

Moore Sisters' frugal lifestyle reaps large estate gift to local causes

By all accounts, Marilyn, Margaret and Orpha Moore lived a very frugal lifestyle. The three sisters chose to forgo most modern conveniences and by the time the last surviving sister, Marilyn, died in 2020, they had guietly amassed a small fortune.

Montana **Foundation** Central (CMF) received nearly \$800,000 earlier this summer from the Marilyn A. Moore Revocable Living Trust, with instructions for distribution to several non-profit entities in Winifred and Lewistown. There will be an additional small distribution once the estate is of Winifred in 1954. fully settled, and a small annual distri-

bution to each beneficiary for the next 15 years from a land sale.

Those who knew the Moore sisters have expressed delight over the unexpected gifts, as well as surprise over the size of the trust. The liquid assets with CMF distributed so far include:

- \$177,383 (25% of the assets) for the Moore Sisters Scholarship for graduates of Winifred High School. The scholarship is permanently endowed with CMF, and the income generated will be used for post-high school graduates.
- \$141,906 (20%) for Winifred Methodist Church to be used for capital improvements. The estate gift is held in a permanent endowment with CMF and will provide a source of perpetual funding.
- \$141,906 (15%) for Winifred Cemetery, owned by the Town of Winifred. Council member Shirley Benes said they are considering using some of the funding for a veterans' memorial park at the cemetery and are in the process of gathering names for the memorial and considering designs.
- \$106,429 (15%) for Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) which has been earmarked for the new cancer center, to be built by 2023. The Moore sisters' mother, Josephine, died of cancer in 1961, and Connie Heggem of Winifred said the sisters had described cancer as a "horrible disease" on more



Margaret, Marilyn & Orpha Moore pictured at the family ranch east

than one occasion.

- \$106,429 (15%) for Fergus County Council on Aging (COA). COA provided home-delivered meals to the sisters and did welfare checks on them when they lived in Lewistown.
- \$70,953 (10%) for Lewistown Public Library. Those who knew the Moore sisters said they loved to read. The funds were added to the endowment at CMF.

Their personal items of historical value were gifted to Winifred Museum and include meticulously-labeled (Photo courtesy of Winifred Museum) photo albums, an antique sewing machine, organ, trunks filled with

the Moore sisters' handiwork including needlework, crocheted doilies, table runners and a guilt, their mother's wedding dress and other clothing circa 1930-50s.

The Moore girls were the daughters of James Washington Moore and Josephine Violetta (Rusch) Moore. Marilyn Alice was born in 1936, Margaret Ruth in 1937 and Orpha Dell in 1940. Their father, James, died just a few weeks after Orpha's birth in 1940.

Shirley Benes keeps the records for Winifred Cemetery and has a family history written by Marilyn in her later years. In it, Marilyn described how their mother rented out the cropland for the few years following James death until the girls were a little older and could all pitch in to run the farm.

The girls attended a small country school, Gerhard School, near the Moore farm 12 miles east of Winifred when they were young. At some point they transitioned to homeschooling and earned their GEDs. Working alongside their mother, they kept the farm/ranch running for another 21 years. Neighbors remember seeing the Moore girls out fixing fence in their dresses and

Moore Sisters . . .

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"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But...the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?"

Thank you to CMMC for sponsoring this edition's color!

(MCF) is the generous sponsor of this full-color ediposition (see related story on page 8) and recalled the tion of The Roundup newsletter, a joint publication of many successful capital campaigns led by MCF that Central Montana Foundation (CMF) and MCF.

"We have a great newsletter and presenting the facility improvements to CMMC. full-color edition is a gift to our readership," said MCF Manager Ann Tuss.

career at Central Montana Medical Center - most and plans to continue a tradition of helping advance tance," Ann said. MCF's mission to advocate confidence in and support tral Montana.

finest award winning frontier critical access hospital communities." in Montana.

Long-time MCF Advisory Board chair Karen Kuhl- call the MCF office at 406.535.6309.

Central Montana Medical Center Foundation mann recently announced her retirement from the have brought state-of-the-art medical equipment and

Besides helping with medical equipment, program services and building upgrades at CMMC, MCF also Ann will be retiring in October after a 36-year grants funding to projects off the CMMC campus. "We've helped rural ambulance services with equipof that time was spent with MCF. Abby Franks (see ment and training needs and frequently help other related story on page 6) will take the reins at MCF, non-profit charities seeking health-related assis-

"We're able to assist Central Montana projects health services, programs and practitioners of Cen- thanks to the generosity of our donors and all contributions to MCF stay in Central Montana," stressed MCF has an advisory board made up of a talented Ann. "We're a Foundation that not only helps group of Central Montanans who are quick to roll up strengthen CMMC, but brings together people to their sleeves to help CMMC maintain its status as the make a positive impact for their hospital, town and

For more information about MCF and/or CMMC,

Moore Sisters . . .

headscarves; never in work pants. This was the attire they continued to wear throughout their lives.

When Josephine died in the spring of 1961, the Moore girls "combined their farm interest with employment in Lewistown," according to Marilyn's written account. Marilyn and Margaret worked many years at the hospital and nursing home as aides or LPNs and in the laundry.

Ed and Connie Heggem were long-time lessees of the Moore farm and knew them about as well as anyone. Ed described them as "shy" and particularly skittish around men and Connie recalled that they always wore scarves and dresses. They made regular trips back to their Winifred property and when they had business to conduct with the Heggems, Connie said that Margaret was the spokesperson and "all business." Margaret and Marilyn would stand on their steps to talk, while Orpha stayed in the vehicle.

