



WOOD RIVER WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

BALLOT SUMMARIES 2018 GRANT APPLICANTS REQUESTING OVER \$10,000

THE BLAINE COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT – AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT

The Blaine County Recreation Department (BCRD) is requesting \$25,000 to restore and update the existing 35 year old Aquatic Center. The total project cost is \$1,647,000. The project will include adding a leisure water pool, play stream and whirlpool. The current aging pool facility is reaching the end of its useful life at a time when public demand already exceeds capacity.

This project meets a critical need in our community and the evaluating committee believes this program is extremely important to the over 20,000 visitors the pool has annually. The Aquatic Center, the only public pool in the area, offers swimming instruction, swim team competition, aqua aerobics, lap swimming and leisure swimming. Drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional death in children, and the second leading cause of death in Idaho. This project will increase overall capacity by 50% and serve up to 600 children.

www.bcrd.org

BLAINE COUNTY SENIORS COUNCIL, Inc., dba THE SENIOR CONNECTION – SENIOR FRIENDLY BATHROOM

The Senior Connection is seeking \$25,000 out of a total project cost of \$30,000 to construct a senior friendly bathroom that accommodates mobility and honors dignity. The new bathroom will: provide adequate room for assistance by a loved one or caregiver; accommodate a wheelchair; and includes grab-bars, a raised toilet seat, non-slip floor, telephone and a hand-held shower. The current bathrooms at the Connection are too small to comfortably accommodate more than one person and are gender specific, prohibiting the ability of caregivers or family members of the opposite sex to assist someone who needs help. The senior friendly bathroom will be large enough to remedy that problem. The installation of a hand-held shower will help with the occasional accident – a persistent issue for which the Connection maintains a supply of gently used clean clothes of varying sizes.

The evaluating committee strongly recommends this project. The Senior Connection is well-established and well-run. Their grant request demonstrates a continued focus on creative, needed capacity and is a new approach to a consistent problem

www.blainecountyseniors.com

CRISIS HOTLINE – CAPACITY BUILDING & COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

The Crisis Hotline is asking for a grant of \$25,000 from a total project cost of \$39,700. The Crisis Hotline operates on a very small budget, with many volunteers. The goal this year is to build the capacity and further enrich the programs by adding staff to assist with fundraising, teen program development and community outreach. Idaho is in the “suicide belt” with more suicides per capita than other states. The Crisis Hotline receives 500-700 calls per year, showing that many people face a pressing need for someone to talk to in times of crisis.

The evaluating committee highly supports this project. The “My Life Matters” program in the Blaine County schools, which the Crisis Hotline introduced in 2014, has proven successful, as there have been no teen suicides in the Blaine County School District since they started the program.

www.thecrisishotline.org

FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES – BLAINE COUNTY PRIMARY CARE EXPANSION

FHS, a Community Health Center, is requesting \$25,000 out of a \$234,232 total budget to establish a local affordable primary health care clinic for Blaine County residents. FHS’s mission is to make high quality, culturally sensitive, primary medical and dental care, behavioral health and social services affordable and accessible for people in Southern Idaho. This grant would be used to purchase medical and IT equipment for their new Bellevue clinic. FHS currently provides 3,438 clinic visits to Blaine County residents at the distant Jerome and Twin Falls facilities demonstrating a critical need for affordable sliding fee discount health care services in the Wood River Valley which does not exist today. Federal funds to support these services are currently unavailable due to the high average income of Blaine County residents. FHS has a short- and medium-term solution to address funding needed to offset their discount and plans to build a case over the next 3-5 years to appeal the federal funds ban using demonstrated need.

FHS has successfully established and managed primary health clinics in 8 Southern Idaho locations for 35 years. They have a strong track record of success and already serve many low-income Wood River Valley residents. Initially, the clinic anticipates being open 2 days per week, providing 1,800 patient visits in year one with plans to expand days, hours and services to meet demand. The project addresses a clear need to provide affordable primary care in Blaine County and is an expansion of services currently provided in other communities. The evaluating committee highly recommends funding this critical project.

www.fhsid.org

FLOURISH FOUNDATION – MINDFUL AWARENESS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Flourish Foundation is requesting \$25,000 toward a total budget of \$76,660 to expand the Mindful Awareness Program (MAP) in Blaine County schools for the 2018-2019 academic years. The program teaches students social and emotional skills that support personal, social and environmental well-being. The demand from our schools for this program is outpacing Flourish's capacity, so this grant is critical to meeting the needs being requested. Currently 100% of teachers in the program have implemented Mindful Awareness practices into their classrooms and are advocating, along with school administrators, for program expansion into more grades. Meeting this demand will require more trained volunteers and facilitators which is the funding intent of this application.

