



WOOD RIVER WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

BALLOT SUMMARIES

2018 GRANT APPLICATION FINALISTS REQUESTING \$10,000 AND UNDER

HAILEY ICE, INC. - FREE FAMILY SKATE AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Hailey Ice is requesting \$10,000 for free family skate nights and free or reduced cost ice time when collaborating with other nonprofits. The total project cost is \$23,000. Hailey Ice's mission is to provide affordable ice skating, while also promoting and educating the community in ice sports for recreation, physical and mental development. The project will provide opportunities for additional outreach to families and expand collaboration efforts with other Blaine County nonprofits. Staff, facility and equipment are already in place for this project which will provide about 2,500 free or reduced fee ice time visits. The evaluating committee recommends this project for its ability to build capacity, serve a diverse audience and its ongoing enrichment of the community.

www.haileyice.org

HIGHER GROUND SUN VALLEY, INC. – FAMILY WELLNESS SWIM PROGRAM

Higher Ground is requesting \$9,700 to launch a new program which has a total cost of \$15,570. Higher Ground's mission is to enhance quality of life through inclusive therapeutic recreation and education for people of all abilities at minimal cost, or through scholarships for those who can't pay. This project will provide opportunities for Blaine County families who have a child with cognitive or physical disability to recreate as a family through a swim program. Each family will learn water safety and drowning prevention; health/wellness issues will be addressed; and parents will learn additional skills required in special-needs child parenting. The program addresses a long-standing challenge facing local families who are unable to recreate as a family due to affordability. Families in the program will be offered a discounted YMCA membership which they will be required to pay as a means to "invest" in the program.

Higher Ground has a long and successful history of supporting people with disabilities. The evaluating committee highly recommends this capacity building application as it will both augment their curriculum and engage entire families. And by collaborating with the YMCA - which does NOT have a swimming program for disabled children – critical needs will be met. Finally, Higher Ground has committed to support the program going forward ensuring sustainability beyond the 2018 launch.

www.highergroundusa.org

LEE PESKY LEARNING CENTER – GETTING STUDENTS WITH LEARNING CHALLENGES TO COLLEGE

LPLC has developed an online college transition program that helps high school students with learning and attention challenges manage the college application process. They are requesting \$7,500 to fund the final phase of this \$30,000 project which will fund beta-testing with students at Wood River High School who have learning challenges. This phase of the program is designed to help students develop a better understanding of their specific learning needs and study skills so they can self-advocate and access effective accommodations once in college. Results from the WRHS testing will determine refinements to the program prior to scaling it for use across the Wood River Valley and Idaho.

This project is a new venture for LPLC and addresses a critical need for supporting students with learning challenges as they work to prepare for and address college opportunities. Currently statistics show that fewer than one-third of students with learning disabilities apply to college; this project intends to boost that figure for the Wood River Valley. The evaluating committee definitely recommends funding this project as LPLC intends to expand the programs' reach as well as fund it over the long term.

www.lplearningcenter.org

LITTLE WOOD RIVER DISTRICT LIBRARY – COOL AND CLEAN

The LWRDL in Carey is requesting \$9,000 of a \$9,000 budget to purchase two air-conditioning units and paint the exterior of both the existing library and the old building. In order to be a welcoming place in the summer, air conditioning is needed and both building are in need of painting. The goal of the project is to create welcoming spaces for adults and children to spend time in while fostering a love of reading, and to increase the number of library users, particularly through the summer reading program. The library also hopes to provide opportunities for community activities by offering the old library to the public as a community gathering place.

The cost includes getting the AC units at cost and hiring professional installers. Painting will be done by a combination of professionals and volunteers.

SUN VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS – STAGES OF WONDER

The Center is requesting \$6,000 towards a total project cost of \$69,568 to support *Stages of Wonder*, an interactive theatre program offered to elementary students through The Company of Fools for the past 19 years. This program has historically been funded by the school district which has pulled its support for 2019. The Center has plans for continuing this program in the future, their grant request from WRWF will cover a one-year gap in program costs.