The Moore girls moved to Billings for a time during the 1960s to attend Eastern Montana College. Judy Heggem was a student there at the time and remembers seeing all three on campus "wearing their fuzzy pink coats and head scarves." Ed Heggem said he remembers seeing Margaret's teaching certificate at their home, but she never

The Heggems regularly checked in on the sisters at their rented single-wide trailer house in Lewistown. Ed said they had a radio and a record player on which they played old country records, but shunned the idea of having a TV and telephone. At one point, they relented and installed a phone, but within a short time removed it. "If they wanted to talk to us they just drove out or would borrow a neighbor's phone."

Marilyn was the only sister that had a driver's license, and Ed said they took good care of their vehicles, which included a mid-'50s Ford car and two pickups.

The Heggems and others who knew the Moore girls said they were pleasant, but avoided social events. However, Ed said that even after they moved to Lewistown they knew what was going on in Winifred. "Those girls kept track of everybody; they knew how many kids they had and their ages. It always amazed me that they kept up on everybody."

Connie said the ladies liked little kids and sent birthday cards to the Boyce girls, who were neighContinued from Page 1

bors at the Winifred ranch. "I took my grandkids to see Marilyn once and she was so tickled."

The Heggems tried to help out the sisters and brought them baked goods and candy, as they all loved sweets. The Heggems said they never wasted food and kept things well past their expiration, and wore their clothes until they were threadbare. "I guess they could've afforded anything they wanted, but they just lived frugally," Ed said.

When Connie noticed that the sweater Marilyn always wore had holes in the elbows, she bought her a new one for Christmas. Marilyn said it was "too nice to wear," and although they saw it draped across a chair in their living room, Connie said to her knowledge she never did actually wear the new sweater.

Marilyn continued to live in the trailer house alone after her sisters died until being moved to Valle Vista the last few years of her life.

Living frugally was likely a necessity when their mother was raising three daughters alone and running the farm, and it was a lifestyle they continued. They pinched pennies, all the while building wealth to be distributed to charitable causes.

David & Anne Leininger's charitable annuity helps local charities

David (Dave) and Anne Leininger were facing a large tax liability when they sold their ranch and agri-recreation property in 2014. After strategizing with their accountant Stacie Arntzen, they decided to fund a deferred charitable gift annuity with \$55,000 through Central Montana Foundation (CMF).

The couple were looking at sizeable capital gains taxes on the sale of their property. "We were going to pay somebody and decided we'd rather help our local charities instead of giving it all to the government," Dave said.

Shortly after the end of the required five-year deferment period in December 2020, the gift grew from \$55,000 to nearly \$76,000, which was disbursed to the permanent endowments of local

non-profits and churches they chose as beneficiaries. There will be another smaller disbursement coming to be split amongst the beneficiaries, bringing the total gift amount to around \$80,000!



David and Anne Leininger's planned gift benefits local charities.

Beneficiaries include Boys & Girls Club of Lewistown, Central Montana Community Cupboard, Lewistown Public Library, St. James Episcopal Church and Zion Lutheran Church.

With a deferred charitable gift annuity, the

donor is able to take a federal tax deduction in the year the annuity is set up and in addition, earns a tax credit in Montana. (The Leiningers saved about \$10,000 on federal and state income taxes and in addition, earned a \$20,000 tax credit.)

The planned gift must be directed to a permanent endowment where the principal remains intact and the income earned is available for the charity to spend. All of the beneficiaries have endowments with CMF.

"Having a permanent endowment is an asset that improves the value of the organization," Anne emphasized, noting that it shows good planning for an organization to have a perpetual source of funding. "It's a corner-

stone that they can continue to build on and provides credibility."

Like his grandfather and father before him, Dave has farmed throughout his life. In 1976 Dave and his family moved on to and operated the ranch on Lower Cottonwood Creek Road.

Anne met Dave through her work with Aid Association for Lutherans (now Thrivent Financial). She had a long career in charitable work with several non-profits before working with AAL. Anne and her daughter had moved to Lewistown, as her territory included a large portion of Central Montana. She and Dave married in 1996. She continued working with AAL for a few years before deciding to work alongside Dave full-time on the ranch on Lower Cottonwood Creek Road.

They diversified their operation into an agri-recreation property, building several rental cabins that were very successful. "We worked hard and it was a wonderful experience," Anne said.

Although they loved what they were doing, they decided to sell due to health issues. They now live in a home on a small acreage in Lewistown and are enjoying improved health and a bit slower pace during their retirement.

The couple agree that the planned gift they set up has been a win/win situation. "I lived here my whole life, and this is where we made our living. It feels good that we were able to keep some of that money here to help Lewistown," Dave said.

For more information on setting up a planned gift, contact your attorney or accountant or CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130.

Saunders' gift helps CMMC patients during COVID

The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought months long lockdowns at healthcare facilities, including Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC). Recognizing the toll that takes on patients, one local couple decided they could do something to help.

Fred and Jennifer Saunders of Grass Range purchased a couple of iPads and donated them to CMMC's acute care. Jennifer said she had a great time downloading books, music and games on the iPads that were appropriate for kids to adults. "It was so fun shopping! I downloaded music from country to classical and it was especially fun shopping for the children's books."



Fred & Jennifer Saunders

Jennifer had spent a great deal of time with her parents when they were hospitalized, and knew that those visits bring comfort to both patients and their loved ones. "Being in isolation is so hard on everyone," she said. Having the iPads gives the patients something to do, and also provided a means of communication through FaceTime, Zoom and other platforms. Jennifer said getting them online posed a bit of a challenge due to security issues, but the problem was solved when Verizon donated "Hotspots" so the iPads could be set up independently off the CMMC server.