The evaluating committee feels this is a compelling project because Flourish's impact is vast – currently serving 9 schools and over 1,025 students on a weekly basis – and deep, as Mindful Awareness practices help to prevent bullying, aggression and suicide by helping our young people understand how to explore their emotions and express them in healthy ways, build trusting relationships, and develop social skills. Current events like the recent school shooting in Florida point up the need for communities and students to continue striving to learn healthy mindful techniques to cope with today's stresses.

www.flourishfoundation.org

IDAHO TRAILS ASSOCIATION –YOUTH TRAILS PROJECT AT APOLLO CREEK

Idaho Trails Association is requesting \$13,800 towards a budget total of \$16,150 to launch a new, week-long trail maintenance project for 12 local young people. ITA's mission is to promote the continued enjoyment of Idaho's hiking trails. They bring citizens together and develop partnerships to foster preservation, protection, maintenance and access of local trails. For this project they are closely aligned with the Ketchum Ranger District, which has requested help from ITA for the maintenance work necessary at Apollo Creek. ITA is collaborating with Blaine County schools to select a team of young people for this outdoor immersion experience. The youth identified for the project are students who might not otherwise have opportunities to engage in the wilderness while learning stewardship and the rewards of making a difference on an important project. They will also earn community service hours for their trail work.

The evaluating committee highly recommends this project for multiple reasons: It is an opportunity to greatly expand organizational capacity while simultaneously developing a new venture. Following this pilot, ITA will launch a sustainable, state-wide youth trails programs enabling the organization to tackle more projects and engage more students each summer. It provides overall enrichment for the community as Apollo Creek will once again be accessible for hiking. ITA has built a highly collaborative effort between numerous nonprofit and public partners including Blaine County Schools, Washington Trails Association (advisor on the project model), Ketchum Ranger District, and Sierra Trading Post and REI which will provide equipment and training.

www.idahotrailsassociations.org

KDPI – DROP IN RADIO – TUNED IN TEENS

KDPI – Radio is requesting \$25,000 for a total project cost of \$30,000. The project is TUNED IN TEENS – a program designed to build-esteem and create a safe place to empower teens to express themselves, build self confidence and develop stewardship skills through community broadcasting. The program will serve 45-60 students with 3 radio programs where they will “take the mic” reporting on local Valley news, DJ music and do Podcasting, where they will research and produce the radio shows.

This project helps support our community by engaging the students and giving them a platform to be creative and learn the technical skills of radio broadcasting. The committee feels that this project assists in the foundation of the students looking for lifetime skills in storytelling, public speaking, time management and empathetic listening.

www.kdpifm.org

LAVA LAKES INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION – CORRIDORS FOR COEXISTENCE

The Wood River Wolf Project – Corridors for Coexistence is seeking \$25,000 of a total project budget of \$79,020. The WRWP is a nationally recognized program of collaboration between ranchers, conservation groups, government agencies and wildlife experts that proves that wolves and sheep can co-exist by using non-lethal deterrence methods (lights, air horns, shouting, starter guns, flairs, etc...) rather than high powered guns. In other words, wolves can be scared away by herders using non-lethal means. This grant would support the continued implementation of these methods, enable them to have a successful transition to an independent organization and pay for the training and equipment for the sheep herders, volunteers and outreach. This project is a model within the State of Idaho and the goal is to replicate it elsewhere by demonstrating the financial savings to ranchers using non-lethal control of wolves.

The evaluating committee believes that this grant would add to the partnership of ranchers and sheep herders, and be a statement of important support for a project that meets a critical community need, shows a new approach to livestock predation and provides overall enrichment to our community.

www.woodriverwolfproject.org

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL HEALTH (NAMI) – BE STIGMAFREE

NAMI – Wood River Valley is seeking a \$25,000 grant for a total project cost of \$75,360. In order to expand our community’s understanding of *Stigmafree*, NAMI-WRV is requesting funds to provide training and materials for four presenters who will form a speakers’ bureau. Funds will be used to cover training cost, which will equip the facilitators with the content knowledge and process skills needed to deliver in-depth Be

Stigmafree education for schools, businesses, community agencies, hospitals, families and faith based groups, reaching a potential of nearly 2,000 people.

