMC, 406.535.6309 for more information. ❖

Moore Farmer's Oil Co. establishes scholarship with CMF

Moore Farmer's Oil Company is a locally-owned cooperative that has been serving its customers since 1930.

The company had some unclaimed dividends from past patrons that they were unable to locate, so its board of directors decided funding a scholarship would be a great use of those funds.

They established a permanent endowment for the scholarship with Central Montana Foundation (CMF). The principal will remain intact and the income and dividends used to fund the scholarship.

"We've always strived to give back to the youth of Central Montana and to encourage them to come back and work in our communities," said Moore Farmer's Union General Manager Shawn Auck.

"We want to encourage all students to find their niche in life and move forward with some sort of education,"



Moore Farmer's Oil Co. General Manager Shawn Auck.

Shawn said. "We need to fill our workforce!"

Eligible applicants for this scholarship must be a child or employee of an active Moore Farmer's Oil patron. Other criteria are that they be a graduating senior with a minimum GPA of

2.5, and be attending an accredited Montana college, university or vocational school.

Applicants will use the universal Central Montana Foundation and Area Scholarship Clearinghouse application, which will be available in early December on the CMF website and due March 15, 2023.

Once eligibility is verified, the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship will be randomly selected in a drawing at the Moore Farmer's Oil Co. Annual Meeting on the third Wednesday of March.

CMF Board of Directors is proud of the growing scholarship program. Businesses, families, individuals and class alumni have set up nearly 70 scholarship funds with CMF that combined, awarded nearly \$340,000 in the last academic year.

For more information, call CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130. ❖

Veterans Memorial. . .

those memories alive."

Both men are proud of their military service, as are the other members of the American Legion Post #76. They have about 75 members on their roster, although the majority of those aren't active and many don't live in the area anymore. "We have maybe 10-15 active members," Clay said. They are hoping to recruit more members and encourage the younger generation to join. Anyone who served active military and was honorably discharged is eligible for membership.

Clay has been a member of the Hobson Post for 37 years. He graduated from high school in Denton, and served with the Montana Army National Guard in Lewistown from 1961-1970, where he was a tank commander and platoon sergeant. He and his wife, Sharon, moved to

Wyoming, then moved to Hobson in 1984 when Sharon took a teaching job there. Clay was a rancher, self-employed contractor and then worked for Lewistown Propane and Fertilizer before his retirement.

Bob, who grew up in Utica, enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve while still in high school in 1963. He graduated from Montana State University, but stayed in the Reserves until 1969. He taught school in Alaska before he and his wife, Francie, returned to Montana in 1979. He went back into the Reserves in the early 1980s and had 26 years active service, including a stint in Iraq during Desert Storm. He's been a member of the American Legion in Hobson for 38 years.

The Veterans Memorial Park in Hobson will be modeled after the one completed a few years ago in

Denton, and they are working with Bob Miller who was the lead on that project.

Even though the Hobson Legion just began promoting the project this year, there has been great response thus far. Bob said there are so many people who have someone in their family who served in the military, and this is a great way to honor that sacrifice. As an example, he said he's buying a brick in memory of his uncle, Joe Holland, who served in France during WWI.

"Our mission is to honor veterans from the past, present and future with this Veterans Memorial Park," Clay said.

Forms to order bricks are available from the Hobson Legion Post #76. The cost is \$50. For more information, call Clay at 406.423.5335. ❖

Continued from Page 6

Central Montana Childcare Alliance opens pass through with CMF

Central Montana Childcare Alliance (CMCA) formed earlier this year to provide resources, support and advocacy for childcare providers, families and employers.

They were successful in securing a \$413,904, two-year Child Care Innovation and Infrastructure Grant from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, and have applied for 501(c)3 non-profit status. In the meantime, they were approved to set up a pass through account with Central Montana Foundation (CMF), so donors are able to give tax deductible donations to help since CMF is a 501(c)3.