The Saunders live east of Grass Range and own and operate Heart S Livestock Marketing. Jennifer is the Fergus/Petroleum 4-H Program Assistant and is well-known in Central Montana for her volunteerism. She's helped organize Lewistown Downtown Association events, Bright Country Nights, Chokecherry Jam, and most recently, was a liaison who helped get donated supplies dropped off at the 4-H Food Booth at the fairgrounds to fire-fighters in Winifred and Denton during the Taylor Fire in August.

CMMC Foundation Manager Ann Tuss thanked the Saunders for seeing a need and taking action. "It's people like them that make Central Montana so special."

CMF awarding nearly \$310,000 in scholarships for 2021-22

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) is pleased to announce the award of nearly \$310,000 in scholarships to 125 Central Montana students for the 2021-2022 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:

- Norman Asbjornson Educational: Dyauni Boyce, Caraleigh Bristol, Tyler Urion, Anna Slivka, Matthew Slivka, Rebecca DeMars, Olivia Geer, Cassandra Smith, Justin Stulc, Tatum Tillman and Jayda Wichman, \$5,490 each.
 - Audra Hegna: Daniel Thackeray, \$1,000.
 - Brooks Area: Colin Gilpatrick, \$5,560.
- Bruce Landru (Hobson High School): Reba Watson and Allison Wertheimer, \$500 each.
- Central Montana Manufacturing: Shaun Dinsmore, \$1,000.
 - Chester Rickner: James Taurman-Aldrich, \$500.
- Clarence and Mildred Smith: Trinity Edwards, Madison Affolder, James Taurman-Aldrich, Jasmine Brinley, Morgan Corean, Libby Fried-Jenness, Kacee Gordon, Danielle Horan, Michael Sura and Hailey Welsh, \$1,500 each.
- Central Montana Foundation (Community Service): Natalie Day, \$1,702.
- Combs Family: Jacy Ayers, Sadie Johnson and Trace Martin, \$1,000 each.
- Dale Godrey: Colin Gilpatrick, \$500.
- David Moodie Family: Bradley Denton and Mathew Weeden, \$1,500 each.
 - Don Romo: Cole Ayers, \$500.
- Dorothy Ileene Eklund: Gabriel Arndt, Rebecca Bawden, Allison Denton, Chloe Derks, Josephine Friesen, Gregory Fulbright, Jenna Gibson, Abby Gremaux, Julia Grubb, Jessica class's achievements at grad-Horan, Tanner Trafton, Sydney Von Bergen, Alex Wickens and uation in May 2021. Derrik Zimmerman, \$1,500 each.
 - Doug Delaney: Jasmine Brinley, \$500.
 - Elmer Erickson: Garrett Eickhoff, \$700.
 - Ervin Weinheimer: Bradley Denton, \$1,500.
- Evelyn Beatty: Samuel Fulbright, Tanner Trafton and June LePage, \$1,200 each.
 - Fergus Farm Mutual: Brooke Rector and Sadie Johnson, \$1,000 each.
 - Fergus FFA Alumni/Tom Phillips Ag Memorial: Levi Poser, \$500.
- Fergus County High School Class of 1935: Riley Anderson, Cooper Birdwell, Natalie Day, Michael deGuzman, Shaun Dinsmore, Mariah Fogle, Gregory Fulbright, Colin Gilpatrick, Chelsea Jensen, Emily Kolstad, Elizabeth Kuhlmann, Macy Mangold, Jessica Morgan, Jalen Robinson, Brian Schulz, Cialceo Smith, Daniel Thackeray, Tanner Trafton, Bailey Uecker and Kylie Zimmer, \$1,500 each.
 - FHS Class of 1995: Brock Hoots, \$250.
 - FHS/St. Leo's Class of 1964: Jessica Bolton, \$500.
 - Fergus High School Class of 2019: Emily Newton, \$350.
- Frank and Patty Thompson: Dakota Auck, Jake Henderson and Conner Mannin, \$1,000 each.
 - Gail Fox Memorial: Brooke Rector, \$500.
 - Garfield County Endowment: Riata Bolinger, Tabatha Bunger, Rebekah



FHS Senior Class President Taylin Trafton celebrates her

Fillmore, Liberty Fogle, Isabella Pierce, \$500 each.

- Garfield County Endowment/Floyd & Sylvia Lilienthal Trust: Riata Bolinger, Tabatha Bunger, Rebekah Fillmore, Liberty Fogle, Jenna Gibson, Isabella Pierce, Brynn Ryan and Rachel Ryan, \$2,000 each.
 - Gibson-Durbin Family: Seth Norslien, \$1,000.
 - Glenn Vogl Memorial Ag: Jacy Ayers, \$350.
- Hannah Bragg: Daniel Thackeray, \$500.
- Harold and Bette Coolidge Nursing: Logan Errecart,
- Helen Hruska-Schultz: Colin Gilpatrick and Jada Hartman, \$1,000 each.
- Horse Ranch Donor Advised Fund: Rachael Simons and Sadie Johnson, \$1,000 each.
 - Irene Miller: Julia Grubb, \$500.
- Jack and Shirley Hughes (Grass Range High School): Garrett Eickhoff and Nola Goss, \$1,000 each.
- · Jack and Shirley Hughes (Winnett High School): Madison Skinner and Derrik Zimmerman, \$1,000 each.
- James Schultz: Bailey Uecker, \$500.
- Jay and Janette Henderson: Zoe Seaford, \$1,000.
- Julie Kalin Memorial: Rachael Simons, \$2,000.
- Leonard and Edith Brooks: Max Tyler, \$1,000.
- Lewistown Art Center: Hanna Franz, \$500.
- Lewistown Bowling Association: Xander Wright and Katie Wise, \$1,000 each.
- Lewistown Kiwanis: June LePage, \$1,500; Natalie Day, Elizabeth Hickey, Sean Kunau, Brooke Rector, Daniel Thackeray and Taylin Trafton, \$1,000 each; Jessica Morgan, \$500.
 - Little Belt Snowmobile Club: Sadie Johnson, \$500.
 - Maiden: Jacy Ayers, \$925.
 - Marion I. Burke: Wyatt Terry, \$450.
- Maude Del Pimlott: Rebecca Bawden, Sean Kunau and Macy Mangold, \$1,500 each.
- Neils and Helen Kirkeminde: Katelyn Bacon, Brandon Bergum, Sierra Durbin, Maddie Fischer, Austin Grove, Mamie Hertel,