The evaluating committee strongly recommends this project. The project provides community enrichment, allows for collaboration with other organizations and addresses a persistent problem within our community.

www.nami-wrv.org

SAWTOOTH BOTANICAL GARDEN – A DINGO TO GET THE JOB DONE

The Sawtooth Botanical Garden is asking for \$25,000 to purchase a Toro Dingo Compact Utility Loader for a total project cost of \$42,800. The Dingo equipment has 4 different attachments allowing work on the 5 acre facility to be performed in a timelier and more cost effective way. The Garden currently uses outside contractors for this work, which can be expensive and unreliable, whereas with this equipment, they can do the work with their own staff. The Dingo is easy to use and maintain and would allow them to move boulders, gravel, snow, compost, dig holes, remove roots and transplant trees and shrubs. The Garden is open 365 days a year and is a community resource showcasing native and cultivated plants that flourish at high altitude.

The project is highly recommended by the committee and feels that by supporting the Garden, it will help sustain the work they do for the community. Supporting this project will assist in the Garden's long range plan of efficiency and to be as self-sustaining as possible going into the future.

www.sbgarden.org

SUN VALLEY SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION- NORDIC LEGACY PROJECT

The SVSEF is requesting \$25,000 of a total project cost of \$200,000. The Nordic Legacy Project provides capital improvements to the cross country facility. The grant would enable the SVSEF to renovate the Lake Creek Hut, which provides training, coaching and equipment space for 250 cross country ski athletes year round. The facility is in need of an ADA entry, bathroom, new lockers, flooring, new cabinets, windows and fixtures. The SVSEF has a long history in our Valley and the impact is wide ranging.

The committee highly recommends this project. The SVSEF supports our youth with the encouragement and enjoyment in the sport of skiing. Some even go onto the Olympics, but the primary goal is to build strong minds, strong bodies and a strong future.

www.svsef.org

SWIFTSURE RANCH THERAPEUTIC ESQUESTRIAN CENTER – ELECTRIC ARENA MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

Swiftsure Ranch is requesting \$19,300 for the Electric Arena equipment project which has a project cost of \$19,300. Swiftsure provides equine-assisted activities and therapies which encourage the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children and adults with disabilities. The arena is harrowed several times per day, to provide safe footing for the horses and rider. They currently use a diesel tractor in the small indoor arena, which creates diesel fumes that must be aired out with all of the doors and windows open for up to an hour each time. Not only does this “ventilation time” encroach on valuable program hours, it also results in a massive loss of precious heat. Purchasing this equipment would result in a potential capacity increase of an additional 30 riders per week.

This project is highly recommended by the evaluating team. The project is capacity building and adds to the sustainability of the organization. Swiftsure has an excellent 25 year track record in the Valley proving their commitment to this community. And it addresses a critical need for those needing help due to their disabilities, disorders or conditions.

www.swiftsureranch.org

THE COMMUNITY LIBRARY – LECTURE HALL MULTI-MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY

Our local Community Library is requesting \$25,000 to purchase new media equipment for the main Lecture Hall. The total project is \$225,000. The existing equipment is out of date and unreliable. New equipment will be easier to use from a tablet, have high definition video recording, better sound and a more seamless network integration with the Livestream service. The Lecture Hall serves over 5,000 people annually and is the essential meeting/presentation room for the entire community and it’s FREE.

Our evaluating committee feels this is a compelling project because the library plays a major role in our community. The library is FREE to anyone and totally funded by direct donations and grants, and receives no State or local funding. The Heinz Foundation has offered a matching grant – so our \$25,000 grant would actually be \$50,000 if awarded.

www.comlib.org

WOOD RIVER COMMUNITY YMCA – POWER SCHOLARS ACADEMY CAMP AT THE YMCA

The WR Community YMCA is seeking a grant of \$25,000 with a total project cost of \$174,000. The goals of the Power Scholars Academy Camp are to increase scholar’s literacy and math skills, mitigate summer learning loss, strengthen scholar’s self-confidence, social emotional development and physical health and well-being. The summer school/camp will target at risk, low income students ages 6, 7 and 8, who are struggling academically, emotionally, socially and physically. The students are selected from all 5 Blaine County schools. This is the ONLY summer school program in the Valley because the funding in the schools was eliminated in 2016. The program will have a

huge impact on the 120 students, giving them a chance to reduce the loss of academic skills over the summer months.

The evaluating committee believes that the YMCA Power Scholars program demonstrates success and serves a large number of students in need of educational support. The Blaine County Y has become a model for this program throughout the country and is worth of our support.

www.woodriverymca.org