"One of the first items of business for our Board when creating the Central Montana Childcare Alliance was to form a partnership with the Foundation," said Jennifer Pfau, CMCA Director. "The Foundation plays such a pivotal role in helping nonprofits in our area to connect with potential donors and as a newly formed organization we are anxious to let the public know about our efforts and how they can support our work through the Foundation."

She continued, "We hope CMF donors will connect with our mission to partner with childcare providers, families, and stakeholders to improve the Childcare Alliance . . .

Continued on Page 10



Jennifer Pfau (left) and Julie Walsh of the Central Montana Childcare Alliance. (Photo courtesy of Lewistown News-Argus)

Friends of the Library-Dolly Parton Imagination Library has CMF fund

Friends of the Library-Dolly Parton Imagination Library has a new permanent endowment with Central Montana Foundation (CMF), in which donors can give tax deductible gifts to support a book-gifting program for children 0-5.

The permanent endowment with CMF will help sustain the program, as the endowed portion of the fund earns income and dividends for program support.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library sends books directly to registered families every month at no cost to them. The program was created by the Dolly Parton Foundation to encourage reading, kindergarten preparedness and family time for young children.

Books are selected by a panel of child literacy experts. In addition to fostering a love for reading and respect for others, the selected books encourage development in art, math and science.

The Friends of the Library and Lewistown Public Library recently launched the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. Fall 2022



Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a book-gifting program for kids 0-5.

ation Library program with help from a CMF grant of \$5,000 as well as financial support from other local organizations and businesses.

Arlene Mari with Friends of the Library noted in the grant request to CMF that there are 710 children eligible for the program in Fergus County. They began accepting reg-

www.centralmontanafoundation.com

istration Sept. 10. "We've had over 80 children register in less than a week, so that's pretty exciting!" said Library Director Alissa Wolenetz.

The program is always free to participating families. Eligibility requirements are that they live in Fergus County and children are between 0-5 years old.

To sign up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for Fergus County, visit the Lewistown Public Library in person or register online at lewistownlibrary.org.

Friends of the Library volunteers and Library staff emphasize the need for donations to enroll as many Fergus County children as possible.

"This is not a one-and-done system," Arlene noted in the grant request to CMF. "The program will renew as long as funding is available and parents are interested."

To give to the Friends of the Library-Dolly Parton Imagination Library see the Giving Form on Page 14. Call the Lewistown Public Library at 406.538.5212 for more information.



CMF awards grants to nine local organizations over last quarter

Nine Central Montana organizations were successful in securing grant funding from Central Montana Foundation (CMF) over the summer months.

Congratulations to the following organizations receiving grants:

• **Central Montana Rodeo Club:** The local

club received \$4,800 to help with expenses of the annual junior high and high school rodeo held in Lewistown Aug. 20-21. This is the largest high school rodeo in the state and draws people in from every corner of Montana, which in turn brings an economic boost to Central Montana. The local rodeo club has members from Lewistown, Grass Range, Hobson, Stanford and Winifred.

• **Fergus County Community Council:** CMF granted \$2,400 to help establish a Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) memorial park at the Fergus County Fairgrounds. The project will include placing rock gateposts and installation of interpretive panels detailing the history of CCC in Fergus County and the camps they were housed in during their work stay.

• **Fergus/Petroleum County 4-H Teen Leaders:** This 4-H project received a \$750 grant to replace the concrete base of a 4-H memorial plaque placed in the 1930s that sits in the gazebo area at the Fergus County Fairgrounds.

• **Town of Winnett:** A \$3,000 grant was awarded to help with the purchase of new playground equipment at the town's only community park.

• **Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch Foundation:** A \$600 grant was awarded to help with the expenses of building a new, sturdier deck at the Lewistown facility.

• **Boy Scout Troops 1360 and 6360:** The local Boy Scout troops received a grant for \$1,000 to replenish first-aid kits supplies and to purchase tents and tarps for their outdoor camping trips. This grant was funded by the Lewistown Boy Scout fund held with CMF.