Danielle Horan, Timothy Horan, Jordan Nees, Max Tyler and Tucker Walter, \$5,100 each.

- Pat Descheemaeker: Samuel Fulbright and Kylie Zimmer, \$500 each.
- Petroleum County Endowment: Brynn Jolma, \$1,000, and Madison Skinner,
- Rachel Schaffer: Shelby Long, \$550.
- Ray and Nikoline Marr: Hanna Franz, Carson Lewis and Taylin Trafton, \$3,000 each; Maddie Fischer, \$1000; Matthew Slivka, \$800; June LePage, \$700; and Nola Goss, \$500.
- Rich & Donna Dengel: Amber Lynn Berry, Brittany Frank, Jordan Johnson, Lyndy Powers, Jessica Grosvold, Brooke Rector, Lorianne Stulc, \$2,000 each; Hadlee Bleskin, Michaela Larson, Lindsey Anderson, Samantha Johnson and Holly Matovich, \$1,000 each.
 - Slaterbright: Gregory Fulbright, \$2,000.
 - Stewart and Catherine Thomas: Elizabeth Hickey, \$1,250.
- Tom & Ellen Moe: Trace Martin, \$400.
- Willems Family: Karli Lane, \$1,000; Johnny Mysse, Cody Nelson, Jason Tod-

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CMF Scholarships . . .

Willems Family Scholarship fund helps Harlowton students

Robert (Bob) and Phyllis Willems are continuing their long tradition of helping Harlowton students by setting up a scholarship fund with Central Montana Foundation (CMF).

The Willems began awarding scholarships from a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) nearly 15 years ago and contacted CMF earlier this year about setting up an endowment specifically dedicated to scholarships. The fund was approved in May and they immediately awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to seven Harlowton graduating senior and post high school students.

Bob was born in a log cabin on

his family's land in Dutch Coulee on the south side of the Big Snowy Mountains. He's lived his entire life in Harlowton, with the exception of serving a two-year stint in the Navy towards the end of WWII. He worked for Lane Chevrolet as a mechanic when he left the service in 1946. He opened Bob's Phillips 66, then bought Harlowton Creamery in 1953. In 1966 Bob bought Wojtowick Motors, renaming it Cross Triangle Motors; Phyllis then ran the creamery until their son, Bob, took over the business in 1972.

Bob and Phyllis now reside at Wheatland Memorial Nursing Home and Bob celebrated his 95th birthday on Sept. 24. Bob said he met Phyllis when he was helping at a motorcycle hill climb race outside of Harlowton after the war. He'd burned his hand on an exhaust pipe, and after icing it and having a couple of cold beers for the pain, found the nerve to ask Phyllis out on a date. They dated about a year while she



Robert and Phyllis Willems of Harlowton are continuing their but his employer gave him a raise tradition of awarding scholarships to Harlowton students and enticed him to stay. through a new scholarship endowment with CMF.

finished high school and werere married June 16, 1949.

The couple raised two children, Bob and Becky (Willems) Livingston, and Becky said her parents instilled in them the value of education. (Bob attended MSU; Becky and her daughter, Dawn, both hold Masters degrees.)

Bob had attended Officer's Candidate School while in the Navy and loved learning. After he left the service and was working as a mechanic, he contemplated going to college to become a teacher,

Bob served nearly 14 years on the Harlowton School Board and

during that time, became very aware that some students needed a helping hand to continue their education. He'd bought some mutual funds in 1953 and had about \$5,000 in an investment policy. "I never touched it and it just grew and grew until about 1996 and I cashed the policy." He put it into the DAF and let the endowed fund appreciate while recommending some of the income from the DAF for scholarships and other charitable gifts.

While being interviewed for this article, Bob said he was hoping they'd be able to watch the Harlowton Girls Volleyball Team play on a sports channel later that afternoon and said they enjoy following the student activities. "And, I want to keep adding to that scholarship fund," he said.

Applications for this and other scholarships held with CMF will be available online in December. Call CMF at 406.538.6130 for more information.

Class of '70 grows its scholarship at 50th Reunion

Fergus County High School Class of 1970 opened a scholarship endowment with Central Montana Foundation (CMF) in 2002 with \$1,000. Through the years, a few classmates added to it and it continued to earn dividends and interest, but the fund hadn't reach the point where there was enough income earned to annually award a scholarship.

With the 50th Class Reunion approaching, a few of the class members decided it was time to make a concerted effort to grow the fund. CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth armed them with information about the scholarship and how it earns income, and at the 50th Reunion dinner in late August, Gene Meier and Ken Munski encouraged classmates to give a tax-deductible gift to the scholarship fund. Dana Leininger, has been giving to the scholarship fund and encouraged her classmates to do the same.