Stages of Wonder addresses the absence of an ongoing theatre experience within Blaine Country elementary schools. Specially trained teaching artists spend one week in each of four schools enabling 1,500 young students to participate in exploring creativity both individually

and collectively. The program encourages self-expression, team building and respect among students regardless of barriers such as language.

The Center's mission is to enrich our community through transformative arts and educational experiences. It has long been committed to partnering with local schools by bringing artists directly to students. Funding for this program will enable The Center to continue meeting its mission and will provide overall enrichment to children and their families. The evaluating committee strongly supports funding *Stages of Wonder* since it is often the first introduction to theater arts that many of these children will experience, and it supports personal development, self-esteem, creativity, observational skill, self-expression and collaboration.

www.sunvalleycenter.org

THE SPOT SUN VALLEY, INC. – SPOT YOUNG COMPANY MUSICAL 2019

The Spot is requesting \$10,000 out of a project budget total of \$11,000 to produce Spot Young Company Musical 2019. The Spot's mission to provide an educational venue for young artists to collaborate with professional mentors and produce exhilarating works is clearly met by this grant request. The project will engage a cast and crew of 15 to 23 high school students who will work with 7 professional mentors free of charge. Teen will receive performance/technical training on how to produce a musical through multiple weekly rehearsals with additional instruction covering reading sheet music, ensemble work, choreography, voice instruction and more. In a community environment that often places a high value on sports and athletic competition, the project provides a cultural venue for kids to achieve and shine while cultivating teamwork, camaraderie and gaining poise and confidence. Since its inception in 2016, Spot Young Company Musical participation has increased significantly, demonstrating that valley youth are looking for a positive and safe outlet outside of school and outside of sports.

The project builds capacity and sustainability for the nonprofit, meets a critical need for youth to learn about and participate in live performances, and enriches the broader community through the culminating performances which will be free. The evaluating committee highly recommends funding this exciting, youthful application.

www.spotsunvalley.com

WESTERN WATERSHED PROJECT – PUBLIC LANDS PRESENTATIONS ON SAGEBRUSH SEA

WWP is requesting \$5,000 of a total \$6,550 budget to fund three public presentations to Wood River Valley residents between July 2018 and June 2019. The Sagebrush Sea is an ecosystem located at our doorstep yet is widely unknown to our local community; this project hopes to change that. The educational presentations include "Sage Grouse: Icon of the West," addressing how the protection of the sage grouse habitat also protects more than 350 other species; "The Cheatgrass Conundrum," discussing the impact of the invasive weed that destroys wildlife habitat and fuels large-scale range fires; and "Safeguarding Salmon and Trout Streams," covering the threats on public lands in central Idaho, land management and preserving recreational experiences.

WWF's mission is the protection and restoration of western watershed and wildlife through education, public policy initiatives and legal advocacy. WWF plans to involve the Environmental Resource Center, The Community Library and nationally renowned photographers and scientists in this program. The effort will provide new and current scientific information which affect the debate over public lands and stewardship in Idaho with a long-term goal of stimulating conversation leading to more sustainable management of the public lands critical to the quality of life treasured by Wood River Valley residents.

www.westernwatersheds.org

WOOD RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL - OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EDUCATION TRIPS

The applicants are requesting \$10,000 out of a total budget of \$14,260 to support a faculty-run program designed to give at-risk middle school students the opportunity to experience outdoor Idaho. The program is organized and headed by 3 teachers and 1 social worker/counselor from the middle school who have completed 3 prior outings. The program starts with identifying potential students, then mentors the applicants as they work to seek references, address participation criteria, meet deadlines, work on team building, gain familiarity with gear, and write follow up reports. The program provides a critically needed community service not currently available in the middle school: giving at-risk students a structure challenging outdoor experience that pulls them out of their comfort zones.

The need for this program was identified by faculty who have worked to deliver it despite limited financial resources. Their time involvement is voluntary, students help to raise funds and the program has received support from other community organizations.