• **Central Montana Community Cupboard:** CMF Board of Directors awarded \$4,999 for the purchase of food supplies (see related story on Page 2). Central Montana Community Cupboard has seen



Members of the Central Montana Rodeo Club at this year's event in Lewistown.

a huge uptick for food assistance, while food costs are rising due to inflation.

• **Garfield County Museum:** CMF awarded \$2,000 to the Garfield County Museum in Jordan to help purchase a computer, software and supplies for cataloging displays.

• **Hobson American Legion Post #76:** CMF Directors awarded \$3,800 to help with expenses of a Veterans Memorial Park in Hobson to honor past, present and future veterans. (See related story on Page 6.)

Funding for CMF grants is derived from the income earned on its unrestricted permanent endowments including CMF General, Mildred Bryte Memorial, Margie Wilkins, Bertha Martin, John & Alice Janicek, Rosie Pense, Chester Rickner, Gertrude Saxtorph, Jr. Housel Family, Selma "Sally" Wells, George Mueller and Terry Bragg.

Minor grants (under \$5,000) are considered at CMF's monthly meetings. See CMF's website at centralmontanafoundation.com for eligibility and the application or call the CMF office in Lewistown for more information at 406.538.6130. ❖

Childcare Alliance . . .

Continued from Page 9

quality of programming and expand the availability of childcare options in Central Montana. Together we will work to address childcare issues that have plagued Fergus, Judith Basin, and Petroleum Counties for decades and make a meaningful and positive impact on parents, providers, the business community, and most importantly children, ages 0-6, in Central Montana!"

The new organization plans to work with local providers to create new childcare slots, including nontraditional slots for infants and/or care on nights/weekends. They also plan to help new providers gain licensure, help existing providers improve their quality ratings, purchase equipment and help with minor building improvements for new and existing facilities, offer training opportunities for childcare workers, provide technical assistance and grant writing services, partner with the business community to explore innovative solutions to address childcare issues, create a childcare substitute pool, and help school districts create after-school and/or KinderStep programs.

Both Jennifer and CMCA President Julie Walsh emphasized the importance of raising long-term funding to address this issue. For more information, call Jennifer Pfau at 406.366.4777. To give a tax deductible donation to the CMCA pass through account with CMF, see the giving form on Page 14. ❖

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Memorials, Tributes & Donations - Thank You!

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June 23-September 15, 2022

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Megan Garoutte, Eva Long, Rick and Shelley Poss,
Geri Rector, Deb Stein

Respiratory Care

Paul Kaufman

Support for Nursing Excellence

In Memory of Darcy Lynn Dengel

Richard & Donna Dengel

In Memory of Mary Jo Durbin

Dan & Maria Durbin, Rob & Jessica Hicks & family

In Memory of Wayne Pallett

Richard & Donna Dengel

In Kind

Artwork - Jon & Diane Oldenburg

Blankets for Patients - Creative Critters 4H Club ❖

A Gift to Improve Life in Central Montana

A gift to Central Montana Foundation (CMF) helps improve life in Central Montana. CMF holds a long list of permanent endowments for local non-profit organizations, scholarships, pass through accounts, the Central Montana Medical Center Foundation (MCF) and community endowments. (See the list of funds on the following page.) You can give online through EZ-Gift using a credit card, or ACH withdrawal from a checking or savings account by going to www.centralmontanafoundation.com under the "Give a Gift" tab. Please consider setting up a recurring gift for your favorite cause, or, return this form with your donation.

- **To give to a CMF Permanent Endowment or Pass Through Account**, return this form to Central Montana Foundation, PO Box 334, Lewistown, MT 59457
- **To give to a Medical Center Foundation Fund**, return this form to Medical Center Foundation, 408 Wendell Ave., Lewistown, MT 59457
- **To give to a Community Endowment Fund**, return this form to the contact person for that fund listed on Page 6.