Gene rallied the crowd by kicking off the effort to add to the scholarship fund by pledging to write a check that night and many others took the challenge. In the weeks following the reunion, class members have added more than \$14,000 to the fund, bringing the



FCHS Class of '70 at the 50th Class Reunion in August. total fund balance to just over \$30,000!

FCHS Class of '70 Scholarship Committee plans to award its first scholarship through CMF in 2022 and are working out the criteria. For more information about the CMF Scholarship program call 406.538.6130. ��

Abby Franks accepts position as CMMC Foundation Director

Accepting the position as Central Montana Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Director wasn't an easy decision for Abby Franks, who spent the last 16 years at Boys & Girls Club of Lewistown.

"It's bittersweet," Abby said, adding that she had no reason to leave the Boys and Girls Club and "loved the job, its mission and the donors." With that said, she's excited to work on behalf of CMMC and said, "It's a huge puzzle piece in how it impacts our community."

Earlier this year, Abby helped the Club launch a project called "Knots 4 Life," in which the kids made and sold paracord bracelets to raise money for the 3D Mammography Campaign. It was an idea that stemmed from a presentation to the kids by current

MCF Manager Ann Tuss, who is retiring in October. That project inspired Abby and she invited three of the Club volunteers who were cancer survivors to a check presentation with MCF at the Club. "Two of the three had their breast cancer diagnosed from the 3D mammo," Abby said. "I wanted the kids to see how their project helped buy a machine that saves lives."

Abby (Hotz) was raised on a farm in Iowa and is a graduate of Iowa State University. She worked two years at American Cancer Society in Minneapolis before moving to Lewistown in 2004. She is an avid archery hunter and loves to hike and from the time she moved here, she said Central Montana just seemed "right" for her.



Abby Franks and her son, Tine.

Abby is married to Pete Franks and they have a 5-year-old son, Tine. A stepson, Devin and his wife, Courtney, complete the family.

"I'm honored to accept this amazing position at the hospital," she said, adding that she's especially excited to be part of the capital campaign for the cancer center. Plans are to break ground next spring and have it completed in 2023. "This campaign is going to be a very impactful campaign." Patients currently travel up to 220 miles, sometimes five days a week, for radiation and other treatments, so the CMMC Cancer Center will fill that coverage gap and allow them to stay closer to home. Abby also noted the huge economic impact that will have for Lewistown.

CMMC CEO Cody Langbehn said he's excited that Abby will join the CMMC family. "We are lucky to have someone with her talent and ties to the community leading the Foundation as we embark on our new cancer center's capital campaign."

Abby will begin her new position part-time on Oct. 18 while transitioning from Boys & Girls Club into early December, before launching into the MCF job full-time. "It feels like I'm not just closing a chapter, but I'm starting a new book," Abby said. "My work will continue to be for Central Montana and I love that I'll continue working with donors and community members."



Community Endowment Contact List & Fund Balances

as of August 31, 2021

- Denton Endowment, \$138,770; Denton Ambulance, \$203,486
 Josh Webber, Farmers State Bank, P.O. Box 1047, Denton, MT 59430, phone, 406-567-2226
- Garfield County Endowment, \$28,134; Jordan Swimming Pool, \$9,603; Library Fund, \$1,502 Holly Harbaugh, PO Box 395, Jordan, MT 59337, phone, 406-557-2324
- Grass Range Endowment, \$75,754; Hughes Scholarship/Grass Range, \$89,334
 Debby Olson, 401 7th Ave. So., Apt. 208, Lewistown, MT 59457, phone, 406-366-0370
- Hobson Endowment, \$32,906

Hobson End. School, \$8,590; Philbrook Cemetery, \$1,935; Pride of the Judith, \$9,506 Bill Hesselbart, PO Box 433, Hobson, MT 59452, phone, 406-423-5369

- Judith Basin County/Stanford Endowment, \$245,193; Stanford Pool, \$3,369
 Tess Brady, PO Box 221, Stanford, MT 59479, phone, 406-566-2633
- Judith Gap Endowment, \$41,891

Tim Mauws, PO Box 125, Judith Gap, MT 59453, phone, 406-473-2366

• Moore Endowment, \$130,692

Gary Greenwood, PO Box 133, Moore, MT 59464, phone, 406-374-2363

• Petroleum County Endowment, \$149,592

Petro. County Community Center, \$289,866; Hughes Scholarship/Petroleum Co., \$70,854 Gari King, PO Box 125, Winnett, MT 59087, phone, 406-429-5821

- Roy Endowment, \$36,546
 - Shelly Willmore, River Route, Roy, MT 59471, phone, 406-464-7411
- Wheatland County Community Endowment, \$49,129; Wheatland Co. Fairgrounds, \$29,420
 Mandie Reed, PO Box 733, Harlowton, MT 59036, phone, 406-240-1954
- Winifred Endowment, \$125,268 Shirley Benes, PO Box 3, Winifred, MT 59489, phone, 406-462-5316

Central
Montana
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Community
Endowment
Funds

TOTAL:

\$1,771,340

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SMDC sets up endowment with memorials for Kathie Bailey

Snowy Mountain Development Corporation (SMDC) lost its executive director, Kathie Bailey, to cancer on May 14, 2021. One of the things on her very long to do list was to establish a permanent endowment for SMDC. She ran out of time to accomplish that task, but her family and staff acted to carry out her wishes.

SMDC now has a permanent endowment with Central Montana Foundation (CMF) funded with more than \$4,000 in memorials for Kathie.

CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth had several conversations with Kathie over the last year and a half in which Kathie expressed her desire to establish the endowment where donors could help add another layer of long-term sustainability for SMDC, which is a six-county economic development organization.

the position at CMF in late 2012," Carrie said. "I saw first-hand how much Kathie loved her work and the people of Central Montana. She was passionate about it and was one of the most creative and intelligent people I've ever met. This endowment gives donors with an interest in seeing our area thrive, the opportunity to give a tax-deductible gift to support SMDC's mission."