Given by _____ Date _____

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*** Please write checks to "CENTRAL MONTANA FOUNDATION," and designate to which fund your gift should be deposited in the memo line. You may write one check for multiple funds! Questions? Call CMF at 406.538.6130!**

www.centralmontanafoundation.com under the GIVE A GIFT tab to make your secure donation online!

Funds held with Central Montana Foundation

Unrestricted Endowments

(Funds grants awarded by CMF)

- Central Montana Foundation General
- Mildred Bryte Memorial □ Margie Wilkins
- Bertha Martin Estate □ John & Alice Janicek
- Rosie Pense Estate □ Chester Rickner Estate
- Gertrude Saxtorph □ Jr. Housel Family Fund
- Selma "Sally" Wells Estate □ George Mueller
- Terry Bragg

Permanent Endowments

- A.W. Johnson Family Fund
- Big Spring Creek Watershed Council
- Boys & Girls Club of Lewistown
- Casino Creek Dam Site Maintenance
- Central MT Community Concert (Audra Hegna)
- Central MT Community Cupboard
- Central Montana Fairgrounds
- Central Montana Family Planning
- Central Montana Head Start
- Central Montana Jaycees
- Central MT Medical Center Auxiliary
- Central Montana Memorial Gardens
- Central Montana Museum
- Central Montana Shrine Club
- Central Montana Youth Mentoring
- Cheadle Community Hall
- Council on Aging □ COA Bus
- Creekside Marketplace & Pavilion
- Crooked Creek Chapter, Walleyes
- Devin Moe Memorials: □ 4-H □ FHS
- Elks Lodge #456
- Emma Light Ag Building
- Fergus Community Leadership Partners
- Fergus County Farm Bureau
- Fergus Eagle Boosters
- Fergus FFA Alumni
- Fergus High School (FHS) Activity Fund
- FHS Speech & Drama (Quickenden)
- FHS Track & Tennis Court Maintenance (Kolar)
- First Presbyterian Church
- Forest Grove Cemetery
- Fort Maginnis Cemetery
- Friends of the Hobson Library
- Friends of the Library—Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Friends of the Pool
- Friends of the Trails
- Garfield County Fire Foundation
- Garfield County Health Center
- Heart of Montana Love INC
- Heath Rural Fire District
- High Notes for Kids
- Hilger Community Hall
- Hilger Fire Department
- Hobson Ambulance
- Hobson Rural Fire District
- Hobson Public School Montana Bale Trail
- Hobson Tiger Boosters
- Inspire Pregnancy Outreach
- Jawbone Creek Country Club Forever
- Judith Gap Methodist Church
- Judith Mountain Players
- Kiwanis Toys for Kids
- Lewistown Art Center
- Lewistown Assoc. for Mentally Handicapped
- Lewistown Boy Scouts
- Lewistown Ice Skating Association
- Lewistown Library □ Book Fund
- Lewistown Redbirds Baseball Association
- Lewistown Sea Lions
- Lewistown Swimming Pool

- Partnering for Resilience
- Petroleum County (Bratten)
- Petroleum Co. Road Maintenance (Teigen)
- Petroleum County Community Center
- Petroleum Co. Comm. Center Youth Program
- Recycle Our Waste Lewistown
- Saint James Episcopal Church
- Saint Paul Lutheran Church
- Save the Barns Maintenance
- Saving Animals From Euthanasia (SAFE)
- Ski for Light
- Softball Hall of Fame
- Small Wonder Child Care
- Snowy Mountain Development Corporation
- Summer Youth Programs
- SMILES (Supplemental Meals In Lewistown Elem. Schools)
- TCT Activities
- TORCH (Together Our Recovery Center Heals)
- United Methodist Church (Gen., Boy Scout, Help, Mission, Youth)
- Veteran's Memorial Park Maintenance
- Winifred American Lutheran Church
- Winifred Cemetery
- Winifred Community Ambulance
- Winifred Methodist Church
- Winifred Rural Fire District
- Winifred (Town) Water-Norm Asbjornson
- Young People in Recovery
- Your Neighbor Cares of Central Montana
- Zion Lutheran Church