Kathie Bailey, 1956-2021

Kathie (Sramek) Bailey was the first executive director at SMDC, which was founded in 2001. She was instrumental in building the organization into the poster child for economic development in the State of Montana. SMDC has a long list of accomplishments and projects related to business development, brownfields redevelopment project, leadership education and training, homebuyer education and more recently, became the first and only economic development agency in the U.S. designated by U.S. HUD as an EnVision Center.

"Central Montana's community and economic landscape reflects the hundreds and thousands of hours and dollars Kathie invested passionately, selflessly, humbly and honorably in the State and the people she

"I worked with Kathie and SMDC for more than a decade before taking loved so deeply," said SMDC Interim Executive Director Sara Hudson. "Carly (Wheatley, SMDC's Deputy Director) and I are committed to growing this endowment for generations to come. We are grateful for your investments in SMDC. And, we are honored to help you build our communities' community and economic capital for the betterment of all."

> To give to SMDC's permanent endowment, see the giving form on Page 15. For more information about SMDC, call 406.535.2591.

Winnett ACES opens pass through for Odd Fellows Hall project

Thanks to volunteers and donors, the historic Odd Fellows Hall in Winnett is getting a new lease on life.

The site where the vacant Odd Fellows Hall stands was chosen as the best location for the Petroleum County Community Center (PCCC), and local history buffs decided the Odd Fellows Hall was worth saving.

account with Central Montana Founda- onto its new foundation in October. tion (CMF) where donors can help fund the relocation and re-purposing of the building.

Odd Fellows Hall was built around 1914 and formerly served as the meeting place for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Rebekahs and Theta Rho Girls' Club in the second story, while housing several businesses through the years on the first floor. Locals remember that it first housed a pool hall, later a pharmacy and soda fountain, then more recently was home of Winnett's once-popular Sugar Shack. Project organizers envision that the building will provide needed business or retail space once its relocated and rehabilitated.

With the help of about 20 local volunteers donating 250 hours of their time and talents, PCCC completing asbestos abatement, a \$10,000 major grant from CMF and other financial contributions, the



Winnett ACES's Community Enhance- Volunteers and donors are helping breathe new life into Win- allowed us to begin to think about ment Committee set up a pass through nett's Odd Fellows Hall. The historic building will be movedPhase II, which is rehabilitating the ex-

project is well on its way.

Laura Nowlin with Winnett ACES said the re-purposing of the building has been split into phases. Phase I includes everything associated with moving the building, and recently received a big boost from Larry and Kathi Carrell.

"Larry and Kathi's donation closed our funding gap for Phase I and it also

terior," Laura said. Phase III of the project addresses interior construction: electri-

cal, plumbing, heating and new walls.

The new foundation is ready at the new site for the Odd Fellows Hall on Main Street across from the post office, and the building will be relocated onto the foundation in October.

Laura said they're appreciative to the Carrells, CMF and so many others who have donated to the New Life for Odd Fellows Hall project, and are hopeful that financial support will continue in order to complete all three phases.

To contribute to Winnett ACES Odd Fellows Hall pass through, see the giving form on Page 15. For more information about the project, call Laura at 406.429.4832.

Small Wonder Childcare establishes permanent endowment

Small Wonder Child Care, Inc. established a pass through account with Central Montana Foundation (CMF) in 2018, and recently transitioned to a permanent endowment.

Small Wonder's Executive Director Lacey Gloyne said their hope is that with donor help, they can build the permanent endowment enough that the dividends and income could be used to pay utilities and monthly expenses. "This would allow Small Wonder to maintain wages and other operating expenses without having to always increase tuition. We want to be able to provide quality care to Central Montana as affordably as possible. Our long term goal would be

to provide scholarships for our staff to continue their higher education in Early Childhood Education."

A generous donation and match challenge from Newell and Linda Roche provided the seed money for the new permanent endowment. "We are donating as grandparents who are grateful for the exemplary care that our three grandchildren received during their years at Small Wonder," Linda wrote. "We are hopeful that other past, present and future grandparents will tep forward to match this gift."

Small Wonder Child Care was established more

Small Wonder . . .

Continued on Page 9



Small Wonder Child Care is a non-profit providing early education and child care services.

MCF Board chair Karen Kuhlmann announces resignation after nearly 20 years

After 20 years of service, Karen Kuhlmann announced her resignation from the Central Montana Medical Center Foundation (MCF) Advisory Board.

Karen was the chair of the board since 2007. In her resignation letter dated July 27, 2021, she said, "I have always given my best effort to every challenge and task given the MCF Advisory Board and been a strong, positive advocate for the hospital, its services and physicians."

When Karen joined the MCF Advisory Board, she had already learned a great deal about CMMC as she had been volunteering with CMMC Auxiliary since 2000 after she and her husband, Bill, relocated to Lewistown from Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. Bill had a general dentistry and prosthodontic practice in a CMMC medical suite for many years.

She appreciated working with former MCF chairman, Don Pfau, followed by Dale Longfellow. When she accepted the chair position in 2007, she worked closely with MCF Manager Ann Tuss on one successful capital campaign after another, including procuring amenities for the MRI suite, construction of a new emergency room and lab



Ann Tuss and Karen Kuhlmann have made a great team at MCF.

Continued from Page 4

CMF Scholarships . . .

hunter, Garret Woldstad and Ryan Fenley, \$500 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 added a few more scholarship endowments in the last year and our scholarship program continues to grow," said CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth.

CMF President Dean Comes said the scholarship program is a huge source of pride and satisfaction for CMF Board of Directors and staff. These permanent endowments earn dividends and income, which are a perpetual source of funding for scholarship awards.

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 for bearing some of the expenses. FHS Counselor Karen Durbin (who retired at the end of the school year), Fergus County Superintendent Rhonda Long and former county superintendent Shirley Barrick all volunteer a great deal of time on the scholarship program. "They are my 'go-to' people to continually improve the process," Carrie said.

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 2022-23 year will be available on the Fergus High School and CMF websites in December. For more information about establishing a scholarship fund with CMF or about the scholarship program contact CMF Executive Director Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130.

and most recently, the acquisition of a 3D Mammogram and Breast Biopsy System.

Ann is retiring next month after a 36-year career at CMMC, with well over two decades of service with MCF.

"I have grown to trust and admire those on the MCF Advisory Board, and especially Ann," Karen said. "Together we've made a great team, accomplishing our fund-raising goals and always contributing to a positive flow of communication within the Central Montana community."

When Ann announced her impending retirement, Karen decided it was a good time for her to step down as well. It's the end of an era for MCF and both Ann and Karen are looking forward to watching the next MCF advocates continue great work.

CMMC CEO Cody Langbehn said, "During the short time I was able to work alongside Karen, it was evident the immense passion she has for the CMMC Foundation, its mission and the people she served alongside. Karen was a force of positive energy that rubbed off on everyone she encountered. Her talents and smile will be missed by all."

CMF awards nearly \$13,000 in minor grants over last quarter

Central Montana Foundation (CMF) Board of Directors has awarded nearly \$13,000 in minor grants (those under \$5,000) at its monthly meetings over the last quarter to a variety of non-profit organizations in Central Montana!

Congratulations to the following organizations receiving grants:

- Big Spring Creek Watershed Council: A grant of \$3,000 was awarded to Big Spring Creek Watershed Council to pay for an insert in the Lewistown News-Argus of a booklet about the watershed. A similar booklet was published in 1997, but is out of print and needed to be updated. "The Big Spring Creek Watershed — Lewistown's Lifeline," provides information and photographs pertaining to the natural resources, recreation, economics, best management practices, stream ecosystems and citizen involvement.
- Lewistown Park and Recreation: A grant of \$2,000 was awarded to Lewistown Park and Recreation to be used nually for many years, in part from the a hand-sanitizing station and daycare supplies. Summer Youth Activities fund at CMF.

Another \$1,000 grant from the Koffler Family Donor Advised Fund was a surprise bonus for the project. Park and Recreations Director Jim Daniels said these grants allowed 32 low income children to use the Aquatics Complex throughout this past summer with the purchase of season passes for their use. Jim said, "It's important to make sure Johnny or Sally are not on the outside looking in!"

- Yellowstone Boys and Girls Club Foundation: CMF granted \$600 to Yellowstone Boys & Girls Ranch (YBGR) to be used for the installation of hand railing for the front entrance of the Community Based Services (CBS) in Lewistown. The front is used by children, staff, parents and quardians, etc. and is a safety concern since it has no railing to assist individuals entering the building.
- Central Montana Rodeo Club: CMF Directors granted \$4,000 to Central Montana Rodeo Club to assist with the expenses related to hosting the Montana Junior High and High School Rodeo in Lewistown August 21-22. About 150 contestants from across the state and from the Central Montana Rodeo Club compete at the largest rodeo of the season. The event is an economic shot in the arm for Central Montana as contestants and their



Geyser School Business Manager Jayme Simonis brought her twins, Harper and Hudson Annala, to the August meeting of for swim passes for underprivileged CMF Board of Directors to talk about the grant request for youth. CMF has funded this project an- Geyser Daycare. The non-profit received a grant for \$2,979 for tor Carrie Mantooth at 406.538.6130.

families and rodeo fans converge for the weekend in Lewistown.

• Geyser Daycare: Geyser Daycare received a \$2,979 grant to purchase a hand sanitizing station, paint, and a variety of equipment and supplies for the daycare located in the old gymnasium at the Geyser School. Geyser School's Business Manager Jayme Simonis submitted the request and brought her 5-monthold twins to the CMF Board of Directors meeting in August. She emphasized how important it is to have safe daycare accommodations for her and the other working mothers in the area. CMF funded the hand sanitizing station from its COVID-19 Relief fund.

CMF Directors consider grant requests at the monthly meetings held on the fourth Tuesday. Grants are funded from income earned on CMF's unrestricted endowments. For more information about eligibility see www.centralmontanafoundation.com under the "Applications" tab or call CMF Executive Direc-

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Small Wonder . . .

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than 30 years ago and is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization governed by a board of directors. It provides child care and early classroom instruction for about 200 children a year, ages 6 weeks through 12-years of age, with a staff of 30 or more. Lacey said Small Wonder provides a nurturing, supportive, and structured environment and curriculum that encourages the growth and development of each child's unique qualities.

To give a tax deductible gift to Small Wonder Child Care's permanent endowment, see the giving form on Page 15. Contact Lacey at Small Wonder Child Care at 406.538.8936 for more information.

Former Hospice House gets new mission

The former Hospice House on the west side of the Central Montana Medical Center is now the McKinley Street Conference Center.

The conference center provides a valuable service to CMMC staff and community hosting teleconferencing, educational trainings and support group meetings.