Community Endowments

- Denton □ Philbrook Cemetery
- Denton Ambulance □ Judith Basin
- Garfield County □ Judith Gap
- Jordan Pool □ Moore
- Library □ Petroleum Co.
- Grass Range □ Roy
- Hobson □ Wheatland Co.
- Hobson School □ Winifred
- Pride of Judith

Scholarship Endowments

- Augra Hegna □ Brooks School
- Central Montana Foundation
- Central MT Manufacturing
- Chester Rickner □ Clarence & Mildred Smith
- Combs Family □ Dale Godfrey
- David Moodie Family
- Diane & Duane Dengel
- Don Romo □ Dorothy Ileene Eklund
- Dr. Frank & Patty Thompson
- Elmer Erickson Memorial
- Ervin Weinheimer □ Evelyn Beatty
- Fergus Electric Lineman
- Fergus Farm Mutual
- FCHS Class of 1935
- FHS & St. Leo's Class of 1964
- FHS Class of 1970 □ FHS Class of 1995
- FHS Class of 2019
- Gail Fox Memorial
- Germaine Stivers Memorial
- Gibson-Durbin Family
- Glenn Vogl Memorial Ag
- Hannah Bragg
- Harold & Bette Coolidge Nursing
- Helen F. Hruska Schultz
- Irene Miller
- Jack & Shirley Hughes (Grass Range & Winnett)
- James Schultz Memorial
- Jay & Janette Henderson
- Jerry Bergum Memorial
- Julie Kalin Memorial
- Kiwanis of Lewistown

- Leonard & Edith Brooks
- Lewistown Bowling Assoc. (Triumph)
- Little Belt Snowmobile Club
- Maiden School
- Marion Burke
- Maude Del Pimlott Estate
- Moore Farmer's Oil
- Moore Sisters
- Niels & Helen Kirkeminde
- Pat Descheemaeker Memorial
- Rachel Schaffer □ Ray & Nikoline Marr
- Roy & Jean Wunderlin
- Russell & Beatrice Murray
- Slater-Arganbright
- Stewart & Catherine Thomas
- Tom & Ellen Moe
- Walt & Wilma Kunau
- Willems Family
- Winifred Educational-Norm Asbjornson

Donor Advised Funds

- Dave & Donna Byerly
- Rich & Donna Dengel
- Horse Ranch
- Koffler Family
- Langbehn Family
- Lawrence & Kathleen Carrell
- Sherry & Eric Silberhorn
- Wells Fargo Bank

Pass Through Accounts

- Ackley Lake Club
- Central Montana Childcare Alliance
- Central Montana Shooting Complex
- Central Montana Youth Challenge
- Chokecherry Jam
- COVID-19 Relief
- Denton Swimming Pool
- Fergus County Courthouse Restoration
- Fergus Wrestling Club
- Friends of Head Start
- Friends of Saint Wenceslaus
- Garfield Ambulance Service, Inc.
- Garfield County Museum
- Girls Fast Pitch/Boys Cross Country
- Glitz, Glam & Gowns
- Heart of Montana Farm in the Dell
- Judith Basin Back Country Horsemen
- Lewistown Historic Accord
- Lewistown Police Dept. K9 Program
- Lewistown Soccer
- Montana Cowboy Poetry
- Roy School New Gym/Community Center
- Stanford School
- Tri-Co. Crisis Intervention Stress Management
- Winnett ACES-Odd Fellows Hall Rehabilitation
- Winnett Swimming Pool

Medical Center Foundation

- Behavioral Health
- Cancer Center
- Cardiac Rehab
- Darci's Gift □ Emergency Room
- Friends of 1st Responders
- General □ Home Health
- HOPE Fund □ Hospice
- Lab □ Radiology
- Respiratory Care □ Room Remodels
- Support for Nursing Excellence
- Vision 2000 □ Other _____

Central Montana Foundation
P.O. Box 334
Lewistown, MT 59457

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