Medical Center Foundation grants nearly \$15,000 to local projects

Central Montana Medical Center trained pool and civic center staff on Foundation (MCF) Advisory Board has recommended nearly \$15,000 in few months including the following:

· Lewistown Park & Recreation **Department:** A grant for \$2,500 was awarded from the Friends of 1st Reawarded for the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and cabinet to house it. Park & Recreation Director Jim Daniels thanked MCF for the grant and said they will keep the AED at the Lewistown Aquatic Complex granted from the Friends of 1st Rein the summer and the Civic Center in the winter. "This purchase allows us to enhance our safety measures for our and a well trained staff. CMMC EMS also

how to use the AED.

- **HOPE:** MCF granted \$750 from the grants to local projects over the last HOPE fund to help a CMMC employee in personal crisis.
 - **CMMC EMS:** A grant of \$5,561 was sponders fund to CMMC EMS for the Central Montana Rural High Schools EMT accredited class course in Grass Range, Denton and Winifred.
 - CMMC EMS: Another \$5.076 was sponders fund for the fourth year EMT accredited course at FHS.
 - CMMC Hospice: \$1,012 was gift-



Medical Center Foundation provided a \$2,500 grant for an AED for use at the Lewistown Pool and Civic Center.

prevent pressure ulcers.

MCF Advisory Board meets quarterly. For more information recreation participants with equipment ed for specialized seat cushions with about giving to MCF and its mission or about its grant-making air-cell technology clinically proven to program, call the MCF office at CMMC at 406.535.6309.

Memorials, Tributes & Donations - Thank You!

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June 23-September 24, 2021

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Abbey Wichman, Dr. Tammy Welsh

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Megan Garoutte, Eva Long, Geri Rector

Radiology: 3D Mammography

Chuck & Dolly Lee, Kelli Byers, Britney Ehler, Nancy Gerdrum, Delva Gibson, Leann Horacek, Elizabeth Howell, Paul Kaufman, Bailey Lund, Stacie Nicholls, Samantha Routzahn, Barb Smith, Carol Smith, Laurie Ray, Debbie Pratt, Geri Rector, Ann Tuss, Claude & Linda White & Family, David Witt, Geri Rector, Gail Valentine

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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.

- <u>To give to a CMF Permanent Endowment or Pass Through Account,</u> return this form to Central Montana Foundation, PO Box 334, Lewistown, MT 59457
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Unrestricted Endowments	☐ Petroleum County/Br	atten	□ James Schultz Memorial		
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	☐ Saving Animals From Euthanasia (SAFE)				
☐ Selma "Sally" Wells Estate ☐ Margie Wilkins	□ Ski for Light		□ Maiden		
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	☐ Small Wonder Child Care		☐ Maude Del Pimlott Estate		
□ A.W. Johnson Family Fund	☐ Snowy Mountain Dev	elonment Cornoration	□ Moore Sisters		
☐ Big Spring Creek Watershed Council	□ Summer Youth Programs				
□ Boys & Girls Club of Lewistown	<u> </u>		□ Niels & Helen Kirkeminde		
	☐ SMILES (Supplemental Meals In Lewistown Elem. Schools)		□ Pat Descheemaeker Memorial		
□ Casino Creek Dam Site Maintenance	□ TCT Activities		□ Rachel Schaffer		
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□ Central Montana Fair			·		
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□ Cheadle Community Hall	☐ Your Neighbor Cares		□ Dave & Donna Byerly □ Horse Ranch		
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☐ Creekside Marketplace & Pavilion	Community	Endowments	□ Richard & Donna Dengel		
□ Crooked Creek Chapter, Walleyes	□ Denton	□ Judith Basin	Daga Thuangh Assaulta		
□ Devin Moe Memorials: □ 4-H □ FHS	□ Denton Ambul.	□ Judith Gap	Pass Through Accounts		
	□ Garfield Co.	□ Moore	□ Ackley Lake Club		
□ Elks Lodge #456			☐ Central Montana Shooting Complex		
□ Emma Light Ag Building	Jordan Pool	□ Petroleum Co.			
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□ Fergus High School (FHS) Activity Fund	□ Hobson	□ Wheatland Co.	□ COVID-19 Relief		
			□ Denton Swimming Pool		
□ Fergus FFA Alumni	☐ Hobson School	□ Fairgrounds	□ Fergus County Courthouse Restoration		
☐ FHS Speech & Drama (Quickenden)	□ Pride of Judith	□ Winifred			
☐ FHS Track & Tennis Court Maintenance	□ Philbrook Cemetery		☐ Fergus County Port Authority/Workforce		
☐ First Presbyterian Church	,		☐ Fergus Wrestling Club		
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☐ Friends of the Hobson Library	□ Augra Hegna		☐ Garfield Ambulance Service, Inc.		
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☐ Heath Rural Fire District	□ Combs Family		□ Lewistown Police Dept. K9 Program		
□ High Notes for Kids			□ Lewistown Soccer		
	□ Dale Godfrey		□ Montana Cowboy Poetry		
☐ Hilger Community Hall	□ David Moodie Family				
☐ Hilger Fire Department	□ Don Romo		□ Roy School New Gym/Community Center		
□ Hobson Ambulance	□ Dorothy Ileene Eklund	1	□ Stanford School		
☐ Hobson Rural Fire District	•		☐ Tri-Co. Crisis Intervention Stress Management		
□ Hobson Public School Montana Bale Trail	□ Dr. Frank & Patty Tho		☐ Winnett ACES-Odd Fellows Hall Rehabilitation		
	□ Elmer Erickson Memo	orial	□ Winnett Swimming Pool		
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Central Montana Foundation

P.O. Box 334, 224 W. Main St., Suite 316 Lewistown, MT 59457 Phone: 406.538.6130

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Medical Center Foundation

408 Wendell Avenue Lewistown, MT 59457 Phone: 406.535.6309

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